

Chatham News + Record

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CHATHAM'S ELECTION RECAP

Primary winners feature plenty of new faces

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN & BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

More on N.C.'s primaries, page B10.

More than 16,000 Chatham residents — 27.5% of the county's registered voters — voted in last Tuesday's primary election, giving newcomers key wins and some familiar faces political promotions.

The mid-term primary set the table for a few intriguing local and statewide November races and established the makeup of Siler City's board of commissioners in a vote that was originally scheduled for last fall.

No incumbents lost seats,

and Siler City's controversial "Unity 2022" candidates — four newcomers seeking office as a bloc for mayor and three contested commissioner seats — each finished last in their respective races.

Here's a breakdown of the vote and what's next for the winning candidates:

SILER CITY MAYOR

Winner: Thomas "Chip" Price III

Also on the ticket: Donald

Matthews, Nick Gallardo

Price won with 52.4% of the vote. Unofficial count: Price, 431 votes; Matthews, 289; Gallardo, 96; write-ins, 6.

About Chip Price: Price has served as an at-large commissioner for Siler City since 2011. He assumes the mayor seat vacated upon former Mayor John Grimes' death in October 2020.

What he's saying: "I want to do the job right for everybody here and make this the best city we possibly can," Price said. "I look forward to serving the town and everybody in it, and I just ask that they continue to support the town and the

board as we go forward."

What to know: Commissioners will fill Price's at-large seat by appointment. He assumes the mayorship just as new Town Manager Hank Raper comes to the job and as the town continues its search for a new town clerk.

SILER CITY COMMISSIONER AT-LARGE

Winner: Cindy Bray

Also on the ticket: James "Jay" Underwood and Dean Picot Jr.

The incumbent Bray won with 48.36% of the vote. Unof-

icial count: Bray, 397 votes; Underwood, 356 votes, Dean Picot, 64 votes; write-ins, 4.

About Cindy Bray: Bray has served as one of Siler City's at-large commissioners since 2009. This will be her fourth term in office.

What she's saying: "I'm very grateful and glad to be able to serve the people of our city again," Bray said. "I feel like we've accomplished several very big things in the last few years, and hopefully that will continue — I know it will."

What to know: Bray, a retired educator, won her bid for re-

See **ELECTION**, page A3



Photo by Chris Frisina

Chatham Rabbits members Sarah and Austin McCombie pose in a promotional photo for PBS North Carolina's 'On the Road with Chatham Rabbits' limited series.

BY TERI SAYLOR

News + Record Correspondent

On a cool spring day in early May, Sarah McCombie was a flurry of activity, multitasking and carving out time for a quick interview over Zoom.

She was busy planning a concert celebrating a new album, promoting a series on PBS North Carolina, and preparing to set out on a summer-long concert tour across the United States with her husband, Austin McCombie.

Together, they make up the Americana duo Chatham Rabbits.

The tour celebrates the duo's third album, "If You See Me Riding By," which launches on June 3 at the Haw River Ballroom in Saxapahaw and represents a coming-out party of sorts for Chatham Rabbits. Over the last four years, the duo has become a well-known name in central North Carolina.

Now, it's time for them to spread their wings.

"We want to continue growing our audience," Sarah said, "and while it may sound a little extreme to say we want to become a household name, we would love to be able to go to places like Idaho, and have people say, 'Chatham Rabbits, oh yeah — let's go see them tonight.'"

Album launch, PBS special signal new chapter for Chatham Rabbits



Photo by Chris Frisina

This photo of the husband-wife duo of Austin and Sarah McCombie graces the cover of Chatham Rabbits' forthcoming album, 'If You See Me Riding by.' It'll be released June 3.

That Sarah Osborne, a former music teacher who grew up in Bynum, and Austin McCombie, a former financial planner from Wilmington, would even find each other and form a band is by itself something of a miracle. Both are

musicians, but 10 years ago, when they first crossed paths, their styles could not have been farther apart. Sarah, a student at Peace College, played folk music with

See **ALBUM**, page A6

COVID-19: THE LATEST

Cases spiking again, but in wake of horrific milestone, there's good news

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Chatham County is spiking — up 89% in the last two weeks — raising community levels to "medium" for the first time in more than two months.

Meanwhile, as the nation's death toll from the pandemic surpassed 1 million, local health officials mourned what Eric Wolak, the chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at Chatham Hospital in Siler City, called "a heart-breaking milestone."

"It is incredibly sad thinking about the millions and millions of families that have been impacted by this epidemic," he said. "The biggest lesson, for me, is that this pandemic is not over. We are continuing to see infections and deaths, which have increased as society has 'returned to normal.'"

COVID-19 remains a threat to the community's health, said Mike Zelek, the director of Chatham County's Public Health Department.

"(It) has kept us on our toes for over two years," he said. "One million deaths nationwide, including more than 100 in Chatham, hits hard. This pandemic has taken a heavy toll on our community, as it has on communities around the world. As a local public health department, we have seen more than ever the important role public health plays in keeping communities healthy. We have also seen that we can't do this work alone, and we are indebted to our health care and community partners, as well as Chatham residents, for doing so much to keep this toll from being worse. But the fight is not over, and these tools remain effective."

Chatham is averaging about 29 new cases per day after seeing mostly single-digit new daily case counts from early March through May 10; the number of hospitalizations and deaths have

See **COVID**, page A3

CHATHAM COUNTY BUDGET

Plan includes revenue increases, new positions and more

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

commissioners plan a June 21 vote on the plan, which takes effect July 1.

Here's a closer look:

Revenue increases

Overall revenues for the county are trending well above projected figures for 2021-2022, leading to a higher revenue budget for next year.

See **BUDGET**, page A6

REV. RAY GOOCH'S RETIREMENT

Churches, community to say 'thanks' to long-time pastor

BY BOB WACHS
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — There's an old adage native residents of an area say about someone who comes into their community, fitting into it like they've always been there.

"He's not from here, but he got here as quick as he could."

In the minds of many, that

See **PASTOR**, page A7



Ray Gooch, who some call the 'Pope of Chatham County,' is retiring after a four-decade career pastoring Pleasant Hill's and Browns Chapel's Methodist congregations in Pittsboro.

Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

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 June 2 at the Silk Hope Community Center.

The **Chatham County Department of Social Services** invites the community to learn about the signs of elder abuse and how to prevent it on June 9 in Pittsboro. The event at Central Carolina Community College will focus on the most reported form of adult mistreatment statewide — self neglect.

Horton High School Alumni Association Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for 2022-2023 HHSAA Scholarship. Descendants of any Horton High School alumnus or attendee may apply online, at hortonhighalumni.com; then 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 County Courthouse in the Circle. More info at <https://chathamhistory.org>.

Second Bloom hours are 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 630 East 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, 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.

Foster and/or adoptive information: Give chil-

dren a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.

Alcoholics Anonymous — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

Motorcycle Association — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.

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

Al-Anon Meeting — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group

meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill.

SCOUT NEWS

Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroom93.org for more information.

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

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

MEMORIAL DAY

News + Record offices closed Monday

Memorial Day will be observed nationwide on Monday, May 30, and the News + Record's offices will be closed for the holiday.

Most local, state and federal offices will also be closed. Check online for special hours or call before going if you plan to visit.

CORRECTION

In a story in the May 19-25 edition entitled "Mixed-use development plan raises questions for Pittsboro commissioners," it was incorrectly stated that Roberson Walk would be located within Chatham Park. The development would border, but be outside of Chatham Park. The News + Record apologizes for the error.



HONORS

CATAWBA COLLEGE

Tristan Bland graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Catawba College on May 7. He is the son of Rae and Ellen Bland of Pittsboro.

BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

Erika Nettles of Pittsboro graduated with a bachelor of science in psychology from Bridgewater College during the May 7 commencement exercises. Bridgewater College is located in the Central Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Nicholas Fogg of Siler City and Sarah Fry of Pittsboro have been named as members of the Winter 2022 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University.

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

Reagan Riddell, a Junior Business Administration major from Snow Camp, has been named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List.

CHURCH NEWS

HICKORY MT. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Annual Homecoming Services will be held on Sunday, June 5, at Hickory Mt. U.M.C. The worship service will begin at 11 a.m. with a covered dish luncheon following. All are welcome to enjoy worship and the fellowship following.

The church is located at 201 Hadley Mill Rd., Pittsboro.

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

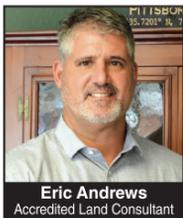
A free archery camp and unique Vacation Bible School is planned for ages 3 to 18, June 6 - 9 at Loves Creek Baptist Church. The archery camp is for ages

8 to 18, with age appropriate games for ages 3 to 7. There will be snacks, a Bible lesson, and games each night.

On Thursday evening, there will be an archery tournament for the children, their parents, grandparents, and friends.

The church is located at 1745 East 11th St., Siler City.

How did you LAND here?



HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?

96 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

LAND (Representing Sellers) 42 units

- 911 Goffers 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)
- 4931 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres) units

LAND (Representing Buyers) 12 Units

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

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

COMMERCIAL (REPRESENTING SELLERS) 3 Units

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

COMMERCIAL (REPRESENTING BUYERS) 1 Units

- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 23 Units

- 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)
- 206 Olympia Street (Siler City)
- 8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 6 Units

- 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)
- 208 Stone Wall Road (3.810 Acres)
- 00 Alston Chapel Road (176 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers)

- 4 Units 488 NC 87 N (Pittsboro)
- 76 Fox Chapel Lane (Pittsboro)
- 138 Oakwood Lane (Pittsboro)
- 354 A Mountain View (Pittsboro)

Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week
<https://youtu.be/C4GXbw68VbY>

NEW TOPIC: North Carolina Land Sales and Estate Law, Will Problems



The Andrews Team is proudly introducing Broker and Buyer Agent **Andy McPherson**. Andy's career covers four decades of real estate expertise. He will focus on Andrews Team listings and assisting buyers to find suitable properties.



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COVID

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not increased, though Wolak said COVID admissions at The Medical Center in Chapel Hill have jumped “about 10%” in the last two weeks.

Across North Carolina, case counts were up by about 69% over the last two weeks as total COVID-related deaths in the state neared 25,000. One in four N.C. residents has been infected, according to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and state agencies.

In light of those numbers and trends, Wolak encouraged Chatham residents to think hard about their own care and precautions.

“I do hope people critically assess their risk tolerance, get vaccinated, if not already done so, and boosted, if eligible, and feel comfortable wearing a mask, even if everyone else isn’t,” he said. “As we have seen in other countries, I would expect case counts, hospitalizations, and infections to continue increasing over the next month to eight weeks. If anything, I really want people to be aware that COVID continues to circulate among us and to keep themselves as safe as possible.”

The two-plus years of the pandemic have “shown the importance of togetherness and community,” said Zachary Horner, the Chatham Public Health Department’s public information officer.

“I’ve seen it here in our department: nurses working in the cold and rain at vaccine clinics, environmental health staff helping restaurants adapt to new requirements and prevention techniques, and staff putting in extra time to communicate and share information about the virus, the vaccines, and more to the community at large,” he said.

“I’ve also seen it in the community: the Chatham Health Alliance’s Resource Hubs providing information and services to the community at-large, the Chatham County Council on Aging providing special attention to our oldest neighbors, and the school system working hard to keep educating our children. It’s



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Eric Wolak of Chatham Hospital.



CN+R file photo

Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek hands Alirio Estevez his second-dose appointment slip during a vaccination clinic last spring.

been a long two years, and there has been a lot of sadness, a lot of grief. We mourn with the families and friends of the 114 Chatham County residents who have died from this virus.”

Early in the pandemic, initial forecasts predicted the national death toll from the virus between 100,000 and 240,000. The New York Times reported last week that the United States has a higher infection rate than many other wealthy countries, attributing that to inconsistent policies and responses and political divisions.

Chatham’s vaccination rates haven’t budged lately — 59% of the population is considered fully vaccinated, but not boosted; 65% have received one dose, and 40% are both dosed and boosted.

Wolak and Zelek were encouraged, though, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s new recommendation last week for a booster dose of the Pfizer-Bi-

oNTech vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old.

Children in that group who received their last dose at least five months earlier are eligible to receive the additional doses right away.

“As a clinician, I am thrilled boosters for this age group have been approved,” Wolak said. “If someone has a child in this age group, I would highly encourage them to move forward with these boosters. While the current variants seem to be more able to evade infection, even with vaccinations, the data is clearly showing that vaccinations and boosters significantly reduce the severity of the disease.”

Zelek offered this guidance: “Children ages 5-11 years old, similar to older ages, should get a booster shot five months after getting their second dose. We have seen over the past two years that while children are at lower risk, they are not at no risk. A booster shot can help

Six key recommendations from Mike Zelek

- Be sure you are up to date on your vaccinations, including booster shots. This is the safest and most effective tool to protect against severe illness.
- If you don’t feel well or have tested positive for COVID, stay home. Wear a mask around others.
- If you have COVID symptoms or have been around someone who had COVID, get a COVID test.
- Maintain a supply of at-home rapid tests. You can get free at-home tests mailed to you by visiting www.covid.gov/tests or calling 1-800-232-0233. You can also stop by the Public Health Department office either in Pittsboro (80 East St.) or Siler City (1000 S. 10th Ave.) location for a box of at-home tests at no cost. Community testing sites, including at the Old Ag Building in Pittsboro (65 E. Chatham St.) and the Medical Office Building behind Chatham Hospital in Siler City (163 Medical Park Dr.), remain open and have PCR tests as well.
- Consider wearing a mask indoors around others, especially if you are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. This includes older adults, those with health issues, and those who are not vaccinated. N-95s are still available at no cost at any of Chatham’s libraries.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 and are at higher risk, talk to your doctor about treatment options. Treatment is now available that can help lower your risk of ending up in the hospital. If you don’t have a doctor, call 1-800-232-0233. For more information on treatment options, visit covid19.ncdhs.gov/treatment.

restore protection, especially against severe illness and complications from COVID-19.”

Children ages 5-9 made up about 5% of all Chatham County cases through May 14, Zelek said, while children 10-14 make up 6% of cases.

“That’s one in nine COVID-19 cases in the county in children ages 5-14, which is not a small number,” he said. “A COVID-19 infection has the possibility of keeping kids out of school and can also result in long COVID.”

Zelek also reiterated that adults ages 50 and older — as well as those who are immunocompromised or have a weakened immune system — should get a second booster dose.

“I have gotten questions from folks in this group who are thinking of waiting until the fall for this booster,” he said. “With cases on the rise again now, I would not delay in getting this extra protection.”

The Chatham County Public

Health Department has the booster shot for 5-11 year-olds and Moderna booster for adults at its Siler City clinic. Call 919-742-5641 to make an appointment or visit www.vaccines.gov for additional options to get vaccinated.

A silver lining in the pandemic has been innovation, Zelek said — noting a recently-authorized test for COVID-19, RSV and flu that’s collected at-home.

“I think this combination test is another exciting innovation,” he said. “While it often takes some time before something authorized at the federal level is available locally, I am hopeful that tools like this one will be important resources in the months and years ahead, and that we continue to use this uniquely challenging situation to learn and advance.”

Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@chathamnr.com or [@billthethird](https://twitter.com/billthethird).

ELECTION

Continued from page A1

election despite receiving criticism from the Unity bloc in a late April candidate forum and not being included in the group of candidates featuring two other incumbents — Price and Lewis Fadely and newcomers Underwood and Albert Alston — who promoted themselves together.

Picot, one of the “Unity” candidates, finished a very distant third.

SILER CITY COMMISSIONER DIST. 1

Winner: Albert Alston
Also on the ticket: Sam Williams

Alston won with 79.31% of the vote. Unofficial count: Alston, 69 votes; Williams, 17; write-ins, 1.

About Albert Alston: Alston is a newcomer to the Siler City town board. He is taking the seat of Tony Siler, who chose not to seek reelection after serving on the board for over 19 years.

What he’s saying: Alston did not respond to the News + Record’s request for comment.

What to know: Alston, who didn’t complete the candidate questionnaire the News + Record provided to all candidates, will begin his term in June.

SILER CITY COMMISSIONER DIST. 5

Winner: Lewis Fadely
Also on the ticket: Rayetta Fox and Jared Picot

Fadely won with 51.72% of the vote. Unofficial count: Fadely, 75 votes; Fox, 57; Jared Picot, 13.

About Lewis Fadely: Fadely, an incumbent, has served Dist. 5 since 2011. This will be his

third term on the town’s board.

What he’s saying: “We just got to keep doing the hard work for this town and trying to get us to a place of prosperity,” Fadely said. “We’ve done a lot of work over the past nine years, but there’s still a lot of work that needs to be done — just rolling up our sleeves and keep working hard and keep praying to the good Lord.”

What to know: Fadely is an attorney and has his own law office in Siler City. Jared Picot, Dean Picot’s brother, managed barely a dozen votes.

N.C. HOUSE 54 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Winner: Walter Petty
Also on the ticket: Craig Kinsey

Petty won with 64.39% of the vote. Unofficial count: Petty, 3,981 votes; Kinsey, 2,202.

About Walter Petty: Petty is a familiar face in Chatham, having served as a Chatham County commissioner for 10 years before resigning in 2019 to focus on his business, Atlantic Power Solutions. He was Chatham’s lone Republican commissioner when he left the board.

What he’s saying: “The opportunity to serve others is one of my greatest pleasures,” Petty said. “... Thank you to all who organized meetings, hosted meetings, gave of their time and supported me in any way.”

What to know: Kinsey initially declared for a Congressional seat, but changed his mind after Petty filed. Petty will face incumbent Democratic Rep. Robert Reives II in the general election in November. Reives is the House Minority Leader in the General Assembly

in Raleigh and has grown in prominence in state politics. Petty, who was popular as a commissioner and respected by both parties, expects to gain support from the new portion of the district — the heavily Republican section of Randolph County. Dist. 54 includes all of Chatham and used to include a portion of Durham County.

N.C. DISTRICT ATTORNEY DIST. 18

Winner: Jeff Nieman
Also on the ticket: Kayley Taber

Nieman won with 53.7% of the vote. Unofficial count: Nieman, 4,981 votes; Taber, 4,296 votes.

About Jeff Nieman: Nieman and Taber both serve as Assistant District Attorneys in current DA Jim Woodall’s office. Nieman has worked in in the Dist. 18 office since 2006 and created the Outreach Court in Orange County, which helps divert those experiencing homelessness to community resources instead of jail. He received key endorsements from a number of prominent attorneys and legal advocates.

What he’s saying: “I’m devoted to being the district attorney for everyone in the district,” he said. “Getting this job is a political process, but doing the job is not. It’s about listening and being present for everybody.”

What to know: No Republican filed to run in the District Attorney primary, so Nieman becomes the new DA at the end of this year.

CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS DIST. 3 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Winner: David Delaney
Also on the ticket: Lew-

is Hendricks

Delaney won with 70% of the vote. Unofficial Count: Delaney, 6,210 votes; Hendricks, 2,667 votes.

About David Delaney: Delaney is a political newcomer with prior experience as a cybersecurity and privacy attorney at Truist Financial. He’s been active in a number of local nonprofits and has helped lead the effort of a group of Chatham residents seeking to curtail the “school to prison pipeline” in Chatham. He said his top priority is ensuring future infrastructure projects in Chatham are equipped to handle environmental, social and economic challenges of the county.

What he’s saying: “I want to thank my supporters for being part of a very active discussion process,” Delaney said. “Trying to understand the possibilities for good public policy is to explore what the law allows. And hopefully we can develop innovations for policy interests of the community like broadband and infrastructure solutions.”

What others on the ticket are saying: “I look forward to helping David and other Democrats in the county when November comes around,” Hendricks told the News + Record. “I was really encouraged by everyone’s campaign. I wanted to do better for public education, that’s why I ran, and I just hope David and other winners put policies in place to support that.”

What to know: Delaney will face Republican candidate Tom Glendinning in November. Glendinning previously sought the state senate seat held by Valerie Foushee in 2020, losing by more than 5,000 votes. The election will take the seat currently occupied by Commis-

sioner Diana Hales, who’s not seeking reelection.

CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS DIST. 4 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Winner: Katie Kenlan
Also on the ticket: Travis Patterson, Albert Reddick

Kenlan won with 61.5% of the vote. Unofficial count: Kenlan, 5,630 votes; Patterson, 2,060 votes; Reddick, 1,469 votes.

About Katie Kenlan: Kenlan is a lifelong Chatham resident and Pittsboro native who’s the daughter of Elaine Chiosso, the executive director of the Haw River Assembly. Kenlan’s main office priorities are addressing local climate change issues such as PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane contamination in Pittsboro’s water supply.

What she’s saying: “I am seriously humbled by this incredible support after this two-month sprint,” Kenlan said. “I’m so inspired by local leaders that came before me, including Diana Hales, Karen Howard, Margaret Pollard and Gary Phillips. I can’t wait to learn more about how to support this county in education and the growth we are experiencing.”

What others on the ticket are saying: “I want to thank all of our supporters and donors across the county for their vote, hard work and sacrifices to this campaign,” said Reddick, who’s previously unsuccessfully sought Siler City’s mayoral seat. “I will keep the county’s divisions and inequalities in our view and pray for the board to seek unity and fair remedies.”

“I’m proud of this campaign and what we were able to do as first-timers,” Patterson said. “I hope to use what I learned on the campaign trail to continue strengthening our

communities. I’ll continue looking at our local workforce and housing in an attempt to ensure fair practice and job access for Chatham County residents.”

What to know: Kenlan will face Republican Joseph Godfrey for the Dist. 4 seat, held by Robert Logan. Logan was appointed to finish Jim Crawford’s term after Crawford resigned from his seat due to health reasons in December.

Other winners from election day

At the federal level, Chatham County’s vote totals coincided with the rest of North Carolina, with Cheri Beasley and Ted Budd as the primary nominees to face off in the U.S. Senate race in November. The U.S. House Dist. 9 also saw incumbent Richard Hudson hold strong with a landslide victory in the Republican primary.

In the courts, Trey Allen won N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 5 in the Republican primary. He will face incumbent Sam J. Ervin IV, who is seeking his second eight-year term on the bench. Democrats hold a 4-3 majority on the state Supreme Court, but the seats held by Ervin and Democrat Robin Hudson are up for election in November. On the N.C. Court of Appeals, Donna Stroud was reelected after facing a strong challenge from Beth Freshwater Smith. Michael Stading won handily against Charlton Allen on the N.C. Court of Appeals; Stading will run against Democratic incumbent Darren Jackson in November.

For full results, visit the North Carolina State Board of Elections website at ncbse.gov.

VIEWPOINTS

A purple shirt, a book of poems, a necklace chest and a treasure trove full of memories

No one warns you about the roller coaster of life. There are magnificent highs and the lowest of lows, but what people don't warn you about are moments where every emotion takes you on a top-sy-turvy ride filled with various stages of happiness, sadness and contentedness.

My family is currently going through a big change, and quite honestly, I am not ready for it.

My maternal grandparents — Grandma and Grandpa Fowle — moved to North Carolina from Maryland with my great-grandmother, Mom-Mom, when I was 7 years old. They have lived less than three minutes away from my parents' house for most of my life, and now, they're getting ready to embark on their own journey back to their home state to live out their remaining days.

My grandparents have discussed moving back to Maryland



Contributed photo

Taylor Heeden (middle) sitting with her great-grandmother (left) and her grandmother (right).

for a couple of years now, but even so I'm not sure I'm ready.

The house they've lived in for the last 15 years holds so many of my childhood memories, many of which involve Mom-Mom, who died in 2013 (I was 13 at the time) at 98 years of age. My grandparents and Mom-Mom have always been there to support me in this life; I still feel like Mom-Mom is there for me today. Still, the news of my grandparents' move caught me off guard.

What's going to happen to our Christmas Eve tradition of pizza after mass at Grandma and Grandpa's house? Who is going to feed the deer lurking in

the backyard of that house on Chancery Drive? What am I going to do when I want to swing by their house for a cup of coffee when I visit my parents?

On top of the questions swirling around in my head, I also felt as if I was losing Mom-Mom all over again — that house was the last place she called home. Her room is still filled with her belongings, ranging from her gorgeous jewelry to her collection of books and pocketbooks. To me, she became a part of that house, and now, I'm sad I won't be able to go back to it.

Needless to say, the situation has left me conflicted: I understand Maryland is home for Grandma and Grandpa, but at the same time, I selfishly want them to stay here. That way, I could continue to visit with them, to talk to Grandpa about Tar Heel sports, and to have coffee with Grandma while enjoying some of her fresh baked goodies.

I had the privilege of being able to see them a week ago when I had to bring my dad back from Durham dropping off a car at my uncle's house. I sat on their beige leather couch

in their living room, soaking in every sight around me. It would be the last time I set foot in that house on Chancery Drive.

Grandma, Grandpa and I visited one another as we normally do, even though we all knew this would be the last in the house we knew and loved.

After about 30 minutes of conversation, Grandma motioned for me to go to the kitchen table, where she had a box with a bow on it and a small jewelry chest made of seashells. I recognized the chest right away — it was one of the last Christmas gifts I gave Mom-Mom as a child.

Grandma told me she gathered some of Mom-Mom's favorite things to give to me to make sure I had a piece of her wherever I went. The gifts included the shell chest, and in it, one of her favorite necklaces made with colorful marbled stones.

In the box contained a book Mom-Mom read everyday — "Poems of Faith" by Helen Steiner Rice. She kept it at her reading table next to her forest green Lazy Boy recliner, where she would spend her mornings reading her Bible and her poems while enjoying a cup of coffee.

In the book was a picture of a Facebook post Grandma made on what would have been Mom-Mom's 107th Birthday, which also included her favorite picture of Mom-Mom.

Then there was the box, which contained my favorite items: a purple shirt clad with jeweled designs and a photo of me as a toddler, Grandma and Mom-Mom, all sitting together on my parents' living room couch.

Grandma knew I wanted to have a piece of her and Mom-Mom.

These few things will have more meaning than any possession I will ever purchase or come to own for a multitude of reasons. But they'll also help me to gain closure on this chapter of my life and guide me through this transition of my grandparents moving to their new, yet old, home six hours away.

To my Grandma and Grandpa: thank you for all of the hugs, laughs, fun family meals and most of all, for the love you've given me and my family. I look forward to making the trips to the Ellicott City area to visit y'all and to write this new chapter together.

Philosophize like a child

"Our society values hot takes and tweets more than sustained thought," claims Scott Hershovitz.

In his book, "Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Adventures in Philosophy with My Kids," he suggests a different understanding of the ancient command "to change and become like little children" (Matthew 18:1). This teaching is often interpreted as adults having the faith or trust of a child, perhaps a similar innocence or playfulness.

But Hershovitz believes children are natural philosophers: "Little kids (age 3-8) often raise philosophical questions on their own. They're puzzled by the world — and they're trying to puzzle it out."

As I drove my three young children to school the other day, my 9-year-old piped up from the back of the minivan: "Sometimes telling the truth is not a good idea."

"Tell me more," I replied.

"If someone is wearing a stupid hat and he asks you what you think about it, it's better not to hurt his feelings."

"But you shouldn't lie," interjected his 6-year-old brother. "That would be bad."

"Why is lying bad?" I prompted.

"You could hurt someone's feelings," he answered.

"So, in your brother's example, you could hurt someone's feelings with the truth, but you could also hurt someone by lying. What should you do?"

This philosophy lesson in the carpool wasn't scripted or planned in advance. Kids think about the world around them all the time. Adults can listen and ask follow up questions rather than impose ready-made answers. We can even encourage them to argue!

My 9-year-old switched tactics: "I don't see how George Washington ever became president."

"How come?" I asked.

"My teacher said that he never told a lie."

"So, you're saying you have to lie to become president? Why is that?"

"Dad, sometimes people don't want to hear the truth," he explained.

"But you should still tell it!" the 6-year-old maintained.

This was a good argument regarding the absolute truth versus the relative nature of truth. Both boys puzzled over larger ideas through the lenses of what they'd been taught and their own experience. Rather than simply swallow one perspective, they modeled the importance of wrestling with the view from the other side.

It was time for my 4-year-old daughter to weigh in with a story about snatching a classmate's stuffed animal and sticking it in her backpack. Not only did she take the toy home overnight, but she told her mom and me that her teacher had made it for her. (Not the most believable lie; it had a "Made in China" tag.)

When she finished recounting her story, I asked, "What did that teach you about lying?"

"Lying can make you feel bad."

A common drive to school can turn into a fascinating inquiry into truth because children are willing to wonder and be open to other views. Hershovitz claims that philosophy is not about winning or losing an argument. Rather, quoting Bertrand Russell, philosophy has "the power of asking questions, which increase the interest of the world and show the strangeness and wonder lying just below the surface even in the commonest things of daily life."

As we pulled into the school parking lot, my 9-year-old wrapped up our conversation by concluding, "It's more complicated than you think when you actually think about it."

Now, that's the truth!



Shutting out the outside means losing things inside

Some recent nighttime temperatures have been good, even outstanding — in the 50s and 60s with little or no humidity.

That meant that I could throw up the windows and count sheep to my heart's content — or for 15 seconds, whichever came first before I went to see the Sandman.

Those after-dark lullabies are a great thing. They call up memories of my childhood when Mama and Daddy did not have air conditioning in the ol' homestead and I listened to Grandpa Bullfrog down on Wallace Farrell's pond as I drifted off to Dreamland. Throughout much of my childhood, I was my daddy's right-hand man when we went frog hunting, but I knew enough to leave that one alone, and I prayed nobody else knew about him.

I know I never told anyone he was there. I guess he just finally went off to where old bullfrogs go.

Anyway, he was part of the evening melody I listened to for years — him and the crickets and the whining tree bugs and the croaking toads and even Jimmy Capps on WPTF's "Our Best to You." Actually, Jimmy wasn't part of Mother Nature's chorus, but he was still part of the total evening

package.

It was great stuff. There was a lot about the world I didn't understand or know, but I knew my Mama and Daddy were in the house, and that's all I needed to know. I didn't know about terrorists blowing up airplanes and unemployment and Middle East tensions and stuff like that.

But somewhere along the line that all changed — both the deal with the windows and the size of my world of knowledge. Eventually, Mama and Daddy got a big honking window air conditioner about the size of a small bus. It was great. It sat in a window at the front of the house, coming inside at the dining room table. That meant whoever sat in front of it would find their back ice cold and turning blue after Sunday dinner, but it was OK.

At least we were cool.

It was so big it would cool the entire house, even though it wasn't centrally located. Later on — I don't know why for sure — they got a smaller unit that went into a window in the back bedroom where I slept and listened to the outdoors chorus ... except now with A/C, I couldn't leave the windows open, so I lost out on my nighttime buddies.

When our troop moved into our current location, we asked the builders to install central air conditioning, which they said they would but we would have to pay for it — both to be installed and to

operate. Still, we were pretty sure it would be worth it all.

Now, I keep the thing cranked down to 70 or so, and I know all the Green Movement People will tell me how wasteful I am. Guess what? It's staying on 70 ... except when there are nights, like some recent ones when the temps are so good, we can cut off the A/C and fling up the windows.

Then, hearing Grandpa Frog's grandson singing "Knee Deep" on the banks of our pond, along with an assorted chorus of katydids, tree frogs, whatchamacallits, and other things chiming in, I find I'm relaxed — even with double-digit inflation, double-talk from the politicians and being (or at least feeling) double-crossed on other fronts, that I don't care.

And once again, I'm content. I'm pretty sure if some of the folks making decisions today would spend an evening listening to bullfrogs croak, they'd be in a better state of mind — and maybe make some sane decisions once in a while.

Couldn't hurt.

Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.

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VIEWPOINTS

Housing prices reflect changes in work

It was bound to happen. The percentage of adults working from home has fallen significantly from its pandemic-era peak. Nevertheless, telecommuting has established itself as a lasting and consequential fact of modern life.

Before COVID struck in early 2020, the share of full paid workdays performed at home by Americans aged 20 to 64 was about 5%. By May 2020, it had shot up to 61%. As of this April, that share had tumbled to 39%.

That is still, of course, vastly higher than the pre-COVID figure. Here in North Carolina and around the country, employers and employees in many telecommuter-friendly occupations are likely to bargain their way to a middle ground — with

wide-ranging implications for productivity, workplace culture, family life, and public policy.

Take housing, for example. Soaring prices and rents have roiled North Carolina's housing markets for months. While there are many explanations, including shortages of labor and materials and loose monetary policy, the substitution of telecommuting for physical commuting is a driving factor in many places.

As workers gained full or partial respite from daily commutes, their housing preferences changed. Some now want larger houses that can accommodate home offices. Others want to move further away from urban cores to expand their lawns and gardens, reduce their taxes or other costs, live nearer to extended family or recreational amenities, or otherwise improve their quality of life.

New research by John Mondragon of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

and Johannes Wieland of the University of California at San Diego suggests that this shift in housing preferences can explain more than half of the 24% increase in average housing prices since late 2019.

"Our results imply," they write in a new National Bureau of Economic Research working paper, that "the future path of housing costs may depend critically on the path of remote work."

If workers themselves have any say in the matter — and in today's tight labor market they clearly do — remote work will remain far more prevalent in the pandemic's aftermath than it was before. According to a Pew Research Center poll taken in February, 59% of Americans who work in telecommuter-friendly occupations were working from home all or most of the time. That's also down from peak-COVID but still far higher than the 23% doing so before early 2020.

Although their experience may have begun under duress,

most telecommuters now say they prefer the arrangement. Of those Pew respondents currently working from home most of the time, 61% say it is by choice while only 38% say their workplaces remain closed to them.

I've written before about the need for North Carolina leaders to adjust their policy choices to the new reality. What I think I failed to do in past columns is convey the urgency of this need. Our major cities need to rethink mass-transit plans based on now-outdated assumptions. All communities, large and small, need to rethink how they permit and regulate the construction of housing, offices, retail, and other buildings.

Above all, policymakers need to keep in mind that their job is to accommodate and respond to the preferences of North Carolinians, not to attempt to shape those preferences.

Change can be disorienting, yes, but it's also a source of vitality and innovation. Work-

ers choosing to stay at home for at least part of each week certainly recognize there will be tradeoffs. In the Pew survey, 64% of those who've recently begun telecommuting said that working from home has made it easier to balance work and personal life. At the same time, 60% said working from home made them feel less connected to their co-workers.

The best answer, in my view, is to let employers and employees work out the right balance among themselves. There's no right answer applicable in every situation. Government should adapt to emerging market conditions in a way best suited to delivering public services at an affordable cost, and otherwise stay out of the way.

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

Great replacement what?

What were the two most used new words in the news last week?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

The term "Great Replacement."

I admit that I had never heard of the term until the recent attack in Buffalo by a white 18-year-old man that left 10 people dead. A long document, found with the attacker's property and presumably written by him, explained his motives and concerns about the "replacement" of the "white race" and "white culture."

CNN reported that "the author also writes about his perceptions of the dwindling size of the white population and claims of ethnic and cultural replacement of whites."

In an article published by CNN, Dean Obeidallah, a former attorney and a columnist for The Daily Beast, writes that what the document found with the shooter "espouses is, in essence, the white supremacist concept known as the Great Replacement Theory. This 'theory' is meant as a warning to white people that soon, people of color — typically immigrants, Latinos and African Americans — may outnumber white people and in essence 'replace' them."

A recent article in The Wall Street Journal gave the following summary: "The great replacement' is a conspiracy theory that asserts elites — politicians, business executives, media — are using immigration and other policies as a tool to reduce the white population."

The Journal article continues: "Interest and belief in the idea has increased in the U.S. in recent years, researchers say, as the percentage of white Americans, compared with nonwhite people, shrinks. The nation's non-Hispanic white population dropped 2.6% between 2010 and 2020, according to the Census Bureau. Projections by the bureau indicate that the total population of nonwhite people in America will exceed the white population by 2045."

The replacement theory is not new. The idea got its modern start in France in the early part of the 20th century. More recently, a 2011 article by French writer Renaud Camus and titled "The Great Replacement" is used by white supremacists in the U.S.

According to the Journal, Camus wrote that "white Europeans will eventually be extinct because of immigration and since some nonwhite populations, particularly those of Africa and the Middle East, have higher birthrates. People from Africa and the Middle East have emigrated to France from former French colonies in increased numbers in the postcolonial era."

The increase of immigrant populations in Europe and the U.S. is fact not a theory. There are consequences in terms of a rise in influence of immigrants and their children in Europe and the U.S. and the corresponding loss of power and influence of white Americans.

But there is more to the theory than these facts. Versions of the theory allege a conspiracy among some people to replace the long-time white residents of Europe and the U.S. with people from Africa and Asia. The conspirators, it is said, are politicians, elitist people and institutions. They promote policies that open the doors to immigrants and empower people of color and other minority groups. These people would become voters who would do the will of the conspirators.

I could find no credible evidence about the "elites" exerting control over the votes of immigrants and minorities.

I confess that I have hoped that the changing makeup of North Carolina's population that is under way would help my political party more than the other party.

Does that make me part of some conspiracy? I don't think so.

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

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



Election winners: Trump, outside money and rage

Pundits and politicians like to talk about "mainstream" or



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

"main street" Republicans, as if they made up a significant percentage of today's GOP. But make no mistake. The May 17 primary election proved beyond doubt that the Trump cult — and there's no denying they are a cult — is firmly in control of the Republican Party in North Carolina.

Trump-endorsed candidates were victorious in each race except one, that being Madison Cawthorn's defeat in the 11th congressional district. He narrowly lost to popular state senator Chuck Edwards, who was endorsed by legislative leadership and Senator Thom Tillis. While these leaders may pat themselves on the back for influencing the outcome, Cawthorn's defeat was largely because he was a flawed candidate who embarrassed even those who previously supported him. That the margin was so close is because the former president doubled down, asking voters to give him another chance. But folks in the 11th know a bad apple when they see it.

The headline race of the night, the U.S. Senate primary, proved uneventful. Congressman Ted Budd bolted to a lead in the 14-candidate GOP field and never looked back. Credit Trump, but the real reason for such a victory was the estimated \$9 million in support from the independent expenditure group Club for Growth. Any hope North Carolinians might have had for an independent senator was dashed. Former governor Pat McCrory came in a distant second because he was labeled too moderate, even liberal.

If Budd prevails in November, and we can only surmise how much Club for Growth will contribute — never forget he is bought and paid for by this Washington, D.C. group and Trump. He was not a particularly graceful

winner, immediately going on the attack of Cheri Beasley, his Democratic opponent in November, calling her the most liberal person ever to run for the Senate in our state.

He obviously doesn't know his history. He should study the 1950 primary between Frank Porter Graham and Willis Smith, or perhaps the Jesse Helms-Harvey Gantt general election in 1976.

In the 13th congressional primary, Bo Hines bested seven other Republicans, despite an advertising barrage by Kelly Daughtry, who was on TV more often than pharmaceutical ads. She reportedly spent \$3 million of her own money in a distant third-place finish. This and other campaigns were uncommonly ugly for a primary.

Republican races dominated the coverage of the election, but Democrats could also take heart. In the Democratic primary for the 13th, state senator Wiley Nickel bested four others to win. Many consider the redistricted 13th as potentially competitive, so a November showdown could be interesting. Unsurprisingly, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley easily beat 10 other candidates to coast to victory, setting up what promises to be the premiere contest in November.

We can take encouragement that almost 20% of our 7,200,000 voters cast ballots, a recent high.

Here are our takeaways: Trump was on the ballot. His imprimatur was highly evident and references to him influenced outcomes, even where he didn't endorse a candidate.

His legacy has been to encourage and fan the flames of what is known as "The Age of Rage." We've become an angry, hate-filled, fed-up and doubtful people who, despite what some might proclaim to the contrary, no longer really believe in the goodness of this state, its leaders or its future.

This genre of elections had its genesis in 1973, when Tom Ellis and Jesse Helms began the Congressional Club. They

completely changed election campaigns through the use of computer-generated mail lists, using them in organized, sophisticated techniques to raise political donations. Those previously unheard-of large amounts of dollars were then employed to develop negative television ads and direct-mail pieces that stoked emotions and provoked negative attitudes toward opponents.

Politics has always been a contact sport, but we believe elections started down a slippery slope because of the Congressional Club — and they've gotten progressively worse. Nary a word is uttered about what a candidate believes or hopes to accomplish. Instead, almost all energy is devoted to telling us why the opponent is bad.

Equally obvious are the big money, outside independent expenditure groups, who once again proved they can buy elections. Political parties haven't really mattered since the 1980s; now, they are little more than funnels for candidates so that donors can circumvent campaign contribution limits.

It's those nebulous-named groups outside our state, funded by donors they aren't required to identify, that are the tipping point in too many campaigns. They can accuse, demean, spew hate or tell lies without much fear of retribution. We are reaping the results of the Citizens United Supreme Court verdict, and it is both alarming and dangerous.

Can we reverse these trends? If so, who or what is going to make it happen? If not, what is to become of elections and politics? Sadly, we've yet to hear substantive and positive responses to those questions, but we hope, for the future of this state and nation, they are forthcoming.

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.

ALBUM

Continued from page A1

the old-time trio South Carolina Broadcasters; Austin, at N.C. State, was a musician in DASH, a popular electropop band in Raleigh.

“We were trying to be college students, academically,” Sarah said, “and we were trying to hustle with our bands, and because we were in totally different music scenes, we never crossed paths.”

Until that fateful evening when Austin and some friends showed up for a Mandolin Orange performance at Cat’s Cradle in Chapel Hill. The South Carolina Broadcasters opened the show, and when Austin laid eyes on Sarah and listened to her weave stories in her sweet soprano voice, he was immediately attracted to her.

Sarah didn’t know he was there.

He first reached out to her in a message on her band’s Facebook page; she says she brushed him off with a formal acknowledgement and a polite “thank you.” That might have been the end of it, but he tried again about a year later, Sarah says, and this time she agreed to meet him for coffee.

As they say, the rest is history.

Today, at age 29, Sarah and Austin share songwriting credits and vocals. She’s the lead singer and banjoist; he provides vocals and adds melodies on his acoustic guitar.

‘We’re not fancy’

Over the years, Chatham Rabbits has embodied the stories the McCombies were raised listening to and the stories they have lived.

“Growing up, Austin and I were both creative kids, and I have so many notebooks filled with lyrics, notes and ideas,” she said. “We think of ourselves as barebones musicians because we’re not fancy, but we do believe our strength is in our songwriting, and that’s where we try to put our energy.”

The duo’s songbook is filled with family history and North Carolina stories.

Their first album, recorded in 2019 at Rubber Room Records in Chapel Hill, is titled “All I Want from You,” described by music critics as “a mature ensemble of southern themes.”

“Yoke Is Easy, The

Chatham Rabbits album launch: how to attend

If you are looking for tickets to the June 3 launch of Chatham Rabbits’ new album “If You See Me Riding By,” visit www.chathamrabbits.com.

The performance is at the Haw River Ballroom in Saxapahaw. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the showtime’s at 8. Ticket price is \$28.

Visit the Chatham Rabbits website for other tour dates, merchandise and access to their Patreon site.

Their show, “On the Road with Chatham Rabbits,” airs on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. on PBS-North Carolina and streams on the station’s website www.pbsnc.org.

Burden Is Full,” was Chatham Rabbits’ second album and continues the duo’s stories in song, weaving the fabric of the past to the present. It was recorded at a friend’s studio at Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia and was scheduled for launch in mid-2020.

But COVID-19 had other plans.

When the pandemic caused theaters and music venues to shut down, Chatham Rabbits still had a card to play, and reckoned if their fans couldn’t come to their shows, they would take their music to their fans. So, they launched the album during their socially distanced “Stay at Home Tour.” Austin upfitted the duo’s Sprinter touring van with solar panels and a sound system, built a mobile soundstage on a trailer hitched to the bumper, and the pair traveled to communities across North Carolina, entertaining entire neighborhoods one by one.

Their newest album, written during the pandemic, was recorded at Smith Mountain Lake as the world began emerging from its COVID-19 cocoon. Like newly transformed butterflies, Chatham Rabbits emerged with a new look and a multi-layered sound, featuring a full back-up band of accomplished musicians the McCombies recruited from their large circle of friends.

Sarah promises that despite the larger sound the bones of their music are still in place.

“Austin and I are still Chatham Rabbits, but we are getting offers to play bigger stages and longer sets, and it’s so nice for the audiences in the larger settings to hear our songs the way they sound on the album,” she said.

The McCombies have

set a goal to play in all of North Carolina’s 100 counties.

In a new PBS-North Carolina series called “On the Road with Chatham Rabbits,” the McCombies trace their humble beginnings from their days living in a historic mill house in Bynum before selling it in 2018, quitting their day jobs, and spending life traveling to shows in a restored Winnebago that Austin purchased off Craig’s List.

“On the Road with Chatham Rabbits” shows what life is like for Sarah and Austin — the ups and downs, good times, hard times, their songwriting process, and at the heart of it all, their music. The limited series airs on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. and streams on the PBS North Carolina website.

At the end of June, PBS-North Carolina plans to broadcast a special full-length concert filmed last October, Sarah said.

As the McCombies’ star continues to rise, there’s one thing Sarah wants everyone to know, and that’s the correct name of their duo — Chatham Rabbits, and not *The* Chatham Rabbits.

Sarah laughs as she explains how she and Austin crowdsourced that name.

“We went onto a community listserv in Bynum and asked the participants what we should call our little duo so we’d have something to put on posters and that sort of thing,” she said. “And people kept suggesting ideas like ‘Chatham Bunnies,’ and ‘Rabbits String Band,’ and the ultimate winning name ‘Chatham Rabbits.’”

Through it all, Sarah learned Chatham County history and the power of divine intervention.



Courtesy of PBS North Carolina

Chatham Rabbits members Austin and Sarah McCombie.



Courtesy of PBS North Carolina

Chatham Rabbits members Sarah and Austin McCombie pose in a promotional photo for PBS North Carolina’s ‘On the Road with Chatham Rabbits’ limited series.

“I did some Googling and found out the county was once home to huge wild meat rabbits that people would hunt and sell to kitchens in large cities,” she said.

Her research also revealed their home in Bynum was a 100-year-old mill house built in 1910, and she and Austin were the first family to live there since the original family moved out.

“We moved there in 2015, so it had been through lots of generations of the same family before us,” she said. “Then we found out that the original patriarch of the family was the guitar player for The Chatham Rabbits String Band in the 1920s, and that’s how we knew we had to be Chatham Rabbits because we were living in that house.”

Sarah views Austin and herself as a kind

of second generation of Chatham Rabbits.

Besides a few early playdates, the upcoming summer tour marks the first major Chatham Rabbits outing since the pandemic started, and Sarah is enjoying a taste of freedom — freedom that includes a big move. The McCombies are selling the little 11-acre farm in Siler City they purchased after their year on the road. They are moving to Guilford County, where they’ll be the latest in a long line of Sarah’s ancestors to own and nurture the 62 acres that have been in her family since 1753.

“We had a chance to buy the family farm and decided it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so we went for it,” she said.

As a bonus, there will be plenty of room for the McCombie critters to roam, including Ruby,

a hound dog who loves to howl to the sounds of Sarah’s banjo picking, and Biscuit, their cat. They’ll also move their three horses, a small herd of cows, and a flock of chickens, a feat that Sarah guarantees will be an adventure.

“One of my good friends has a horse trailer and I’ve already told her on moving day we’re going to be making lots of trips,” Sarah joked. “Plus, the cows have never been on a trailer before, so it’s going to be a whole situation. I want PBS to come out and film it because I know it will make great television.”

The move to the Guilford County farm is bittersweet for Sarah and Austin. Even though they’ll only be a county or so away, they will never be far from home — and they’ll always be Chatham Rabbits.

BUDGET

Continued from page A1

The county attributes much of this revenue growth to economic growth. Revenue from property taxes is expected to increase 6.1% over the prior year.

Revenue growth projections are most prominently seen in sales tax and excise taxes. Sales tax revenue is projected to increase by 24% over the previous year. This year, the county is projected to collect \$24 million in sales tax revenues, up from \$20.3 million last year.

County Budget Director Darrell Butts said the increase is from the Article 46 sales tax, implemented for the last nine months of the 2021-22 fiscal year. Article 46 sales tax is a quarter-cent local option tax on all retail items except for gas and unprepared food, like groceries. The sales tax option was voted on and approved by referendum in March 2020, then was legally authorized last Oct. 1. Article 46 was levied for the full year in the fiscal year 2022 and will continue in 2023.

“In ‘21 and ‘22, you’ll see a bit of a spike in those sales tax revenues that you won’t see in the long-term future,” Butts said. He added that the projections for increased sales tax revenue are one of the main reasons the county is able to maintain its property tax

rate of 66.5 cents per \$100 of valuation.

Revenues from sales taxes have been specified by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and staff for four purposes: education, affordable housing, agriculture, and parks and recreation.

“Each of those areas have a lot of need for service here,” Butts said. “These areas, as identified by commissioners, really have a need to have a dedicated funding source to make improvements.”

The county also reports a Register of Deeds excise tax revenue increase of 50% from the current year budget. Butts attributes excise tax revenue increases to real estate transactions in the county.

“In Chatham, we are seeing an increase in the number of real estate transactions as well as seeing increased sales prices,” Butts said. “This is a direct result of the desirability of Chatham County and the current real estate market.”

New positions

The proposed budget creates a number of new county employee positions. It calls for 72,375 new full-time equivalents — meaning not all of the new positions are full time. In total, the county expects to employ 82 additional staff through these positions, with the recruitment process beginning in the first quarter of the new fiscal year.

Many of these positions

already exist, but two large operational shifts mean there will be more official openings under the jurisdiction, and payroll, of Chatham County Government. One of these is making the staff of the county’s Council on Aging department — which now operates as a nonprofit — as county employees. The other change is the status of solid waste management and collection center workers from contractors to full-time county employees.

“Bringing on the Council on Aging employees and transitioning the collection center attendants from contractors to in-house staff will greatly change how we do business,” Butts said. “While we have been dealing with development pressures for some time, those pressures only continue to increase.”

Aside from these changes, 29 of the listed budgeted positions are what Butts called true new positions — meaning there’s not currently an employee in the position. Butts said the positions are grouped into three categories: to meet growing and existing demand, Council on Aging transition, and solid waste transition.

The true new positions are spread out across various departments. For example, there will be three multi-trade building inspectors, three environmental health specialists and four new 9-1-1 telecommunicators. A full list

of the new positions can be found in the county’s budget message at www.chatham-countync.gov/government/county-budget/annual-county-budgets/recommended-fy-22-23-budget.

While the average Chatham resident may not see the difference in operations, Butts said, the people that do interact with the departments with new positions can expect an enhanced level of service.

The proposed budget also recommends existing county employees receive a 2% increase in contribution to health care and a 7% pay increase to improve competitiveness of government salaries.

Big spenders on education

The biggest departmental expense in the proposed budget is additional funding for Chatham County Schools. The total proposed CCS budget is \$56.9 million, which calls for an additional \$1.5 million from the previous year, which was requested by the school district. The additional funding includes \$105,000 for the new Central Services Building and \$820,000 toward teacher pay supplements.

The \$105,000 is broken up into actual building construction and maintenance and operational changes. Eighty thousand dollars is going toward the building itself, while the other \$25,000 is going to the improvement and continuation of Chatham Reads, a literacy

program run by the Chatham Education Foundation.

In North Carolina, teachers are often paid supplements in one of two ways: a flat rate increase or an increase on a percentage of salary. The pay model for Chatham County is a hybrid of the two. The county says doing this will allow for maximum benefits. Teachers will also see a minimum supplemental increase of \$250 through the new model.

Chatham County Schools currently ranks fifth in the region and seventh in the state for teacher supplement funding, behind Wake, Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Durham and Orange. Butts said this hybrid model was meant to maintain that high standing.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will host work sessions at 9 a.m. through Thursday this week at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center. The final draft of the budget is expected to be proposed to the commissioners on June 21. The state mandates all county budgets be submitted by June 30. For more information, including a full copy of the proposed county budget, visit the Chatham County website at www.chathamcountync.gov/government/county-budget/annual-county-budgets/recommended-fy-22-23-budget.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or [@b_rappaport](https://twitter.com/b_rappaport).

PASTOR

Continued from page A1

assessment applies to the Rev. Ray Gooch, who came to Chatham County in June of 1982 to serve two Methodist churches: Pleasant Hill and Browns Chapel. Now, after almost 40 years in that role, Gooch has reached the Methodist clergy's mandatory retirement age and is moving on.

He's going back to his childhood home, the little community of Wilson, about a dozen miles south of Oxford in Granville County. He officially retires June 30.

"I inherited the home place from my parents," he said. "My sister (Darnelle Averre) is there on the other side of the garden."

Gooch, who has good-naturedly been called the "Pope of Chatham County" because of the length and depth of his ministry, came to the local scene from Roper, in Washington County, after serving three churches on the Albemarle Charge in northeastern North Carolina for seven years.

"I have been wonderfully blessed by the people of Chatham County," he said, "and have enjoyed the connection with the people and churches here."

Gooch's feelings for the pastorate began at an early age.

"I remember in the 5th grade our teacher asked what we wanted to be when we grew up," he said. "I heard someone say, 'I want to be a preacher like Mr. McRae.' I turned around to see who said that, and it was me."

When he arrived in Chatham County, he discovered the two churches had much in common but were also different.

"Both Pleasant Hill and Browns Chapel are small rural parishes where there are lots of family relations," Gooch said. "Browns Chapel has grown more because more folks are moving into that area, Briar Chapel, for instance, but Pleasant Hill is also a solid stable community. One of its biggest challenges was recovering from the fire that did so much damage in the early '90s.

"When I came, lots of folks were still farming," he added. "That's been a big change. Now



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Ray Gooch, who some call the 'Pope of Chatham County,' is retiring after a four-decade career pastoring the Methodist congregations of Pleasant Hill — shown here — and Browns Chapel in Pittsboro.

there aren't so many. Some folks still have cows, but they have other jobs, as well."

During his local career, Gooch became known for a number of talents and ministries. He started piano lessons in the 4th grade, now often singing at church services, accompanying himself. He's also known for his cakes — caramel and fresh coconut are specialties — as well as pies, including fried apple.

"I started cooking as a boy," he said. "Mom worked second shift at a hospital and would put bread dough in the refrigerator. When I got home I'd bake it. Daddy said a meal wasn't complete without a piece of bread for pushing your food around the plate."

That kitchen familiarity served him well with the two congregations through the years.

"At Browns Chapel, we did

Brunswick stew and barbecue and built a fellowship hall," he said. "We also had a connection with Auburn Tripp to provide food when he was an auctioneer because he didn't want people to leave the auction. At Pleasant Hill, we did chicken stew suppers, starting out in different homes with church members taking shifts. We built a fellowship hall from that."

In a time when many pastors might be narrowly focused, Gooch had a strong interest in people at different ends of the spectrum. One is youth.

"There have been good youth programs at both churches," he said, "with times when there would be many youth; other times not, but youth ministry has been a primary thing with total support from both churches."

At the same time, Gooch has had a busy ministry with senior adults, both in nurs-

ing homes, care facilities and homes.

"The seed for that was a course in divinity school on ministry for people in institutional settings," he said. "I did an internship at the Murdoch Center in Butner and then one at the Western North Carolina Center in Morganton. It was a ministry for people often overlooked."

In his first place of service in Roper, he was asked to chair the board of the Roanoke Development Center — "which I'm glad to say is still there," he said. Coming to Chatham, he was invited to serve as a Hospice volunteer chaplain, including at the Laurels of Chatham when it first opened. From that came opportunities to lead worship services and "to meet families in their homes I would likely never have met." In time, those relationships would provide an opportunity to serve families through memorials and funerals.

Charles Lutterloh, a member of Browns Chapel, seconds that.

"Ray does a great job with the youth, but also working with the elderly and not just the people at Pleasant Hill and Browns Chapel," Lutterloh said. "He's dedicated to the people of Chatham County and visits anybody and everybody regularly."

Through the years, it was almost a custom for Methodist pastors to be reassigned annually, often with four years at the same location considered a lengthy stay.

"Early on, someone told me it would take four years just to get to know folks," Gooch said. "I thought, you know I don't believe I'm that slow. I've learned some families let you be their pastor from day one and take you into their confidence while others watch you for a while to build up a level of trust, although some never do, of course. I know there were times when some folks didn't care for me and wanted me to leave but often something would come along and we'd build a relationship."

There were occasions when it seemed he might be moved to another location.

"I remember once when word got out the district su-

perintendent [DS] was going to move me," he recalled. "At that particular moment, I didn't think it was the right time for the churches, or for me, but the DS was going to anyway. So, I went to the bishop and talked with him. He told me to go home, do my work and not worry about it. The next day, the DS came to my house and was not happy. He told me he would move me the next year, but that didn't happen, either."

William Mitchell, a member of Pleasant Hill, sees his pastor as one who not only talks of ministry but does it, as well.

"What do you say, truth be told about a man who talks the talk and walks the walk?" he said. "Ray puts the 'is' in 'Christian' and exudes it daily. But he also challenges us to strive to be what we should be in our worship of the Lord. Whether it's countless hours of visiting, taking youth to cities and towns they may never have had the opportunity to go, organizing fundraisers for needs after tragedies or feeding the masses, Ray is the 'Leatherman' multi-tool of a minister."

Now that his Chatham County service is nearing its end, the time is a bit bittersweet.

"I just think it's all been a good fit," Gooch said.

"He's just been such an inspiration to so many people, such a talented fellow from his preaching to his biscuits," Lutterloh added. "And, you know, I've never heard the same sermon twice. He's a gifted storyteller, and that's one reason he's such a good preacher; he relates the Bible to life."

Gooch sees a bit of irony and humor in his first place of service and 40 years in Chatham.

"The thing is when I left Roper after seven years, I was depressed," he said. "I didn't really want to start over, and I promised myself I'd not stay seven years at any other place.

"Instead, it's been more like six times seven. It's been good."

As a way to thank Gooch for his service, members of the two churches are sponsoring a retirement reception from 2 until 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at the Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center on U.S. Hwy. 64, just west of Pittsboro. The public is invited.

Thank You!

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your confidence in electing me to represent you as the Republican candidate for the House 54 election in November. I look forward to continuing my service and will do my very best to represent you!"

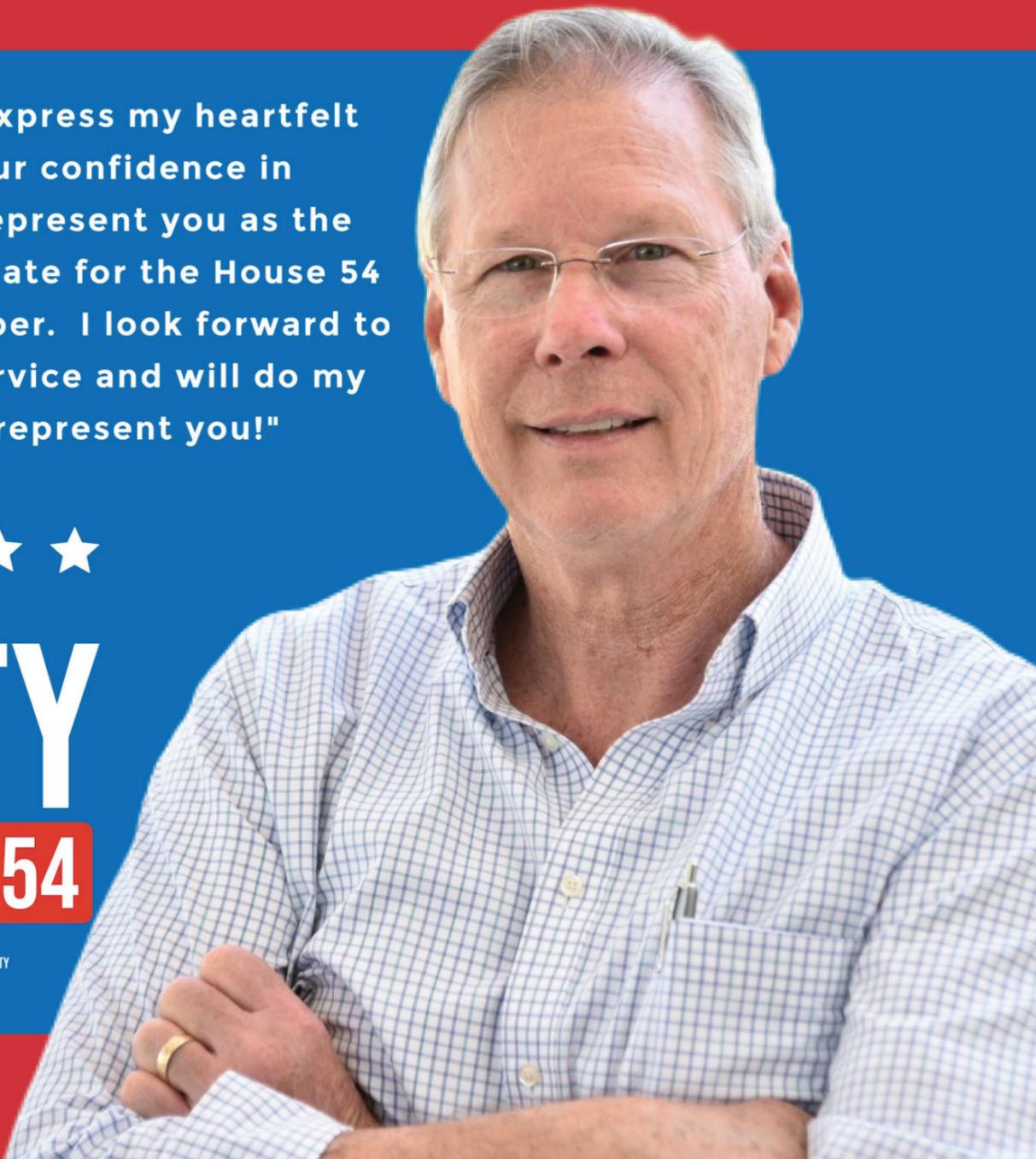


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PETTY

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‘PEOPLE ARE REALLY HURTING’

CORA’s summer feeding program hopes to grow amid rising needs

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Whether through produce boxes or market-style shopping, CORA’s SNACK! program is helping to feed food-insecure children and families in Chatham County.

The summer grocery program fed more than 1,100 families last year and looks to increase that number this year as the local need continues to rise.

Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids — or SNACK! — distributes free groceries to children and their families at sites across Chatham County from mid-June to mid-August. The program provides enough food for 21 meals and additional snacks each week for every child enrolled in the program. The food options include produce, milk and foods with long shelf lives.

“Summer is often the hungriest time of year for families with children,” said Rebecca Hankins, development and communications director at CORA. “Over 4,600 children in our community who rely upon free or low-cost meals at school may go hungry.”

Hankins said challenges like increased unemployment and rising inflation have only increased the need. According to CORA — Chatham Outreach Alliance — 50% more people used their services this year than last year.

Food insecurity in Chatham has continued to rise throughout the pandemic. The most recent figures from 2019 show an estimated 7,480 Chathamites are food insecure. Hankins said she expects the numbers are even higher now as the pandemic created new economic burdens for many families.

“We thought at the height of the pandemic the needs couldn’t get any bigger,” Hankins said. “But even as case counts have gone down, our numbers have not. People are really hurting out there.”

She said the increased cost of goods has left families stranded, which is why she hopes SNACK! can continue to grow.

The program began in 2009 and served 177 children; since then it has only grown, and last year it provided more than 250,000 meals to families in the county.

According to the Food Bank

of Central & Eastern North Carolina, at the beginning of the pandemic, about 46% of children in Chatham County relied on free or reduced lunches during the school year. Those figures have become a bit blurred as Chatham County Schools now offers free school lunches to all students through COVID-relief funding.

Hankins said she expects increased distribution through SNACK! this year because at the height of the pandemic several organizations had been distributing meals. However, those programs, such as distribution through Chatham County Schools, are no longer giving out meals during the summer.

“We’re prepared and ready to feed as many children as needed,” Hankins said.

She said the program has been working with CCS to find the families in need and ensure they are registered for the summer program.

CORA said one issue with the increased need is supply chain issues. The organization normally buys foods with long shelf lives like granola bars or canned goods in bulk, but those options are no longer available.

The organization said that means more reliance on monetary and food donations.

Hankins said this summer marks the most money CORA has ever spent on SNACK! due to the increased cost of groceries and fewer bulk options.

“We are lucky to have strong partnerships and support throughout the community,” Hankins said. “We’ve been very lucky to never turn anybody in need away, and we never have.”

To cope with the challenges, the summer feeding program is seeing operational changes this year. The program is changing management by moving under the supervision of a full-time CORA employee instead of an intern. SNACK! will now be run by CORA’s pantry manager.

“Moving this program in-house is going to create continuity from year to year,” Hankins said. “SNACK! is one of our flagship programs, and we want to emphasize its importance to ourselves and the community.”

The program plans to use its community partnerships to help with assembly and distribution. For example, Chatham

Trades — a nonprofit providing vocational and developmental services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities — is helping CORA pack food boxes for summer feeding.

CORA has 15 distribution sites for SNACK!, including Pittsboro, Siler City, Goldston, Moncure, Chapel Hill and Bear Creek. Twelve of the sites distribute the pre-packaged boxes through curbside pickup based on the number of children in the family. The other three locations offer market-style distribution where families can come and choose their foods.

Registration for SNACK! is now available and will continue throughout the summer through CORA’s website, corafoodpantry.org, or through paper registration forms at its locations throughout the county. CORA is also accepting donations, which can be dropped off at 40 Camp Drive Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information, contact Rebecca Hankins at rebecca@corafoodpantry.org or 919-491-5896.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or @b_rappaport.

NEWS BRIEFS

Wren Memorial Library announces new events, programs

SILER CITY — Wren Memorial Library in Siler City is excited to announce new programs and events for the Chatham County community to enjoy.

“Over the last few months, the library staff has been working hard to plan for new programming, and we are thrilled to be able to offer these ways for community members to get involved in their local library,” said Tabatha Weaver, Wren Memorial Library’s branch manager. “It’s also an opportunity for us to get to know our

patrons a little better, and we’re really looking forward to that as well.”

Wren Memorial Library Game Night

Began Monday, May 23, and continues on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Game Night is for all ages, and it is the perfect opportunity for community members to enjoy their favorite games and make new friends. Whether they have a competitive nature or are team players, participants can play a variety of games, including Forbidden Island and Telestrations.

Book a Librarian

Began Wednesday, May 25, and continues each Wednesday from 2 to 5 p.m. It’s by appointment only.

Patrons can schedule a 30-minute or one-hour time slot to meet with a librarian one-on-one for research, job searches, tech help, accessing ebooks, etc. This program is offered on site at Wren Library and is not provided virtually.

Wren Memorial Library is located at 500 North 2nd Ave., Siler City. For more information about these events and programs at Wren Memorial Library, individuals may contact wren@

chathamlibraries.org or 919-742-2016. Information about all Chatham County Library branches can be found at www.chathamlibraries.org.

Wren Book Club

Begins Friday, May 27 and continues on the fourth Friday of each month, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Book Club is for adults, 18 and older. Participants will read books from every genre and can share their book insights with others. It is a great way for individuals to get excited about new books and bond with fellow readers.

— CN+R staff reports



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OBITUARIES

ROBERT SAMUEL MORROW

Robert Samuel Morrow, 92, of Snow Camp, passed away quietly in his sleep on May 24, 2022.

Bob was born on May 14, 1930, and was raised in Kingsport, Tennessee. Education and serving others were important to Big Bob. After serving four years in the Air Force, he received his BA in Industrial Arts from East Tennessee State, receiving Driver's Education qualifications at Lenior Rhyne, and a Master's from N.C. State. During this time in November 1954, he married Ruth Virginia Waltz. They recently celebrated their 67th anniversary.

Big Bob taught at many schools before moving to Greensboro, where he served as the Director of Vocational Education for Guilford County until he retired in 1993. At this time he became active in his church, Quakers, Silk Hope Ruritan, Friends Disaster, and the American Legion. He used this time as an opportunity to travel to disaster areas to rebuild homes and communities, all while keeping up his favorite hobby in the garden. In addition to his parents Robert and Lola Vaughn Morrow, he is preceded in death by his daughter, Patricia Lynn Haywood; and grandson, Thomas Andrew Haywood.

He is survived by his wife Ruth; son, Edward Morrow Sr. and wife Ellen; grandchildren, Eddie Morrow (Jennifer), Emily Morrow, John Haywood (Satina), and Sarah Ball (Martin); and eleven great grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the nurses and doctors from Liberty Home Care and UNC Hospice of Pittsboro. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to UNC Hospice, P.O. Box 1077, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Morrow family.

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

RACHEL JEANETTE EZZELL JORDAN

October 13, 1941 ~ May 20, 2022

Rachel Jeanette Ezzell Jordan, 80, of Siler City passed away Friday, May 20, 2022, at her home.

The family will receive friends at the family home.

Rachel was the daughter of the late Artis and Clara Martindale Ezzell. She was a member of Rocky River Baptist Church, and she attended the adult Sunday school class, served as the church clerk and also was a children's Sunday school teacher. In addition to her parents, Rachel was preceded in death by her grandson, Brody and sisters, Sylvia Edmonds and Holly Ezzell.

Rachel is survived by her husband of 62 years, Ronald E. Jordan; sons, Mike Jordan and Brian Jordan; daughter, Donna Bowmer; four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and brothers, Bobby Ezzell and Dickie Ezzell.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

FRANCIS LLOYD ARTHUR BUCKMIRE

November 20, 1934 ~ April 07, 2022

Francis Lloyd Arthur Buckmire, PhD., 87, of Pittsboro, died on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Francis was born in Grenville, Grenada, to the late Emmanuel and Virginia Rouleau Buckmire.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 11 a.m., at Knotts Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dr. Buckmire's memory to one of his favorite charities: the Boys and Girls Clubs of America or The Carter Center; or, select a charity that focuses on education and services for at-risk youth.

JAMES DALE ROBINSON
May 21, 1954 ~ May 17, 2022

James Dale Robinson, 67, of Chapel Hill, passed away at his home on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Monday, May 23, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro.

JAMES EDWARD GRIMES

June 6, 1952 ~ May 18, 2022

James Edward Grimes, 69, of Broadway, passed away Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at his home.

A chapel service was held Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Pastor John Baker presiding. This service will include full Masonic honors. The committal service will take place Thursday, May 26, 2022, at the State Veterans Cemetery in Fort Bragg at 10 a.m. with full military rites.

James was the son of the late William Henry and Fannie Goins Grimes. He was a paralegal assistant, and retired from the U.S. Army. He was also preceded in death by his daughter, Sandra Denise Smith.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Patrician Morgan Grimes of the home; sons, James Edward Grimes Jr. of Broadway, Charles Henry Grimes of Cameron, Robert William Grimes of Broadway; daughter, Tammy Lou Grimes; and a sister, JoRita Grimes, both of Kentucky; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

HENRY DONNELL 'DONNIE' COORE

Henry Donnell "Donnie" Coore, 69, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, My 22, 2022, at his home.

Graveside funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 26, 2022, at Holly Springs Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Doug Houston officiating.

He was the son of the late Henry James and Annie Lois McNeill Coore. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Blanton McNeill and his wife, Debra Buchanan Coore.

Surviving are his daughters, Michelle Coore and Melissa Douglas of Sanford; brother, Lemar McNeill of Broadway; one grandson, and two great-granddaughters.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

BENNIE DEAN MCDONALD

December 6, 1946 ~ May 16, 2022

Bennie Dean McDonald, 75, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, May 16, 2022, at High-Smith Rainey Hospital in Fayetteville.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, May 23, 2022, at Moore Union FWB Church with burial following.

DAPHNE (MCCLINTON) GEE
August 9, 1959 ~ May 12, 2022

Daphne McClinton Gee passed away on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, Maryland.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 22, 2022, at Pittsboro Church of God.

SAMELIA ONETA (MILLIKEN) MCIVER

May 3, 1965 ~ May 17, 2022

Samelia Milliken McIver passed away Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at her home in Sanford.

The funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 22, 2022 at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

WILLARD JEROME LEE

June 17, 1949 ~ May 10, 2022

Willard Jerome Lee, 72, of Moncure, passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at UNC Health, Southeastern Hospital in Lumberton.

Professional services provided by Knotts and Son, Siler City.

DONALD SELLERS

February 6, 1944 ~ May 4, 2022

Donald Sellers, 78, of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

AGGIE MAE (MCKINNEY) BURGESS

November 17, 1937 ~ May 21, 2022

Aggie Mae Burgess, 84, of Pittsboro, passed away Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the Laurels of Chatham.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home with burial following at the Pittsboro Community Cemetery.

RAYMOND HOWARD REAVES

December 7, 1957 ~ May 20, 2022

Raymond Howard Reaves, 64, of Sanford, passed away Friday, May 20, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

KIRBY WILLIAM BUCKNER

08-25-1948 ~ 05-19-2022

Kirby "Catfish" William Buckner, 73, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, May 19, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The funeral service will be held Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Solid Rock Community Church with Rev. Brad Marona officiating.

Kirby was the son of the late Grady William and Lucy Jones Buckner. He retired from Perdue Farms. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Kathy Gwyn Buckner.

Survivors include his daughters, Angie May of Siler City and Karen Buckner of Sanford; sister, Bobbie Kidd of Ramseur; four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home to assist the family with funeral expenses.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JOHNNIE LONDON ALSTON

February 6, 1945 ~ May 22, 2022

Johnnie London Alston, 77, of Moncure passed away Sunday, May 22, 2022, at Wake Med Hospital in Cary.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

CARLVESTER TOMLINSON

August 18, 1933 ~ May 21, 2022

Carlvester Tomlinson, 88, of Cameron, passed away Saturday, May 21, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

A ROAD DIET IN SILER CITY

Second Avenue, once a major thoroughfare, may see major changes

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

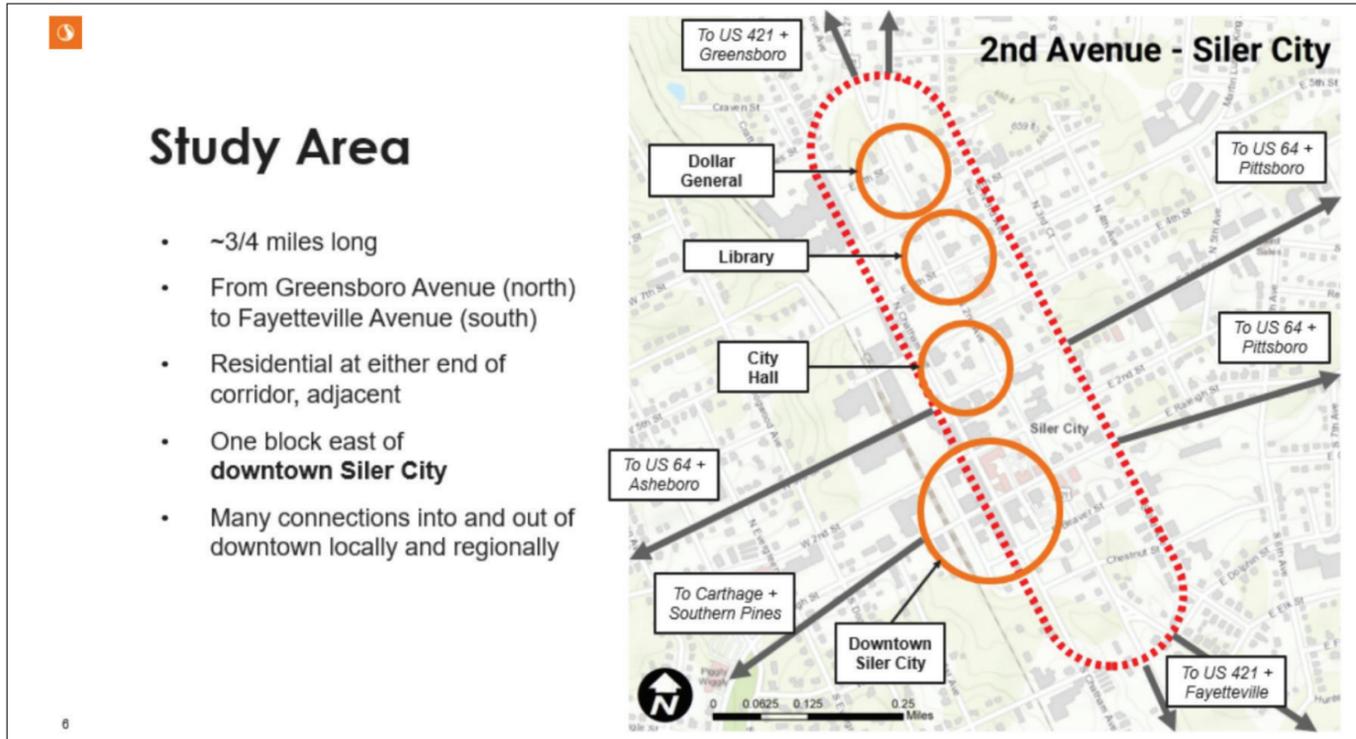
SILER CITY — A major street in Siler City may be going on a "road diet."

Second Avenue, once a major highway through central North Carolina as part of old U.S. Hwy. 421, is the subject of a Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) corridor study. The town has received a N.C. Dept. of Transportation grant for the study, which will help town officials develop what's described as "a new guiding vision" for the road's future — much of that based on community input.

Siler City contributed 10% of the roughly \$80,000 cost for the study.

Widely distributed online questionnaires and a series of on-site workshops, public and focus group meetings, completed last week, have been a part of the project, according to Siler City Planning and Community Development Director Jack Meadows. The project is now in the "recommendations" phase; a draft report will be presented sometime in June. The final report will provide options and associated costs for alternatives for the road based on suggestions from the community.

"It's community-driven," Meadows said. "Consultants are leading the way, but there are parameters — these are things you wouldn't want to do, here are things you might want to do ... they'll steer you in the right direction based on the best practices of hundreds of



A screenshot from the Second Avenue project symposium slideshow.

studies like this they've done before."

Among the considerations: Second Avenue has the capacity for 22,000 cars per day, but current volume is 7,900 — hence the term "road diet," indicating the road was designed for much heavier traffic and is a good candidate for re-purposing.

Preliminary results so far focus on lack of crosswalks on Second Avenue — making it difficult for pedestrians to navigate — the need for better lighting, a desire by those responding to

surveys to make Second Avenue "feel more like downtown," and the fact that curb cuts and intersection design make the corridor confusing for drivers and unsafe for cyclists.

Improvement opportunities include appearance and beautification enhancements, wayfinding tools and more parking.

Second Avenue was chosen for the study, Meadows said, as a part of a comprehensive transportation plan. U.S. Hwy. 64 has already been studied, and

because Siler City wasn't experiencing major transportation issues — traffic congestion or crashes — the town chose to look at Second Avenue because of its rich history, as well as its past as a heavily trafficked street.

Next steps include cost estimates for alternatives broken into phases.

"There's no implementation money now," Meadows said, "but the town and DOT will look for opportunities to seek funding."

Those could include grants

— similar to the grant which helped fund Pittsboro's traffic circle work last year — and even bond issues.

The engineering firm working on the project is Stantec, which has helped the City of Sanford with some of its downtown beautification improvements.

For more information, go to www.tarpo.org/2ndave.

Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@chathamnr.com or @billthethird.

Courtesy of TARPO

NEW YORK ARTS ADVENTURE

For Jordan-Matthews students, Big Apple trip provides big experiences

BY CHIP PATE
JMArts

NEW YORK CITY — New World Stage Four was already raucous when it happened. As everything was flying off the rails for actors in “The Murder at Haversham Manor” — the play-within-the-play of Off-Broadway’s “The Play That Goes Wrong” — Jordan-Matthews High School actors sitting front row center were laughing louder than most. And Laci Burt was laughing louder than the rest.

It was a fact that didn’t escape actor Matt Harrington, who was looking at that moment for someone just like Laci. Standing on stage a few feet away, his character slowly turned toward Laci and glared into her eyes. “What are you laughing at?” he screamed in anguish. “Shut up!” And with that, 350 audience members exploded once again. And somehow, the J-M actor had managed to work her way into the drama.

It’s these unexpected moments that help make the New York Arts Adventure so memorable for six to eight student artists, who spend five days in the city over spring break experiencing the pinnacle of their arts and learning directly from world-class professionals.

But most of the once-in-a-lifetime experiences are carefully planned.

Like when students sat down for lunch at the famed Joe Allen restaurant with Jessie Austrian, a Broadway actor, theater director, NYU instructor and producer for Fiasco Theater (who, by the way, once collaborated with Stephen Sondheim). The table discussed pursuing their love of the arts in college and beyond, especially how to navigate a competitive business and others’ expectations.

Or when they had another long lunch late in the week for a wide ranging discussion with Washington Post theater critic Peter Marks, a journalist who holds a Pulitzer Prize as part of a news reporting team and often chairs the jury selecting finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. That conversation began with the students’ assessment of shows they saw in New York before shifting to how they approached their own production of “Oklahoma!” When Marks casually said, “Who knows? Maybe someday I’ll review you guys,” one of the J-M artists called it “literally a jaw-dropping moment.”

And then there was an audience with the queens. After Broadway’s hot new musical “Six,” the six J-M artists sat down with half of the six ex-wives of King Henry VIII to discuss the show and how the actors — Andrea Macasaet performing as Anne Boleyn, Samantha Pauly as Katherine Howard and Keirsten Nicole Hodgens as Anna of Cleves — navigated their way from distant hometowns to the Broadway stage.

The trip wasn’t all about performing arts. There was a visit to the Museum of Modern Art to encounter masterpieces like Vincent van Gogh’s “The Starry Night” and pay tribute to Frida Kahlo, pretty much J-M’s patron saint of art. And for a different take on art, a hands-on graffiti workshop with Leaf, one of the city’s famous graffiti writers, after students toured street art in Brooklyn’s Bushwick neighborhood.

All of the activities are selected each year with the traveling students, and sometimes they divide into two groups to pursue different interests. While everyone attended “Six” and “The Play That Goes Wrong,” smaller groups were in the house for “Company,” “Moulin Rouge!,” “Beetlejuice,” “Hadestown,” “Sleep No More” and the New York Philharmonic’s Spring Gala: “Disney’s ‘Fantasia’ in Concert.”

While arts are clearly the focus for this annual trip offered by JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, other activities allow students to



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

After the final curtain dropped on ‘Six,’ J-M students waited until the theater was clear and then went down to the Broadway stage, where they spent 40 minutes discussing the show with half of the actors portraying the wives of King Henry VIII. Keirsten Nicole Hodgens (Anna of Cleves), Samantha Pauly (Katherine Howard) and Andrea Macasaet (Anne Boleyn) — in the back row, from left — are part of a thoughtful and joyful musical that envisions the six wives returning live for a one-night concert to determine which queen had it worst. The show was nominated earlier this month for eight Tony Awards.



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

Washington Post theater critic Peter Marks pauses for a photo after a long discussion about theater over lunch at the famed Joe Allen restaurant in New York’s Theater District. After discussing what J-M students thought about shows they saw in the city, conversation turned to J-M’s spring production of ‘Oklahoma!’ Students challenged the critic and JMArts member to guess which part each one performed and, to his credit, he was correct on four of the six.

WHAT THEY’RE SAYING

Reaction from students on this year’s trip

“When I arrived in New York, I felt like I had entered a new world with new opportunities and new sights.”

— Louis Graham, junior, J-M actor

“I enjoyed the whole trip so much, and when my friends and family ask me to pick a favorite experience ... I literally can’t! Seeing Broadway shows was so eye opening to the world of theatre, the food we ate was always absolutely amazing, Summit One Vanderbilt was breathtaking and exploring the city was so exciting. I am so thankful for the opportunity to go on this trip, it was an incredible way to spend my spring break!”

— Emma Wieber, senior, J-M musician and actor

“After waiting all of high school to go on this trip, it was more than what we could have hoped for. I absolutely loved getting to share a whole week of the city with people who are just as passionate about theater as I am.”

— Courtney Shackelford, senior, J-M musician and actor

“Such an awesome experience to step inside the Queendom!! Thank you for showing us how to “Get Down,” teaching us when “Playtime’s Over,” and making us all “Lose Our Heads”!! (But in the BEST way!)”

— Laci Burt, senior, J-M actor and musician, via Twitter

“In New York, you can be a new (wo)man! Five days in the city just wasn’t enough. The shows, food and sites were all too good. I miss you, New York. I will forever remember that feeling you gave me. ‘Till we meet again! Thank you JMArts for this opportunity.”

— Laci Burt, senior, J-M actor and musician, via Instagram

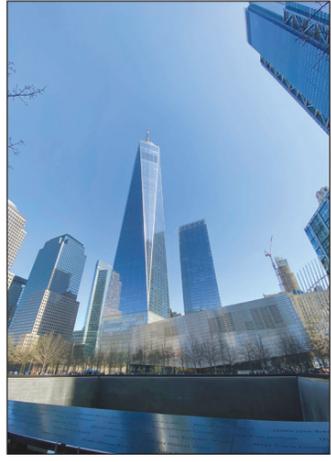
experience the city and all it offers — from a quiet, poignant visit to the 9/11 memorial to breathtaking views from 90 stories over Manhattan at Summit One Vanderbilt to exploring New York and international cuisine at some of the city’s historic and notable restaurants.

The five-day adventure has captured the imagination of nearly everyone, including a long line of adults — including parents of J-M students — who propose a trip of their own. But for students from rural Siler City and surrounding communities, it can be a life-changing experience. For many, this has been their first trip on a plane. Their first visit to a major world city. Their first encoun-



JMArts photo by Rose Pate

While visiting Summit One Vanderbilt, J-M students have a group photo taken on a section of the floor using digital projections to give the sensation of floating in the sky. The three-floor, 360-degree observation deck that opened in October near Grand Central Terminal is more than 90 stories above Midtown Manhattan and has been a huge hit with its floor-to-ceiling glass windows, a transparent platform that extends from the building over the streets below and all kinds of reflective surfaces that create stunning photos.



JMArts photo by Laci Burt

A view of the 9/11 Memorial in Lower Manhattan.

ter with world-renowned arts. So, that changes perspectives.

What makes it all possible is generous people. Generous individual contributors at home who donate to significantly reduce the cost to families. Generous local nonprofits, like the Wren Foundation and Galloway Ridge Charitable Fund, which provide scholarships for families needing financial assistance or cover the cost of some educational activities. And generous professionals in the city who take time out of some insanely busy schedules to share their expertise, insight and advice.

Each year, the question is whether to offer the New York Arts Adventure again. It’s not easy to produce; every single plan, reservation and purchase is made by trip leaders working with students to define their interests and match those with quality work across the city. But when an informational meeting was held two weeks ago to explain the trip to prospective travelers and their parents, next spring’s trip was suddenly full. So, this must be doing something right.



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

Louis Graham, right, gives graffiti technique a try as Emma Wieber watches. After learning about street art during a morning tour of the colorful Bushwick neighborhood in Brooklyn, acclaimed street artist Leaf taught J-M students some basic spray paint techniques and worked with them to create two large canvases.



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

J-M students find the giant ‘Six’ Playbill at a special Times Square exhibit a few days before seeing the musical.

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RENTAL APARTMENTS

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

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

ESTATE YARD SALE - June 3rd, 4th, 7a.m. to 5p.m. daily, 1740 Devils Tramping Ground Rd., Bear Creek, 27207 - Walk thru home sale! Some antiques, Dressers, Beds, Armoire, Ap-

pliances (Fridge, Range,W/ Dryer,TV) pictures, nic-naks, some glassware, clothing, vintage 50's Formica Table + Chairs, Lots of Misc. Items - Habrá venta de bienes del 3 al 4 de junio, de 7 a.m. a 5 p.m. cada día. Dirección: 1740 Devils Tramping Ground Rd. Bear Creek 27207. Los artículos se venderán dentro de la casa. Habrá varias cómodas antiguas, camas, armarios, electrodomésticos, refrigerador, estufa, secadora, TV, fotografías, chucherías, algo de cristalería, ropa, además de una mesa y sillas de estilo "Formica" de los años 50. Un montón de artículos diversos. My26,Jn2,2tp

AUCTIONEERS

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

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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

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR PART-TIME MAINTENANCE CARETAKER - Seeking mature, reliable person with basic plumbing, drywall and carpentry knowledge to work 20 hours/week at The Retreat at Pittsboro Apartments, a 48-unit apartment community in Pittsboro. Duties include routine maintenance, preparing vacant units, cleaning common areas, etc. Ideal candidate will be well-organized, pro-active, knowledgeable in troubleshooting maintenance needs and coordinating contractor services. Skilled trade replacements and extensive repairs are made by third party service contractors. Must have reliable transportation and provide your own hand tools. Must be on-call for after-hours emergencies. Credit and criminal checks required. Equal Opportunity Employer. Please send resume/ letter of interest to kstevens@partnershippm.com or Partnership Property Management, C/O Kim Stevens, PO Box 26405, Greensboro, NC 27404. My19,My26,2tc

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

All heirs of the Spencer/Harvey Taylor family that have an interest in this property should contact phone # 910.494.0155 on or before June 4th, 2022, to learn more about action taking place to move forward on bringing the heir property to final resolution. Failure to respond can jeopardize your ability to be a part of the action taking place to resolve this situation. My5,12,19,26,4tp

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 239

All persons having claims against **ROGER GRAY GORDON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of May, 2022. Phyllis Gordon Clark, Executrix 1780 Devils Tramping Ground Rd Bear Creek, NC 27207 My5,My12,My19,M26,4tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified on the 21st day of April 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **GLENN GEOFREY WILLIAMS**, 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 3rd day of August 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 5th day of May, 2022 Pauline Williams, Executor of the Estate of Glenn Geoffrey Williams 1995 N. West Cary Parkway Apt. 326 Morrisville, NC 27560

Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 My5,My12,My19,My26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 98

All persons having claims against **BETTY ALEXANDER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of May, 2022. Sharla Alexander, Limited Personal Representative 5624 Samter Ct. Tampa, FL 33611 c/o Eunoia Law Firm P.O. Box 42 Holly Springs, NC 27540 Tel: 919-925-3320, ext. 8616, My5,My12,My19,M26,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **GARY ALAN SPIRDUSSO**, deceased, of Chatham County,

NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before August 8, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 4th day of May, 2022. Craig D. Spirduso, Executor c/o Clarity Legal Group PO Box 2207 Chapel Hill, NC 27515 My5,My12,My19,My26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **WEBB NASH MORRISON**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before August 8, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 4th day of May, 2022. Victoria Hassink, Executor C/o Clarity Legal Group PO Box 2207 Chapel Hill, NC 27515. My5,My12,My19,My26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 195

All persons having claims against **CHARLES RICHARD KUHN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of May, 2022. William Louis Rubin, Administrator, CTA 1903 Glendale Ave Durham, NC 27701 My5,My12,My19,M26,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Joanna David Jovanovich, having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of **CLIFFORD BAYNES DAVID**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on April 28, 2022, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before August 3, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of May 2022. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandever, 101 Conner Drive, Suite 402, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandever, Attorney of Record 101 Conner Drive, Suite 402, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514 My5,My12,My19,M26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 203

All persons having claims against **EARL DAVID DOWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of May, 2022. Kimba Dowd Hockenberry, Co-Executor 1033 Alston Bridge Rd Siler City, NC 27344

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.

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Kathy Lorraine Dowd, Co-Executor 510 Easy Street Pittsboro, NC 27312 My12,My19,M26,Jn2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 265

All persons having claims against **MARY LATHAM SUESS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of May, 2022. Allen Sueess, Administrator 210 Holly Ridge Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27516 My12,My19,M26,Jn2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 257

All persons having claims against **JOEL A. CASH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of May, 2022. Bart T. Cash, Executor 140 Anterbury Dr Apex, NC 27502 My12,My19,M26,Jn2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **ANN KIRKMAN DOWDY** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 9th day of May, 2022. Jenny Oldham Williams, Executrix of The Estate of Ann Kirkman Dowdy Reno Sharps Store Road Bear Creek, North Carolina 27207 Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee Attorneys at Law Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (919) 542-5605



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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

Project May 20, 2022
 The Town of Siler City as part of its submittal for a State Revolving Fund is soliciting requests for qualifications (RFQ) for professional engineering services to prepare; 1) a preliminary engineering report (PER), 2) an Environmental Assessment, 3) engineering design and bid package services and construction inspection services.
 The project scope would consist of the construction of a small booster pump station to increase the pressure in the Tanglewood St. area. Connected to this booster pump station will be approximately 2,170 LF of 2", 2,480 LF of 3", and 1,010 LF of 4" PVC water lines to serve the 65 houses that are experiencing low pressure in the upper portion of the pressure zone. The larger diameter mains will remain in service to connect the water tank to homes in the lower section of the pressure zone and provide fire flows. The tank in this area does not provide sufficient pressure to the affected houses due to the hydraulic grade. The proposed project will effectively create a new pressure zone to prevent over pressuring water mains in the lower section of the zone and provide adequate pressure to the higher elevation area. Scope of Work: Engineering services shall include, but are not limited to, standard tasks necessary for the implementation of the project in conformance with the State Revolving Fund Program:
 1. Prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) outlining the scope of the project.
 2. Preparing the final Design and Construction bid package in conformance with applicable regulations and requirements;
 1. Supervising the bid advertising, tabulation, and award process, including preparing the advertisements for bid

solicitations, conducting pre-bid meeting, conducting bid opening, and issuing the notice to proceed;
 2. Conducting the pre-construction conference;
 3. Surveying, field staking, on-site supervising of construction work, and preparing inspection reports;
 4. Reviewing and approving all contractor requests for payment, change orders, and submitting approved requests to the governing body;
 5. Providing reproducible plan drawings to the Town/City/County upon project completion;
 6. Conducting final inspection and testing;
 7. Submitting certified "as-built" drawings to appropriate authorities; and
 8. Preparing an operation and maintenance manual (if applicable).
 Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Nancy Hannah, Grants Administrator, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 by 5:00 pm June 10, 2022.
 Submittal Requirements are available below.
 1. Individual or Firm Information: firm's legal name, address, email, and telephone number, the principal(s) of the firm and their experience and qualifications;
 2. Experience: The specialized experience and technical competence of the staff to be assigned to the project with respect to water improvements or related work, description of firm's prior experience, including any similar projects (in particular those funded by NC State Revolving Fund Program), size of community, location, total construction cost, and names of local officials knowledgeable regarding the firm's performance on related work. Include at least

five references within the past five years;
 3. Firm Capacity and Capability: The capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work in question, including specialized services, within the period of the grant, the past record of performance of the firm with respect to such factors as control of costs, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules; description of firm's current work activities, capability of carrying out all aspects of NC State Revolving Fund related activities, and firm's anticipated availability during the term of the project;
 4. The proposed work plan and schedule for activities to be performed; and
 5. Documentation of compliance with state and federal debarment/eligibility requirements.
 The highest number represents the most value for each column. WEIGHT column: 1-10 points depending on value to the project and level of importance (assigned by rating group and must be identical on all evaluations), in each area, to the particular project. RATING column: 1-5 points. In this column grant recipients rate the firm based on each qualification. Multiply the rating by the weight for each category and enter the total. Add all totals to establish final score for firm.
 Name of Firm: _____
 Contact Person: _____ Project
 Description: _____
 Individual Evaluation: _____
 Evaluation Factors, WEIGHT, 1-10 x RATING, 1-5 = Total
 6. Individual or Firm Information: (firm's legal name, address, email, and telephone number, the principal(s) of the firm and their experience and qualifications;
 7. Experience: The specialized experience and technical competence of the staff to be assigned to the project with respect to water improvements or related work, description

of firm's prior experience, including any similar projects (in particular those funded by NC State Revolving Fund Program), size of community, location, total construction cost, and names of local officials knowledgeable regarding the firm's performance on related work. Include at least five references within the past five years;
 8. Firm Capacity and Capability: The capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work in question, including specialized services, within the period of the grant, the past record performance of the firm with respect to such factors as control of costs, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules; description of firm's current work activities, capability of carrying out all aspects of the NC Commerce Infrastructure Grant Program, and firm's anticipated availability during the term of the project;
 9. The proposed work plan and schedule for activities to be performed; and
 10. Documentation of compliance with state and federal debarment/eligibility requirements.
 References
 Met requirements for submittal
 Name of Reviewer: _____
 Grant Total: _____ My26,1tc,

TOWN OF GOLDSTON PROMOTES FAIR HOUSING
 The Town of Goldston, through its Community Development Program, has assured the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that the Town will take action in the form of educational programs to further fair housing opportunities for its residents. In Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, (the Fair Housing Law), Congress declared a national policy of providing fair housing throughout the United States. This law

makes discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, family status or handicap illegal in connection with the sale or rental of most housing and any vacant land offered for residential construction or use. Prohibitions contained in the Fair Housing Law apply to the following types of housing: SINGLE FAMILY housing owned by private individuals when:
 a) A broker or other person in the business of selling or renting dwellings is used and/or;
 b) Discriminatory advertising is used.
 SINGLE FAMILY houses not owned by private individuals. SINGLE FAMILY houses owned by a private individual who owns more than three such houses or who, in any two-year period, sells more than one in which the individual was not the most recent resident. MULTIFAMILY dwellings of five or more units. MULTIFAMILY dwellings containing four or fewer units, if the owner does not reside in one of the units. Housing discrimination is prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and by the North Carolina State Fair Housing Act. In an effort to promote fair housing and to ensure that the rights of housing discrimination victims are protected, the Town has adopted the following procedures for receiving and resolving fair housing discrimination complaints: Any person or persons wishing to file a complaint of housing discrimination in the Town may do so by informing Town Clerk and Fair Housing Officer Annie King-Gaines, 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston, NC 27252; PH: (919)898-4343; TDD: (711); akkgaines@americansouthgc.com; of the facts and circumstances of the alleged discriminatory act or practice. Upon receiving a housing discrimination complaint, the Town shall inform the North

Carolina Human Relations Commission (Commission) and the complainant about the complaint within 10 calendar days of receipt for conciliation and resolution. The Town shall then assist the Commission and the complainant in filing an official written housing discrimination complaint with the Commission, pursuant to the State Fair Housing Act and Title VIII. The Town shall offer its assistance to the Commission in the investigation and conciliation of all housing discrimination complaints, which are based upon events occurring in Goldston, NC. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Town Clerk and Fair Housing Officer Annie King-Gaines at (919)898-4343 or 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston, NC 27252 for assistance. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma a pedido. Por favor, comuníquese con Secretaria Municipal Annie King-Gaines al (919) 898-4343 o 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston, NC 27252 para obtener ayuda. Jonathan Hensley, Mayor My26,1tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 46
 All persons having claims against **VIRGINIA CLARA BELANGER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This the 26th day of May, 2022. Jeffrey L. Belanger, Executor 563 Eastern Ave. Augusta, Me, 04330 M26,Jn2,Jn9,Jn16,4tp

Elder abuse comes to Chatham's forefront in May

From the Chatham Council on Aging

The numbers can sometimes be staggering. According to the National Council on Aging, up to five million older adults in America are abused annually. However, the problem is often hidden, with just one in 24 cases of elder abuse being reported to authorities. From a financial perspective, the loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion per year. The U.S. Department of Justice and its Elder Justice Initiative defines elder abuse as "an intentional act or failure to act by a caregiver or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust that causes or creates a

risk of harm to an older adult." Elder abuse falls into five different categories — psychological abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial exploitation and caregiver neglect. The Elder Justice Initiative reports that at least 10% of adults aged 60 and older will experience some form of elder abuse in a year. Some older adults face more than one form of abuse, ultimately leading to a reduction in quality of life and independence. Collectively, the Chatham County Department of Social Services, the Chatham County Council on Aging and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office are among the organizations seeking to raise greater awareness about elder abuse in its different forms.

"It is imperative that we educate ourselves on the signs of abuse and neglect so that we can act accordingly," COA Executive Director Ashlyn Martin said. "Older adults are a vulnerable, at-risk population, and many may be unable to speak out for themselves. We each have the responsibility of being an advocate and a voice for those in need. Unfortunately, abuse and neglect can also be a result of caregiver stress and burnout. If you know of a caregiver who is taking care of their loved one, we encourage you to reach out and lend a helping hand. Offering to run errands, assist with preparing a meal, or even offer to sit with the care recipient while the caregiver takes a much-needed break

can go a long way in helping someone feel supported." During the month of May, Chatham County will observe the period between Mother's Day and Father's Day (May 8-June 19) as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness Month. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved the action during its April 18 meeting. Any signs of mistreatment of an older adult should be reported to the Chatham County Department of Social Services at 919-542-2759. Per North Carolina law, anyone with a reasonable suspicion that an adult is being abused, neglected or exploited must report their concerns to their local Social Services department.

NEWS BRIEFS

Libraries to host 'Oceans of Possibilities' summer reading challenge

PITTSBORO — Children and teens are invited to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge: Oceans of Possibilities at all Chatham County Public Libraries branches from June 1 through July 31. The Summer Reading Challenge is designed to encourage kids to continue reading during the summer months, and this year's nautical theme is especially exciting. The Summer Reading Challenge, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to children and teens ages 2-18.

Readers participate by picking up a reading log at their local library branch and reading for 10 hours to earn a free book (up to three books per participant, while supplies last). All participants who read at least 10 hours will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Certificate to McIntyre's Books. Special events will be presented at Chatham County Public Libraries throughout the summer, including science storytelling with TaleWise, The Soap Bubble Circus, and Magical Fish Tales with Fish the Magish. For a complete list of summer events, check the libraries' online event calendar. For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge or other youth events with Chatham County Public

Libraries, contact youth.services@chathamlibraries.org.

Chatham's Social Services seeks to increase awareness of elder abuse

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Dept. of Social Services invites the community to learn about the signs of elder abuse and how to prevent it on June 9 in Pittsboro. The event at Central Carolina Community College will focus on the most reported form of adult mistreatment statewide: self-neglect. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners declared the period between Mother's Day and Father's Day (May 8 to

June 19) as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness Month. Elder Abuse Awareness Month is recognized annually in North Carolina, and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is recognized on June 16 nationally. Navigating through COVID-19 has had even more of an impact on one of Chatham County's most vulnerable populations due to an increase in isolation and loss of social connections and support systems. In 2021, the Chatham County Department of Social Services Adult Services Unit received an increase of 34% in adult protective services reports than the year prior. Event attendees can obtain information about the im-

pact of self-neglect on older adults, prevention, as well as access to several community agencies and resources. Free goodie bags will be available to all attendees, while supplies last. Agency vendors will be set up outdoors near the horticulture space on CCCC's Pittsboro campus. For more information, individuals may contact Janelle Lewis at 919-642-6946. IF YOU'RE GOING WHAT: Elder Abuse Awareness Community Event WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon June 9 WHERE: Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) at 764 West Street, Pittsboro WHO: Chatham County Department of Social Services – Adult Services Unit — CN+R staff reports

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Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Cheri Beasley (second from right) met Chatham County Commissioner candidate David Delaney (left), District Attorney candidate Kayley Taber and Chatham County Commissioner candidate Katie Kenlan (at right) during Beasley's campaign visit to Chatham County on primary day last Tuesday.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

U.S. Senate candidate Cheri Beasley shook hands with a supporter during a visit last Tuesday.

U.S. Senate nominee Cheri Beasley visits Chatham County voters

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Former N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley made a brief stop in Chatham County on primary election day last Tuesday to speak to supporters about her U.S. Senate bid.

A few hours after she left, she was declared the race's winner. "It's great to be here with the people of Chatham County," Beasley said. "It's great to feel their enthusiasm and their excitement about why this race is so important."

Beasley will face Republican nominee Ted Budd, who defeated former North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory in a landslide victory last Tuesday. If elected in November, Beasley would become the first Black U.S. Senator in North Carolina history.

Beasley said having more diversity in the U.S. Senate was

important, and she said she especially understands this as she was the first Black woman to be the chief justice of the N.C. Supreme Court.

"The first time I ever saw an African-American woman residing in a courtroom, it was then judge Patricia Timmons in Cumberland County, and for me, it was life changing," Beasley said. "I know that representation matters, and diversity is very important."

The former chief justice attested to the importance of the general election in November, as it may determine if Democrats or Republicans control the U.S. House and Senate.

"It's wonderful that so many people are coming down and really appreciate the magnitude of this election," Beasley said. "We've got a lot of awesome support from a lot of great people who care a lot about North Carolina."

Beasley spoke to voters during the Chatham meet

and greet event, where people voiced their concerns to the Senate candidate. Some issues voters expressed their worries ranging from inflation and higher costs to health care access.

"We need to protect our Constitutional rights, and we need so much more," Beasley said. "We know that so many people are working two or three jobs to pay the rent because often there's not affordable housing, we know that schools need the support to make sure that children can have the education that they need ... We need a senator who's not afraid to speak out, who will stand courageously for the people here in Chatham County and North Carolina."

An issue many Chatham residents have voiced concern over is water quality. Pittsboro residents have been victim to several spills and discharges of unregulated chemical compounds — such as 1,4-Dioxane

and PFAS — into the Haw River, Pittsboro's main source of drinking water.

Beasley said she wants to address water contamination if elected to the U.S. Senate, as it plagues the entire nation, not just North Carolina.

"These issues, frankly, are really not partisan," she said. "If you don't have clean air or clean water, it doesn't matter whether you're Democrat or Republican."

Monitoring the changing weather patterns due to the climate crisis and building infrastructure for renewable energy will also help to bring Chatham residents cleaner water and air, according to Beasley. Staying on top of what Beasley calls "the climate crisis" will help improve economic development and infrastructure of the county, including in Chatham County.

"We want to make sure above all, those things and what they do is helping the impact of

the climate, but it also brings amazingly great paying jobs to the area," Beasley said.

Beasley said she has the right qualifications to be North Carolina's voice on the national stage. A former public defender, a former North Carolina Supreme Court justice and a mother are just a few of the experiences Beasley holds. She hopes to add the title U.S. Senator to her list of accomplishments and serve the state she said she loves.

"I've been tasked with and taken an oath to respect the rule of law and the Constitution," Beasley said. "It's been my honor really to be in service, but also to offer myself in this way to really continue to fight for the people in North Carolina to stand for what's right."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@Heeden-Taylor](https://twitter.com/Heeden-Taylor).



IT'S HAPPENING IN CHATHAM COUNTY

Are you ready? Ready for the economic boom that is taking place in and around Chatham County? A surging economy and thousands of new jobs in the area add to the demand in an already hot housing market.

The NC Office of State Budget and Management is projecting a population increase of nearly 50% in Chatham County from 2010 to 2035. This percentage translates into a substantial demand for housing.

Fortunately, the developers of Chatham Park had the foresight to start planning their live, work, play, and learn community decades ago to accommodate the workforce for Chatham Park jobs and the demand the market will naturally create with the influx of major corporations by providing housing for 60,000 residents at completion. With the recent announcements of VinFast, the largest economic development project in North Carolina's history, FedEx, Apple, Toyota, Epic Games, Google, and Fuji Film to locate facilities within

35 minutes of Chatham Park, the timing couldn't be better. Currently, there are more than 500 lots in various stages of development, and future homes are being constructed as quickly as the builders can source materials.

Chatham Park offers a variety of housing options for those relocating to Chatham County. Single-family homes, townhomes, and condominiums are now available with apartments coming soon. In preparation for energy-saving trends, all single-family homes are ecoSelect® PLUS certified, and all are pre-wired with electric vehicle charging stations. Car charging stations are also planned in public parking lots.

Additionally, The Malcolm Bryant Corporation recently broke ground on the Hampton Inn & Suites in MOSAIC at Chatham Park, the first hotel in Chatham County.

"This community is 15 years in the making," said Vanessa Jenkins, Exec-

utive Vice President of Preston Development Company. She continues, "When we saw this gorgeous land and studied the area growth patterns all those years ago, we took a leap of faith that the next major corridor of growth was between Chapel Hill and Sanford and began the planning process when there was little to no infrastructure in the area. We are exceptionally pleased that Chatham Park has played a major role in the largest economic development project in the state's history to bring 7,500 jobs to the area. We are prepared to help house those employees in one of the most forward-thinking communities in the nation."

Chatham Park offers its residents a balanced, well-rounded lifestyle. More than 2,000 acres will be dedicated to parks, trails, greenways, and open space, the first of which has been donated to the town of Pittsboro, Knight Farm Community Park, which features a splash pad, pavilion with picnic tables and restrooms, playground, and dog park.

DISCOVER CHATHAM PARK AT CHATHAMPARK.COM

'IT'S SOMETHING SPECIAL'

Wolves post clean sheets vs. Mustangs, Vikings to storm into state quarterfinals

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — As the ball glides across each blade of grass, sliding past the goalkeeper and colliding with the back of the net, a look of elation washes over the faces of the Woods Charter women's soccer team.

Then comes the embrace.

Lucy Miller grabs her teammate Leyla Noronha, hugging her with both arms and spinning her around, nearly lifting her off of the ground.

Optics would have you believe that Noronha had just scored the go-ahead, game-winning goal, lifting the Wolves to the third round of the postseason in electric fashion.

The reality is, that goal gave top-seeded Woods Charter a 4-0 lead in the 49th minute of its

second-round 1A playoff game against No. 16 North Moore last Thursday, a game in which the Wolves went on to post a clean sheet with a 5-0 victory.

But that's just how the Wolves are.

"I really love playing with her, she's a really great player," Miller said of Noronha. "We're just really close and we play really well together. ... When we can get our 1-2s off of each other, it's something special."

Miller and Noronha have accounted for 3.9 goals per game this season and it showed, with the duo combining to score 4 of the team's 5 goals in the shut-out victory — including Noronha's hat trick, her ninth of the season and fourth game in a row accomplishing the 3-goal feat.

If you didn't know any better, you'd think the two of

them had been playing together for years, but it's quite the contrary. Miller, a junior, has played just 18 games in a Woods Charter uniform.

Two years ago, she wasn't even in the state, having moved to Pittsboro from Pennsylvania in the middle of her sophomore year.

Last season, she was a sophomore on Northwood's soccer team — scoring zero goals (and taking just two shots) in 11 games — before transferring this season.

This year, she's second on the team in scoring (1.3 goals per game).

"She wins so many tackles, she uses both feet, she's got great touch, her I.Q. is off the charts, she gives us that glue in the middle," Graeme Stewart,

See **SOCCER**, page B2



Staff photo by David Bradley

Woods Charter sophomore Leyla Noronha (8) fights for positioning between two North Moore players in the Wolves' 5-0 win over the Mustangs in the second round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Noronha, the Wolves' leading scorer on the year, had a hat trick against the Mustangs, her ninth of the season.

'I FEEL PROUD OF MYSELF'

Murrell caps off career with 2 distance state titles, headlines Chatham's 2022 state meet showing

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

GREENSBORO — Before last Friday, Chatham County had never seen a women's track & field athlete take home multiple state titles in a single season.

Until now.

Enter Caroline Murrell.

In the final meet of her high school career, Northwood's senior distance star outran Carrboro senior Hannah Preisser in the women's 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs to claim the state title in both events during the NCHSAA 3A Track & Field State Championships at North Carolina A&T State University over the weekend.

She took first place in the 1,600-meter with a time of 5:07.44, topping Preisser by a little less than four seconds, and in the 3,200-meter, her time of 11:07.69 was nearly 16 seconds faster than her Carrboro counterpart.

"It feels really good," Murrell said with a smile after her 1,600-meter win. "I've been really grateful to have a pretty consistent season and keep running strong. ... I feel proud of myself."

It was a performance that, frankly, didn't shock her head coach, Cameron Isenhour.

"I expected the 3,200-meter state title, obviously," referring to Murrell's championship in the same event last season and her No. 1 seed entering Friday's race. "I also expected the 1,600, but I didn't want to jinx it ... because anybody's beatable, but when



Staff photo by Aidan Myers

Northwood senior distance runner Caroline Murrell strides down the track in one of her two state-title-winning races at the 2022 NCHSAA 3A Track & Field State Championships last Friday in Greensboro. Murrell took first place in both the women's 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs, amounting to four state titles in the last 12 months.

you're racing against Caroline Murrell with a state championship on the line, you've got to be at your best because she's going to throw everything at you."

Murrell was one of 58 student-athletes from around the county that competed at states in Greensboro on Friday and Saturday, with Chatham participants accounting for two state titles, three podium placements and 20 top-10 finishes.

And even if the participants hadn't brought their own heat to the track, the Triad

area had plenty of it to go around, with both Friday and Saturday acting as two of the hottest days of 2022 so far with temperatures upwards of 88 degrees, forcing athletes to battle dehydration alongside their opponents.

At one point on Saturday, the PA announcer delivered a message from the on-site medical staff that cited a large number of dehydration cases among runners, which included some who fainted after crossing the finish line.

"I've just been trying to stay out of the sun as much as

possible, drinking a lot of water and sitting in the shade," Murrell said. "We have spray bottles, so I've been spraying myself with water and having a cold towel around my neck.

... I've also been making sure to hydrate the week leading up to this, too."

This year, Chatham was represented by a diverse group of newcomers and veterans, some on a mission to improve on last year's performances and others simply happy to soak in the sights and sounds from the state's biggest stage.

Record-breakers and title-takers

As Murrell lined up for her final race in a Northwood uniform, she assumed every eye in the stadium would be focused on her.

And if they weren't already, they surely were once the PA announcer began introducing all of the runners, letting everyone know that she was the state meet record holder for the women's 3,200-meter run. She broke the previous state record, which had stood since 2014, with a time of 10:51.83 in her title run at last year's meet.

With a top seeding and a record sporting your name comes a massive target on your back. And she knew it.

After her win in the 3,200-meter, she admitted that on her way into the stadium, she felt the nerves kick in.

"I went in kind of nervous, really jittery and really uncertain about how today was

going to turn out," Murrell said. "But just doing well in the mile gave me a confidence boost. And I was like, 'I can do this. I'm Caroline Murrell. I've got this.'

"I remember, before I had a little breakout, I was always looking up to the girls who were winning state championships and I was like, 'I just can't imagine they're that nervous,' because they were just so fast and looked so competitive," she added. "But now that I'm in their shoes, I understand. It's almost harder because there's more people watching."

She paced herself during the first 800 meters or so, hanging just behind Preisser, whom she had beaten in the 3,200-meter at the 3A Mideast Regionals a week earlier. (Preisser, however, had topped Murrell in the 1,600-meter at regionals, only to fall to her at states.)

But once they got around the first curve in the third lap, Murrell began to inch past Preisser, slowly increasing her pace until she had a clear lead. Then, all that was left to do was stay the course.

When she finally crossed the finish line in first place, Murrell appeared to let out a sigh of relief, exhaling all of the pressure.

She'd done it. For the second straight season, she was a state champion.

The two state title victories are major additions to Murrell's already jaw-dropping resume, having won the wom-

See **STATE**, page B4

I'd much rather be watching hockey

Last weekend, USA Today named the Carolina Hurricanes' fan base the best in the NHL.

The reasoning: "Hurricanes fans are on another level these days and it's showing with a good team," wrote Jimmy Hascup and Mike Brehm.

"They are always loud, they tailgate like they are attending a college football or NFL game and they stick around for the Storm Surge after wins. The fans fill PNC Arena in what's considered a non-traditional hockey market, and that's why they get our nod."

And it's hard to blame them. In the six playoff games that the Canes have played at home so far — including Game 7 against the Boston

Bruins in the opening round — they haven't lost once, posting a 6-0 record and outscoring opponents 22-6.

(For reference, when playing outside of Raleigh this post-season, they're 0-4.)

With stats like that, it's hard to discount the importance of Carolina's home ice with the amount of rabid, Cup-hungry Caniacs packing out every game.

As a New York Rangers fan myself — still salty about the incompetent showing in the third period of the Game 1 loss, as well as the Canes refusing to sell tickets to fans located outside of N.C. — I have to admit: PNC Arena scares me.

And yet, as angry as the Canes have made me over the last three games of the series, it's been refreshing to see the pure passion that fans in Raleigh — and, really, hockey fans in general — have shown throughout these playoffs.

That's one reason why, if I had to choose, I'd rather spend a night watching Canes-Rangers, Flames-Oilers or just about any other NHL playoff series over the NBA playoffs this year.

I've always disliked the die-hard NHL fans who make it a goal to bad-mouth the NBA playoffs, as if it's a constant competition to see which postseason reigns supreme.

However, this season, the answer is obvious: nothing's topping the NHL playoffs.

In the first round alone, we saw five Game 7s with all but one being decided by a single goal. (Two of them, might I add, also went into overtime.)

On the NBA front, there have only been two Game 7s through the first two rounds, both of which were second-round blowout wins — the Celtics thrashing the Bucks, 109-81, and the Mavericks pumping the Suns, 123-90.

And even in the series that are close, such as the Eastern Conference Finals between the Celtics and Heat, where the series is tied, 2-2, the games themselves are blowouts back and forth, with three out of four games being decided by 10 points or more.

(That doesn't even include the Western Conference Finals, which may be over by the time you're reading this sweep of the Warriors going for the sweep of the Mavericks on Tuesday night.)

But when it comes to the Stanley Cup Playoffs, nearly everything has been thrilling.

Of course there's the occasional blowout and series sweep, but hockey — with its out-of-control fan bases, unpredictable results and heart-stopping overtimes — has just been better.

That is, as long as the Rangers defeat the Canes. If not, then my loyalty lies with the NBA.



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

This week, local spring sports wind down with the only organized event coming on Thursday when the unbeaten, top-seeded Woods Charter women's soccer team takes on the No. 4 Perquimans Pirates in the state quarterfinals. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, May 25
No events scheduled.

Thursday, May 26
Soccer: (1) Woods Charter women vs. No. 4 Perquimans (4th round of NCHSAA 1A state playoffs; taking place at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary), 6 p.m.

Friday, May 27
No events scheduled.

Saturday, May 28
No events scheduled.

LAST WEEK

Monday, May 16
Soccer: The No. 12 Chatham Charter women fell to the No. 21 East Columbus Gators, 3-2, in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. The Knights end the year with a 5-7-2 overall record (4-4 in Central Tar Heel 1A conference).

Soccer: The No. 4 Jordan-Matthews women clobbered the No. 29 James Kenan Tigers, 9-0, in just 46 minutes of game time in the first round of the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs. Scoring for the Jets in the win were freshman Jessica Parroquin Vallejo (4 goals), sophomore Iris Sibrían Zetino (2 goals), junior Maricar-

men Landa (1 goal), sophomore Janeyra Guerrero Jaimes (1 goal) and freshman Citlaly Aguilón (1 goal).

Soccer: The No. 22 Seaforth women lost a defensive battle to the No. 11 South Granville Vikings, 2-0, in the first round of the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs. The Hawks finish their inaugural season with an 11-8 overall record (7-3 in Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

Tuesday, May 17

Baseball: The No. 19 Northwood men lost to the No. 6 West Carteret Patriots, 4-1, in the third round of the NCHSAA 3A state playoffs. The Chargers finish the year with a 19-11 overall record (6-6 in Central 3A conference).

Softball: The No. 8 Chatham Central women suffered a close loss to the No. 1 Bear Grass Charter Bears, 5-4, in the third round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. The Bears end the season with a 15-7 overall record (9-1 in Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

Baseball: The No. 21 Chatham Central men earned a dominant upset win over the No. 13 Roxboro Community Bulldogs, 11-3, in the third round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Leading the Bears in the win were freshman Zane Overman (2-for-4, 2B, BB, R, 3 RBI), freshman Matthew Murchison (2-for-4, BB, R, 3 RBI), junior Hasten T. Paige (2-for-4, BB, 2 R, RBI) and sophomore Anthony Lopossay (7.0 IP, 6 H, 2 ER, 0 BB, 7 K).

Wednesday, May 18

No events scheduled.

Thursday, May 19

Soccer: The No. 1 Woods Charter women earned a clean

sheet over the No. 16 North Moore Mustangs, 5-0, in the 2nd round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Scoring for the Wolves in the win were sophomore Leyla Noronha (3 goals), junior Lucy Miller (1 goal) and junior Chloe Richard (1 goal).

Soccer: The No. 4 Jordan-Matthews women fell to the No. 13 Raleigh Charter Phoenix, 3-0, in the 2nd round of the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs. The Jets end the season with a 13-4-3 overall record (10-0 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

Friday, May 20

Track & Field: The Jordan-Matthews Jets and the Seaforth Hawks competed in the NCHSAA 2A State Championships at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, where the Hawks placed 42nd in the men's team scoring (4 points). Competing for the Hawks at states were freshman Claire Morgan (11th, women's pole vault, 7-00.00), freshman Gabby White (10th, women's long jump, 16-05.00), freshman Will Cuicchi (9th, men's 800-meter run, 2:08.82), freshman Jack Anstrom (5th, men's 1,600-meter run, 4:36.62; DNF, men's 3,200-meter run), sophomore Chris Scanlon (NH, men's pole vault) and freshman Nathan Smith (NH, men's pole vault), along with the women's 4x800-meter relay team (15th, 11:52.76). Competing for the Jets at states were freshman Rachel Woods (10th, women's 400-meter dash, 1:02.61), junior Madelyn Eubanks (15th, women's discus throw, 76-01), along with the women's 4x100-meter relay (12th, 52.49), women's 4x400-meter relay (16th, 4:45.93), women's 4x800-meter relay (16th, 12:12.58) and men's 4x400-meter

relay teams (13th, 3:42.96).

Track & Field: The Northwood Chargers competed at the NCHSAA 3A State Championships at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, where they took 11th in the women's team scoring (21 points) and 24th in the men's team scoring (9 points). Competing for the Chargers were senior Caroline Murrell (1st, women's 1,600-meter run, 5:07.44; 1st, women's 3,200-meter run, 11:07.69), senior Bentley Brooks (8th, women's discus throw, 95-09), junior Ethan Wilson (11th, men's 110-meter hurdles, 16.32) and junior Jack Nicholson (7th, men's discus throw, 131-11), along with the women's 4x800-meter relay (13th, 11:07.80), men's 4x400-meter relay (8th, 3:29.50) and the men's 4x800-meter relay (3rd, 8:04.54).

Baseball: The No. 21 Chatham Central men were shut out by the No. 1 Perquimans Pirates, 7-0, in the 4th round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Earning hits for the Bears in the loss were freshman Matthew Murchison (1-for-3), junior Travis Crissman (1-for-3) and senior Nick Jourdan (1-for-3). The Bears finish the season with a 14-11 overall record (5-3 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

Saturday, May 21

Track & Field: The Chatham Central Bears, Chatham Charter Knights and Woods Charter Wolves competed at the NCHSAA 1A State Championships at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, where the Knights placed 30th in both the women's team scoring (5 points) and men's team scoring (7 points), while the Bears took 37th in the women's team rankings (4 points)

and 47th in the men's team rankings (1 point). Competing for the Bears were sophomore Samantha Scott (15th, women's 1,600-meter run, 6:51.61), junior Kailey Green (5th, women's high jump, 4-10.00), senior Carleigh Gentry (NH, women's high jump), freshman Mattie Caviness (14th, women's shot put, 26-11.50) and senior Malachi Moore (8th, men's long jump, 19-11.75), along with the men's 4x800-meter relay (16th, 11:16.80) and the men's 4x200-meter relay teams (16th, 1:40.11). Competing for the Knights were junior Tamaya Walden (11th, women's 100-meter dash, 13.22; 9th, women's 200-meter dash, 27.17; 8th, women's 400-meter dash, 1:03.25), sophomore Meredith Reese (11th, women's 3,200-meter run, 15:56.59), sophomore Ariana Rivera-Roma (14th, women's 3,200-meter run, 18:39.17), senior Brooke Garner (7th, women's long jump, 15-11.25; 7th, women's triple jump, 32-10.50) and senior Brandon McKoy (6th, men's 1,600-meter run, 4:51.88; 5th, men's 3,200-meter run, 10:42.01). Competing for the Wolves at states were freshman Isabel Wood (12th, women's 100-meter dash, 13.42; 13th, women's 200-meter dash, 28.20), sophomore Ellie Poitras (11th, women's 800-meter run, 2:46.59; 10th, women's 1,600-meter run, 6:03.08), freshman Anna Peeler (14th, women's 1,600-meter run, 6:26.44), junior Collin Thompson (9th, men's 400-meter dash, 53.28), freshman Jesse Sikes (12th, men's 800-meter run, 2:19.22) and senior Peter Ising (14th, men's shot put, 38-09.75).

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Soccer

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the Wolves' head coach, said of his junior transfer after the win. "She just does so many things for us. She's a major addition to the team this year. ... She's really made us a different team."

Part of the reason for Miller's spike in goals comes from a position change, switching from a center-back — where she played at Northwood last season and still plays with her travel team — to a center-mid, where she's spending more time on the offensive.

"It's definitely different ... I was a little more comfortable here, but it's fun," Miller said. "I feel like I can control the game more. I like me and Chloe Richard together, because we're also really close, so it's fun to be able to play out there with her, just in a new position and get exposure."

The Wolves came into the game against the Mustangs fresh off of a first-round bye, having claimed the No. 1 seed in the East with an unbeaten mark of 15-0-2 on the season.

They hadn't allowed more than one goal in a game since March 14.

That trend would continue into the third round, where the Wolves handled the visiting No. 8 Voyager Academy Vikings, 4-0, for another clean-sheet victory.

But against North Moore and Voyager, there was one primary concern: the absence of their usual goalkeeper.

Jana Williams — a senior that has been a brick wall in net this season, allowing as many goals (10) as she has posted shut outs (10) — was off on a senior school retreat that impacted both games, leaving junior Maddie Sparrow, usually a mid-fielder, to play keeper.

"I'll give a shout out to Maddie in goal, that was her first full game in goal and she did fantastic," Stewart said. "She's a beast. She'd run into a truck for you, it's just the way she is. She's an



Staff photo by David Bradley

Woods Charter junior Chloe Richard (17) pushes her way down the field, past a North Moore defender, in the Wolves' 5-0 win over the Mustangs in the second round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs last Thursday. Four days later, Richard scored a hat trick in her team's 4-0 third-round win over Voyager Academy.

outstanding kid. I didn't want to play in goal when I was a kid, but she said, 'Sure, if that's what we'll need, I'll do it.'"

While Sparrow didn't have too many chances to show off her goalkeeping prowess with the Wolves' defense rarely giving their opponents a shot on the offensive end — the Mustangs and Vikings combined for just two shots on goal in 160 minutes — she appeared to play well, taking after Williams and posting her first solo shut out of the year, followed by another.

"I think it's just the confidence, with us (believing) in her, that plays a big role in it," Richard said. "And she's been playing really well, I think that's definitely helping."

Flipping the switch

While a 5-0 shut out is nothing to scoff at, it was clear that Woods Charter was coming off of a bye in its win over North Moore.

The Wolves weren't the sharpest with the ball, knocking a handful of shots off of either the crossbar or the post while simultaneously struggling to pass the ball consistently, which caught Stewart's eye from the jump.

"One thing we've got to do better is move the ball, that's what we've been doing all season," Stewart

said. "Whether it's the bumpy field or whatever, I'm not sure, but when we did it — and we did it in spurts — we were a different team."

But what they lacked in capitalizing on opportunities, they made up for in heart, hustle and physicality.

The Wolves won seemingly every battle for possession and never allowed any real offensive opportunities for the Mustangs, mostly preventing Sparrow from having to make a big save.

"They were very physical, they came prepared and they put their bodies on the line," Stewart said of the Mustangs. "They played up against us, so we've got to respond to that, we've got to get used to that and we've got to enjoy it. We've got to enjoy the challenge."

It took the Wolves a few minutes to warm up, but once they did, they got on a roll.

Despite numerous chances in the beginning, Miller got the Wolves on the board in the 19th minute off of a heavy-footed penalty kick that was the result of a Mustang defender bumping into Noronha inside of the penalty area.

Suddenly, a switch flipped.

Woods Charter opened the floodgates with two more goals just a minute

apart, with Noronha lasing a shot at the crossbar that smacked the ground, benefiting from a lucky Wolves bounce that gave them a 2-0 lead in the 21st minute, followed by a quick score from Richard at the top of the penalty area to extend her team's lead to 3-0 in the 22nd minute.

"It can happen both ways. Sometimes, the cliché is that you can be at your weakest defensively right after you score, but it's just like a shot of adrenaline because the hardest thing to do in the game is score," Stewart said when explaining the team's sudden shift after the opening goal. "We worked at all of those chances, and then when it went in, it's just like, 'OK, now we've got it.' It just gives that little bit of relief."

The Wolves outshot the Mustangs, 13-0, in shots on goal in the first half, which never changed after the break as North Moore's offensive woes continued.

Noronha scored the game's final two goals with her celebratory shot from the right side of the keeper to make it 4-0 in the 49th minute, followed by a rebound shot off of a blocked Miller header that banged into the back of the net to give the Wolves a 5-0 advantage in the 62nd minute, leading

to the clean-sheet win.

Clearing things up

If there were any concerns about the Wolves following their second-round matchup against the Mustangs, just about all of them were erased four days later in their third-round clash with the Vikings.

It was a defensive masterpiece, one that rarely saw Voyager possess the ball near Woods Charter's goal, featuring just a single shot on goal for a Vikings team that could hardly make two or three passes in a row without a Wolves player interfering in some way.

Nothing came easy for the Vikings — just the way the Wolves wanted it.

Throughout all 80 of the game's minutes, it seemed like every pass had a player in green in perfect position to intercept it, every attempted shot was altered and every Viking was constantly being swarmed by Wolves.

"I thought we were outstanding today, I think from the beginning to the end," Stewart said with a smile. "We did dominate possession, I think we dominated the space and I think we really limited them to not much at all."

Offensively, the Wolves continued right where they left off against the Mustangs, consistently pounding the goal with shots and forcing the goalkeeper, freshman Claire Schnee, to make plays with her hands.

Richard had a hat trick in the win, her first of the season.

She started the scoring early, rocketing a shot from the top of the penalty area that gave Schenn no shot at a save, giving the Wolves an early 1-0 lead.

As was the case in last Thursday's win, Woods Charter scored fairly quickly after its initial goal.

In the 10th minute, Richard was awarded her second goal after she forced a shot from — you guessed it — the top of the penalty area, which collided with Vikings freshman Sophia Bur-

nett, who attempted the deflection, and ricocheted into the net.

Woods Charter carried the lead into the halftime break, putting them just 40 minutes away from a state quarterfinals berth.

And just four minutes into the second half, in the game's 44th minute, Miller had the ball fall in her lap off of a deflection inside of the penalty area, allowing her to swiftly guide it into the far left corner of the net for a 3-0 Wolves advantage.

All game long, Noronha did everything she could to add to the Wolves' goal tally, using her footwork to split defenders, get herself into wide-open situations and fire off shots left and right, but aside from a couple of nice saves from Schnee and one attempt that dinged off of the post, she just couldn't make it happen.

It was her first scoreless game of the season.

Luckily, however, her teammates stepped up, providing the firepower as the Wolves cruised to the win, capped off by Richard's third and final goal in the 60th minute.

"She's dynamite," Stewart said of Noronha, "but what I'm really pleased with tonight is that Leyla hasn't scored and we still won like that. What we've focused on all year is having balanced scoring. What we don't want to do is just to be one-trick ponies, to be one player that everybody knows about, they mark her, and then you've got nothing to do."

"If we're doing what we're doing, like we did tonight, it's very unpredictable for them," he added, "and it's much more difficult."

With the win, Woods Charter (17-0-2) will take on the No. 4 Perquimans Pirates (10-4-2) at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary on Thursday in the state quarterfinals as its quest for an unbeaten season rolls on.

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Submitted photo

Honoring the Champions

The 2021-22 Northwood women's basketball team poses with a street sign that will be placed along N.C. 15-501 as you enter Pittsboro honoring its state title in March. The Chargers were recognized by the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners during its meeting on Monday for winning the 2022 NCHSAA 3A Women's Basketball State Championship, the first team state title in school history. The Chargers' historic season, which included a 30-1 overall record (12-0 in the Central 3A conference), culminated in a 70-42 blowout win over the Enka Jets on March 12 at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh to secure the state title.



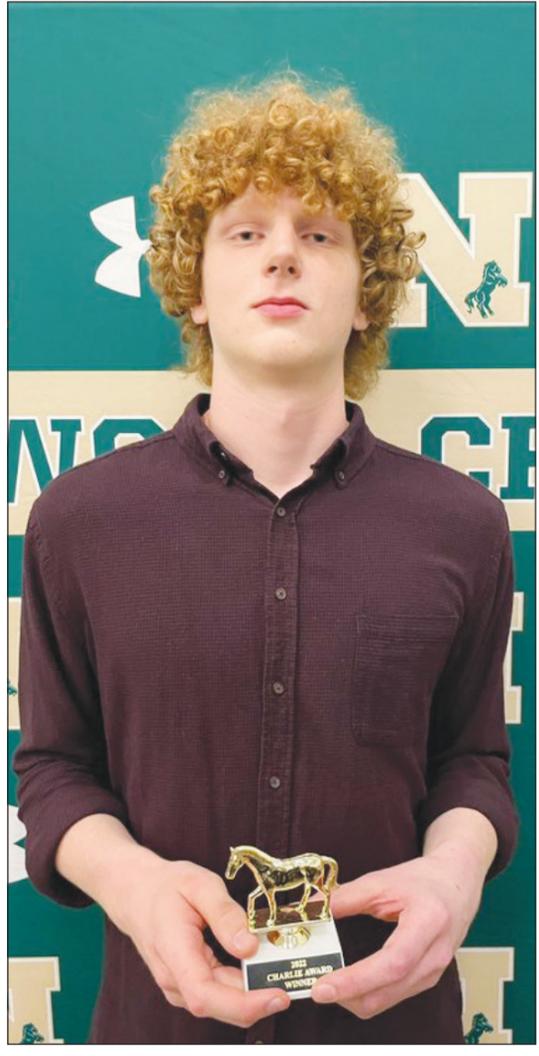
Submitted photo

Northwood senior Olivia Porter (left), named Female Athlete of the Year, and sophomore Skylar Adams, who won the Women's Basketball Charlie award, pose with their Charlies during the Charlie Awards banquet on May 18.



Submitted photo

Northwood senior Emma Serrano poses with both of her Charlie awards, including one for indoor track and another for Female Breakthrough Athlete of the Year, during the Charlie Awards banquet on May 18.



Submitted photo

Northwood junior Kenan Parrish poses with his Charlie for Male Breakthrough Athlete of the Year during the Charlie Awards banquet on May 18.

Northwood hands out 31 awards during 2nd annual Charlie Awards banquet

From Northwood High School

PITTSBORO — Northwood hosted its 2nd annual Charlie Awards banquet on May 18 at the Chatham Agricultural Center, where it handed out 31 awards, many of which were separated by sport, along with overall awards such as Male and Female Athlete of the Year, Play of the Year and Upset of the Year. Here's the full list of award winners:

Volleyball Charlie: Ainsley Fauth
Cheerleading Charlie:

Cross Country Charlie: Ella Hennessey and Andrew Kimbrell
Women's Golf Charlie: Lindsay Vickers
Women's Tennis Charlie: Evelyn Lippers
Men's Soccer Charlie: Jay Callis
Football Charlie: Zach Medlin

Men's Basketball Charlie: Seth Lewis
Women's Basketball Charlie: Skylar Adams
Wrestling Charlie: Elijah Farrow
Swimming Charlie: Lauren Emrich & Lex Mansour
Indoor Track Charlie: Marco Sanchez & Emma Serrano

Women's Soccer Charlie: Katherine Reyes
Women's Lacrosse Charlie: Kendall Laberge
Men's Lacrosse Charlie: Nicholas Feliciano
Track & Field Charlie: Caroline Murrell & Jack Nicholson
Men's Golf Charlie: Jacob Conklin
Men's Tennis Charlie: Mason Erman
Softball Charlie: Naki Ellis

Baseball Charlie: Entire 2022 Baseball Team
Upset of the Year: Women's Lacrosse overtime win over Chapel Hill, 13-12, on April 13

Play of the Year: Drake Powell's slam dunk against the Orange Panthers
Breakthrough Female Athlete: Emma Serrano
Breakthrough Male Athlete: Kenan Parrish

Female Team of the Year: 2022 State Champion Women's Basketball Team
Male Team of the Year: Men's Basketball

Female Athlete of the Year: Olivia Porter
Male Athlete of the Year: Drake Powell
Athletic Director Charlie: Callan Perchinsky
Athletic Director Charlie: Jakais Fuller
Athletic Director Charlie: Tony Keck

Congratulations



The Rotary Club of Pittsboro is pleased to announce the THREE recipients of this year's Karen Sbrollini Heilman scholarship. They are impressive, polite, articulate, well-rounded, hard working students with tremendous aspirations & bright futures! We wish Noah Civiletti (NWS), Carleigh Grace Gentry (CCHS), & Aza McFadden (NWS) all the best at UNC Chapel Hill & UNC Charlotte.

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STATE

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en's 3,200-meter title last June, along with a state title in the same event during the indoor track season in February with a 3A meet record time of 10:46.69.

For those counting at home, that's four state championship medals within the last 12 months, including two state/classification records.

But despite her high school accomplishments, she isn't letting herself get complacent.

In the fall, Murrell plans to run cross country for N.C. State, the defending national champions, under Head Coach Laurie Henes.

It's only fitting that a champion join a championship program.

"(This being my final meet) is bittersweet, but I definitely feel relieved," Murrell said. "It's definitely been a long past few years, but it's great. It's been super exciting, super fun and super fulfilling, but I'm definitely ready to be at N.C. State and move on to the next level."

"I don't want to be like, 'OK, I've reached my peak,'" she added when asked about her satisfaction level. "I just want to constantly be hungry for more, striving for more."

Last Friday, Northwood was responsible for all three of Chatham's podium appearances, with its men's 4x800-meter relay team — consisting of sophomore Noah Nielson, junior Jackson Adams, senior Marco Sanchez and junior Christian Glick — taking third place after clocking in at 8:04.54.

The team broke a school record that stood for approximately a week, with the same squad having broken the previous school record at regionals on May 13 with an 8:14.78 time.

The Chargers' 4x800 team took home the state title during the indoor track season (8:25.61), but the addition of Nielson in the lead-off spot was Isenhour's reasoning for their historical competitiveness during outdoor track, too.

Isenhour said he thinks the team of Nielson, Adams, Glick and now-freshman Trey Hudson will be a near-lock to win the state championship next year as long as everything falls as it should.

"Next year, we should win the indoor state and the outdoor state and run under eight minutes," Isenhour said, "which would be sensational."

The Chargers also had some help at states with a few first-time qualifiers, including senior Bentley Brooks (8th, women's discus, 95-09), junior Ethan Wilson (11th, men's 110-meter hurdles, 16.32) and junior Jack Nicholson (7th, men's discus, 131-11).

Brooks had one of the more impressive showings, according to Isenhour, as she came into the women's discus seeded at No. 16 and finished in eighth, throwing over five feet further than her seed distance of 90-00.

"She was seeded 16th going into the state meet, meaning that at all of the regional meets last weekend, 15 other girls had a better day than her," Isenhour said, "but on the biggest day, she beat eight of those girls and finished eighth, which is phenomenal."

First time for everything

Lamont Piggie, head coach of the Jordan-Matthews Jets, still sounded surprised about his team's 2022 accomplishments when he spoke with the News + Record after last Friday's state meet.



Staff photo by Aidan Myers

Northwood's men's 4x400-meter relay team, consisting of sophomore Noah Nielson, senior Jack Spatz, junior Christian Glick and senior Marco Sanchez, huddle up prior to running at the NCHSAA 3A Track & Field State Championships last Friday. The team took eighth place with a time of 3:29.50.

Much of that pleasant shock stems from his excitement in watching the growth shown by a few athletes that hadn't taken up track & field until this season.

Jets freshman Rachel Woods, for example, took 10th in the women's 2A 400-meter dash after coming into the meet seeded dead last.

That comes a week after she jumped a personal-best 16 feet, 7 inches in the long jump at regionals, nearly a foot longer than her previous record. It wasn't enough to qualify for states, but it surely caught Piggie's eye.

"From the first meet we had in March to now, you just see the growth," Piggie said, "from Rachel, from a couple of our other girls, you've seen times get faster, throws get longer and jumps get longer. Such a big improvement."

Piggie also called out Madelyn Eubanks, a junior that, in her first season of track & field, qualified for states in the women's discus, finishing 15th with a throw of 76-01.

"Madelyn, her first throw of the season was 40 feet in discus, but she ended up throwing almost 83 (feet) in regionals," Piggie said with a laugh. "They've been working hard. That's what we ask, just to work hard and always improve every meet."

The Jets sent four of their relay teams to regionals — the women's 4x100, women's 4x400, women's 4x800 and men's 4x400 — nearly all of which improved on their seed time, including the 4x800 team of sophomore Jessica Parroquin, junior America Cuanalo, freshman Sophia Kopela and senior Jasmine Basilio, which improved its time by close to 40 seconds despite finishing in 16th place.

"We improved our time by about 40 seconds," Piggie said. "Now we've just got to try to keep up with these other schools."

Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom has been another surprise this year, coming onto the scene during cross country — where he finished third in the state last fall — and staying for track, where he's thrived as a distance runner.

Anstrom ran both the men's 1,600- and 3,200-meters, placing fifth in the 1,600 with a time of 4:36.62, over 10 seconds better than his seed time.

But with him in third place halfway through the 3,200-meter run, something happened that "only happens once every 1,000 races," Tommy Johnson, the Hawks' head coach, told the News + Record.

While he was rounding the final curve of the fifth lap, he clipped the inside railing along the track — a metal bar that wraps around the entirety of the infield and stands a couple of inches high — which caused him to fall by the men's long jumping pit.

With the track's surface as hot as it was — Johnson said it measured around 140 degrees on Friday — and the impact of the fall, Anstrom was "scratched up pretty good," said Johnson, with

a concern that he might have injured his hip. He didn't finish the race.

"The race had kind of passed him by at that point, so he went to the finish line and cheered on the guys who finished," Johnson said. "He handled it really well. I think it really speaks to his character that he didn't finish that race but he went up to the finish line and congratulated (Andrew Johnson) from N.C. School of Science and Math that ended up winning."

Anstrom was one of nine athletes that represented the Hawks at states, with all but one of them, sophomore Chris Scanlon (NH, men's pole vault), being freshmen.

Despite the team's youth — a result of it being the program's inaugural season — Johnson said he felt a sense of maturity among his athletes, rarely feeling as if he was coaching a room full of 9th graders.

"It was tremendous," Johnson said. "In terms of how the team has carried itself and how its competed, it really hasn't felt like coaching 9th graders. At states, they were very professional and detail-oriented. ... It's really cool for the future that they're already so mature and take it so seriously."

One of Johnson's favorite stories from states came from freshman Juliette VanOliinda, who filled in for an absent runner in the women's 4x800-meter relay, even though she'd never run in the event before and was a hurdler all season.

And her split time clocked in at a little under three minutes, an impressive feat for a first-time relay runner.

"To me, if you're a 9th grader and you're running under three (minutes) in the 800(-meter) at any point in the season, that's an event that you have potential in," Johnson said. "That was very impressive to me. ... When one person fell, another person was ready to plug themselves in. From my own experience running track, very few people will throw themselves at the opportunity to hop into a 4x400 or 4x800 last second."

Coming full circle

Brandon McKoy, Chatham Charter's standout senior, started his track journey in middle school when he began competing for an AAU team.

His first race, the one that started it all, took place on Marcus T. Johnson Track, home of the N.C. A&T Aggies and host of the NCHSAA Track & Field State Championships.

Last Saturday, his final race came on that very same track, the same one he'd been striving to return to for the last three years.

"It was kind of nostalgic," McKoy said. "That was a time when I did track a lot more, I was more involved in track, and so this kind of brought back some of those feelings, a lot of that competitiveness. ... It's pretty nostalgic to end my (career) on the first track I ever raced on."

McKoy is soft-spoken with a big personality.



Staff photo by Aidan Myers

Jordan-Matthews senior Jasmine Basilio pushes down the track during one of her two relay races at the NCHSAA 2A Track & Field State Championships at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro last Friday. Basilio acted as the anchor for both of the women's 4x400- and 4x800-meter relays.

He'll strike up a conversation with just about anyone, leading to his co-head coach, Tammy Walden, giving him the nickname "The Mayor."

But on the track, that same competitive spirit kicks in. And Saturday was no different.

After taking sixth place in the men's 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:51.88, nearly three seconds ahead of his seed time, he came back in the men's 3,200-meter run and nearly made podium after staging a late comeback that propelled him to fifth place.

Throughout most of the race, McKoy stayed behind in a pack of about four runners, hovering between sixth and eighth place from lap-to-lap. However, in the final lap, McKoy kicked it, knocking off each opponent one-by-one until there he sat at fifth when it was all said and done.

McKoy said he originally thought he got sixth and, surprisingly, he wished he had.

"I told myself that if I tried to stay with (those near the top), then I'm going to burn myself out and finish something like eighth, so instead, I dropped to eighth early, let them take some of the wind for me and let them take some of the pacing off of my shoulders," McKoy explained. "In my last 200, I just kicked it, I was just going. ... Looking back, I thought I got sixth and then learned that I got fifth, so I was a bit regretful (that I didn't kick earlier), but that's fine."

This was McKoy's first time competing at states, having missed last season's meet due to a Governor's School commitment.

"I'm pretty proud of this ending, being just shy of my goal (of making podium)," McKoy said. "It was a good way to end my senior year."

McKoy is headed off to Columbia University in the fall, where he said he's still undecided on if he'll keep running, even though he likely could walk on for the men's cross country team.

"At the moment, I have to think about what the course load is going to look like, it's definitely something that's going to be rigorous," he said. "Running is going to be supplemental. Worst case scenario, I'll just keep running to keep myself healthy more than anything."

In total, the Knights brought five athletes to this year's state meet — an increase from two last year — including junior sprinter Tamaya Walden, who placed in the top 10 for both the women's 200-meter dash (ninth, 27.17) and women's 400-meter dash (eighth, 1:03.25) in her second straight appearance at states.

"That's when the nerves set in, when it's time for her to run," said Tammy Walden, who's also Tamaya's mother, with a laugh. "I'm proud of her. She has a little bit of an injury that's been bothering her, a ligament that's been

bothering her, but she's pushed through it."

Knights senior Brooke Garner was making her second straight appearance at states, having competed in the women's 100- and 300-meter hurdles, high jump and triple jump at the 2021 meet. She paired her events down to just two at this year's meet, finishing seventh in both the women's long jump (15-11.25) and triple jump (32-10.50), outperforming her seed distance in each.

"She has grown and improved a lot in her long and triple jumps, learning a better technique to help her," Tammy Walden said of Garner. "We kept trying to talk her into those hurdles because she's not too shabby at those 300(-meter) hurdles either, but we can't talk her into those. I think she's found her niche. ... You can see her focus in it, she likes it."

Chatham Charter also saw a couple of first-time qualifiers in the women's 3,200-meter run in sophomores Meredith Reese (11th, 15:56.59) and Ariana Rivera-Roma (14th, 18:39.17).

"Meredith, she's improved and grown by leaps and bounds, she really has," Tammy Walden said. "And Ariana, this is her first time running track and here she is at states. She was so excited. At regionals, she wanted to be fourth so she could get to states and she accomplished her goal."

Woods Charter freshman Anna Peeler minced no words when describing her first-ever state meet appearance last Saturday.

"I was completely freaked out, to be honest," Peeler said, chuckling. "It was surprising because there were so many people (in the stands) and when I walked out to see everyone, I was shocked ... but it's amazing, too, because it's my first year of track. It was pretty crazy."

Peeler took 14th in the women's 3,200-meter run alongside teammate Ellie Poitras (10th, 6:03.08) and Chatham Central sophomore Samantha Scott (15th, 6:51.61).

"We've had a couple of weeks of a lot of anxiety, and I think that's one thing that experience gives you is the ability to take all of that anxiety and turn it into a good race," Taylor Transue, the Wolves' first-year head coach, told the News + Record. "And when you're a freshman and you've never been to states and it's a huge venue, that definitely plays a factor in getting really amped up."

Transue said that for the weeks leading up to states, they practiced without a clock, refusing to worry about times.

"We really tried to downplay the clock and tried to play up what, mentally, we could control," she said. "I hope that my athletes can at least say that they've got some tools in the toolbox that they can use when they're racing that empower them to be comfortable and confident when

they're out on the track."

Last June, the Wolves took just three athletes to states — all seniors except for Poitras, who made it into the women's 3,200-meter run as a freshman — but this season, that number jumped to six, and would have been eight had a pair of athletes, junior Wiley Sikes and freshman Analise De Leon Villanueva, been able to make the trip.

Others making their debut included freshman Isabel Wood (12th, women's 100-meter dash, 13.42; 13th, women's 200-meter dash, 28.20), junior Collin Thompson (ninth, men's 400-meter dash, 53.28), freshman Jesse Sikes (12th, men's 800-meter run, 2:19.22) and senior Peter Ising (14th, men's shot put, 38-09.75).

"The thing that I was the most proud of was how many different areas that we had kids competing in at the state level," Transue said. "It's just so exciting to be able to have kids at all three levels — field, sprinting and mid-distance — representing our school at states."

Woods Charter may have a small school, consisting of less than 200 students, but it's building quite the heavy-hitting track program, with Transue bringing in sprinting and field coaches that have shared their expertise with such a young group.

And it's clearly working.

"I'm really excited that such a young team does have a lot of experience," Transue said. "I hope that they'll bring that enthusiasm to the rest of the team in future years so that it just becomes something we do — we go to regionals, we go to states and we compete on that level."

One of the highlights of Chatham Central Head Coach Sherman Howze's trip to Greensboro was seeing junior Kailey Green exceed expectations, taking fifth in the women's high jump (4-10.00) to earn four points for the Bears.

She was seeded No. 8, tied with five other jumpers, heading into states.

"She's grown up a lot," Howze said when asked about Green's showing. "She jumped Saturday with a bum leg, but she pushed through, that's the thing about it. ... She hit 5-02.00 in practice three days straight (this season). Her leg just wouldn't allow her to do what she needed."

After having missed states entirely last season, the Bears brought along 15 athletes to compete this year, including a mix of older athletes like senior Malachi Moore (eighth, men's long jump, 19-11.75), senior Carleigh Gentry (NH, women's high jump) and senior Trey Clay (16th, men's 4x800-meter relay, 1:40.11), along with underclassmen such as Scott, freshman Mattie Caviness (14th, women's shot put, 26-11.50) and relay team members freshman Troy Gaines, sophomore Javonte Johnson and sophomore River Warren.

Green's near-podium performance is one of many reasons why Howze said he expects his women's team to give schools around the state a run for their money next season — especially in the field events, which the Bears have thrived in.

"I've got 31 girls this season and only two are seniors," Howze said. "We're going to be fine. I'm looking forward to next year, but they've got to be looking forward to working because I'm bringing on two more coaches."

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

‘Sandy Hook’ author traces false narratives from 2012 tragedy

On the morning of Dec. 14, 2012, a 20-year-old man shot his way into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, with two rifles and a handgun. He then turned the guns on those inside the school, murdering 20 1st graders and six educators before killing himself. Police later discovered he'd killed his mother before coming to the school.

There have been more than 1,300 school shootings in the U.S. since 1970. The tragedy of Sandy Hook, of course, was the worst mass shooting at an elementary school in U.S. history. Tuesday's shooting in Uvalde, Texas, adds to that macabre list.

What unfolded afterward in the Newtown shooting was also a tragedy: conspiracy theorists who not only propagated lies about Sandy Hook through social media, but insidiously harassed the parents of the survivors, threatening them online and at their homes in the months and even years that followed. Studies show that at various points as many as 20% of Americans believe that mass shootings like Sandy Hook are hoaxes perpetrated by either the government or some shadow, clandestine entity.

New York Times feature writer Elizabeth Williamson's book, "Sandy Hook: An American Tragedy and the Battle for Truth," is a compelling, engrossing account not of the shooting at Sandy Hook, but about what happened in the hours, the days and the months that followed as conspiracy theorists like Alex Jones of InfoWars used their platforms to incite and enrage millions of listeners and followers. (Jones, for example, claimed no one died at Sandy Hook and that child actors were used in the "false flag" event designed to boost gun control measures.) It's also the story of how false conspiracy narratives and malicious misinformation have gained traction in today's America.

The News + Record's Bill Horner III interviewed Williamson for The Chatcast, the podcast of the CN+R and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina. You can find the full 50-minute interview wherever you listen to podcasts. Here's a portion of that interview, edited for length and clarity.

How did you, as a feature writer for the New York Times, get involved in



Photo by Beowulf Sheehan

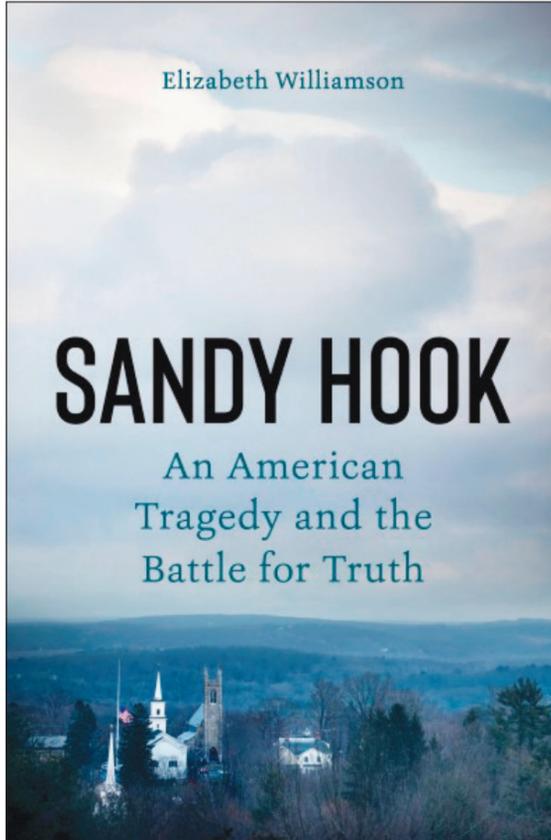
Elizabeth Williamson, feature writer for the New York Times, and author of 'Sandy Hook: An American Tragedy and the Battle for Truth.'

covering the Sandy Hook story's aftermath?

It was in the middle of 2018, when the families of two Sandy Hook victims were suing Infowars conspiracy broadcaster Alex Jones in Texas. Initially, I thought that this would be a really interesting test of the First Amendment; Alex Jones, and many of these conspiracy theorists, repeatedly claim it protects the falsehoods that they spread online and the harmful content that resulted in years of torment and threats against vulnerable people — in this case, the Sandy Hook families. But then I talked with Lenny Pozner, the father of Noah Pozner, the youngest Sandy Hook victim, and he helped me understand that Sandy Hook was really a foundational story about how false narratives and misinformation are gaining traction in society. So it goes from Sandy Hook to most mass shootings to Pizzagate, QAnon, Charlottesville, coronavirus myths, the 2020 election conspiracy and then finally the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol.

You built relationships with two very distinct groups as you researched the book — the parents and some of the family members of the victims, and then also some of the most fervent and ardent believers that Sandy Hook was a false flag event. What was it like for you, as a writer and as a reporter, and as someone who works in the truth business, to navigate between these two groups?

Early on, my first outreach was to the families. I started to learn about what had happened to them and I was almost ashamed to say that I really didn't know what all they endured. With the exception of Lenny Pozner, who made it his life's work to confront these people — these conspiracy theorists — the prevailing strategy at the time that it was



happening, up until they filed those lawsuits six years after the shooting, was to just don't feed the trolls, remain quiet. Don't confront these people; it'll only make it worse.

Without Lenny, we wouldn't have known really what was happening.

As for the conspiracy theorists, they were much easier to get in touch with and to speak with — and to have very long exchanges with because there's a kind of evangelical aspect to them. They want you to hear their theories. They want to see if they can convince you. They feel like they're in possession of superior knowledge.

They're deeply distrustful of all government narratives, and that distinguishes them, of course, from the rest of us, who are distrustful of some.

And there are, of course, examples of when the government's lied to us and when there have been cover-ups. But to cross over and suspect every government narrative and every official account, and all mainstream media reports, is another thing entirely that really hint at the psychology.

A lot of them had trauma in their backgrounds, and the biggest thing that they were looking for was a sense of community. They would gather online and embroider these theories, share them, build each other up, and praise each other for finding new ripples in the plot. They had a bond around themselves.

I was talking with Lenny the other day, and I've said a couple times in different interviews that it isn't about getting a sort of psychic income from this. They elevate themselves. And he was saying it's even more than that — they develop an entirely new personality around this. They become people in possession of this superior knowledge about a major event ...

You delve deeply into the "payoff" that the conspiracy theorists get from being a part of the conspiracy community ...

Yes, absolutely. So for [radio host and broadcaster] Alex Jones, of course, it's all about financial gain. In recent years, his revenues have been in excess of \$50 million a year. He had this ingenious business model where he would sell diet supplements to people who are distrustful of traditional medicine. He sells untraceable gun components to people who don't want to register firearms with the government. He sells doomsday prepper merchandise for people who are preparing for the end of times. So that's one motivation.

And some of the smaller-time hoaxers had similar efforts. They were raising money online. Wolfgang Helbig, a former educator down in Florida, raised more than \$100,000 to fund two dozen trips to Newtown and an endless pursuit of public records that he

thought would somehow convince him of the veracity of this false theory that he was extending.

For most people, I would say it really was a kind of psychological benefit — they developed a new persona around themselves, and for that reason, it's very difficult to get these people to let go of these theories. Once they embrace them, they're really reluctant to give up on it.

As a result of the efforts of people like Lenny Pozner, so much of what used to be online about Sandy Hook hoaxes has been scrubbed from sites like YouTube. What relief has that given the family members of the victims of Sandy Hook?

Lenny told me that when Noah was sleeping, he used to go into his room and sort of just inhale his scent, you know — that sort of baby scent that children have.

And I immediately thought about what he had been saying about traces of Noah's life that were online and what happened to him — his short life, his death, the truth of how that happened. These were children so young; there were so few facts about their lives to begin with because they were so brief.

And then there were thousands upon thousands of videos and websites and this material devoted to saying the shooting didn't happen, or that these people were liars, or that these children didn't exist — so that if you Googled Sandy Hook, the lies were the first thing to come up.

The thing that really drove Lenny was this idea that Noah's scent, his essence, could not be erased; his legacy had to be preserved. Not only his, but those of all the victims and their families and the story of what really happened. And that was the driving thing for him.

In writing the book, you confronted hoaxers with the truth — you'd prove something to them, and then they'd shift the argument to another little kernel of something they'd latch on to that was a lie ... What was what was that like for you, as a journalist, to try to be an arbiter of truth to these folks?

It was frustrating, you know, telling them the facts.

Kelly Watt, who is a mom of two children and a grandmother of two,

has a house cleaning business in Tulsa, Oklahoma. And Sandy Hook became an obsession of hers. Her particular point of inquiry was, Who cleaned up the school after the massacre?

And she made hundreds of phone calls and really tormented people with these questions. She fed these questions to Wolfgang Helbig, who we mentioned earlier was one of the Big Sandy Hook conspiracy theorists, who then put these questions into public records requests over and over and over.

And in actual fact, the records had been released — the name of the company, exactly what happened, what was done, what was removed, how it was disposed of. All of those things were a matter of public record already. So it was about the request, rather than about the actual facts.

I found that record. I called the company. It took me grand total of one phone call to find out that the company is called Clean Harbors, and they do biohazard cleanup. They actually cleaned up Ground Zero after 9/11. They explained to me what happened, but I already knew that because it was public record with every detail.

And when I brought that to Kelly Watt and showed it to her, I said, "How could you for years be pursuing this?" And she just sort of said, "Well, I didn't know that. Well, that company actually doesn't do that."

I said, "No, I confirmed with them. They did, in fact, do that. And the records exist, and they have been accessible to you all these years."

And she just turned around and said, "Where are the receipts?"

So there's always some other thing. It means too much to someone like Kelly Watt. She's gotten too much out of this ... she now calls herself an author and a researcher and an investigator. She's never going to be convinced. And here's the New York Times interviewing her — that never would have happened if she hadn't grasped on to this theory.

So the real answer in confronting these people successfully is to try and get to people before they embrace these theories, and teach them a little bit of skepticism and social media hygiene.

What's been the response to the book?

I've been really gratified by the reviews of the book. I think people who have read it and studied it understand that it's less about the violence on that terrible day in 2012 and much more about the violence that would await us if we don't do something to rein in the spread of misinformation and disinformation in this country.

The families [of Sandy Hook] themselves who have read it, in reading Lenny's story, have gained a new understanding and what it meant both to him personally, and for them, to have him decide to make it his life's work — to fight back against Alex Jones, and all of these conspiracy theorists, and to identify new tools for battling back against that. So that's been a really hopeful part of it.

And most importantly, I just so grateful to the families for trusting me with their stories. They relived this terrible chapter in their lives because they want to help all of us, and because despite everything they've been through, they have hope that there will be change

CHATHAM IS BOLD!



NEWS BRIEFS

Pittsboro Gallery of Arts to open in June

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro Gallery of Arts announced that its first Grand Opening and reception will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on June 17.

PGA invites art lovers to come celebrate and view new fine arts and fine crafts on display in many mediums. This includes both realistic and abstract paintings, pastels, photography, works on paper, fiber art, ceramics, wood work, jewelry and mosaics. Meet the artists and enjoy food, beverage, and music. Presentations will be made by Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry and Kirk Bradley from Mosaic Development Company and Chatham Park.

The artist-owned cooperative gallery is becoming recognized as a destination art gallery, showcasing regional fine art and fine craft in historic downtown Pittsboro, just steps from the county courthouse. It's located at 44-A Hillsboro St, and open Tuesdays through Sundays. For more info and videos, visit www.pittsboroarts.org.

Pittsboro Gallery of Arts' purpose is to exhibit and offer an opportunity for art lovers and patrons to see, purchase and collect fine art and fine crafts. Additionally, the artists wish to promote artistic excellence and contribute to the cultural and economic welfare of the community.

'Click It or Ticket' enforcement campaign kicks off

RALEIGH — Fasten your seatbelts — summer's heating up, and so is the statewide Memorial Day Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign, which began Monday.

Through June 5, law enforcement officers in all 100 North Carolina counties will be patrolling the roads to make sure citizens are buckling up, whether they're behind the wheel, in the passenger seat or in the backseat.

"Although citizens could face a citation and fines for not wearing their seatbelt, the real goal here is saving lives," said Governor's Highway Safety Program Director Mark Ezzell. "Your chances of being killed or seriously injured in a car crash are reduced by nearly half when you wear a seatbelt."

In 2021, 555 North Carolinians who were not wearing seatbelts lost their lives in vehicle

crashes, including nearly 30 over last year's two-week Click It or Ticket enforcement period.

North Carolina law requires all passengers in a vehicle to be properly restrained and violations are punishable by fines of up to \$180. Children younger than 8 years and under 80 pounds must be properly restrained in an approved child safety seat or booster seat. If a passenger under 16 is not properly restrained, the driver faces a \$266 fine.

When North Carolina launched the Click It or Ticket initiative in 1993, only 64 percent of North Carolinians used their seat belts. Today, that number hovers around 90 percent.

In addition to increased

enforcement statewide, the campaign will include a paid media component, including an influencer campaign where Tik Tok and Instagram influencers will share their own seatbelt messages with North Carolina audiences.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program, which is an arm of the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, provides grants to law enforcement agencies for various traffic safety initiatives, including campaigns like Click It or Ticket.

NCDOT develops early flood-warning system for roads

RALEIGH — When

the next hurricane strikes, the N.C. Dept. of Transportation will be armed with an advanced flood-warning system that relies on a network of 400 river and stream gauges.

The new system will allow the NCDOT for the first time to analyze, map and communicate in real-time any flood risks to roads, bridges and culverts.

This critical information will go to NCDOT maintenance staff responding to flooded roads and washed-out culverts; and it will benefit local emergency management officials and the public accessing the department's DriveNC.gov website for timely weather-related

closures.

"This state-of-the-art warning system our department has created will help us be better prepared for the next major storm," Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette said. "Even though we've had some quiet hurricane seasons recently, we cannot let our guard down."

The last major storm to impact the state's road network was Hurricane Florence in 2018. Researchers at N.C. State University and the National Hurricane Center are predicting an above-average hurricane season, which officially starts June 1.

— CN+R staff reports



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Chatham COA Events & Announcements

May 30th through June 3rd

Monday, May 30

- COA Office Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 31

- **Body Conditioning w/Jackie** at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- **Walking at CCC with COA** at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot)

Wednesday, June 1

- **Body Conditioning w/Jackie** at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- **Chair Yoga w/Liz** at 9:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)
- **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)

Thursday, June 2

- **Body Conditioning w/Jackie** at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)

Friday, June 3

- **Body Conditioning w/Jackie** at 8:00 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)
- **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/

RSVP Contacts:

Liz Lahti: 919-542-4512, ext. 228
 Alan Russo: 919-542-4512, ext. 238
 Lynn Parks: 919-742-3975, ext. 223

- In-person - Pre-registration Required**
- Programming Hosted On Zoom**
- Fee Required for Participation**

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at chathamcoa.org or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

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

Pittsboro board declares intent to merge with Sanford water infrastructure

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
 News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Commissioners authorized Town Manager Chris Kennedy to send a letter of intent to the City of Sanford to merge the two municipalities' water and sewer capacities during Monday's meeting.

"I think this is a tremendous opportunity with perhaps a finite window to work with the city of Sanford," Kennedy said.

This move follows two decades of conversations and research between Sanford and Pittsboro seeking solutions to Pittsboro's inadequate water capacity and treatment capabilities.

Kennedy's resolution details of the discussions and negotiations leading up to present day, saying it was important to document the 23 years since the town established a moratorium related to limited water capacity.

"What I endeavored upon when I was working on this resolution was when we first formally talked about coordination with the city of Sanford," he said. "I felt like it would be appropriate and productive to map that out, going back 23 years until April of 1999, and looking at that and saying we have created opportunities for ourselves today to do better to provide water and sewer."

The Sanford-Pittsboro partnership would allow the two municipalities to "regionalize the public water and wastewater utility systems of the Town of Pittsboro," which would include water treatment plants, distribution, wastewater treatment and public wastewater collection infrastructure.

During his nearly two-year tenure as town manager, Kennedy said he has prioritized finding a solution to Pittsboro's decades-long water capacity issues.

"I told the board when I got here I was going to work very hard to provide the town and the community generations' worth of water and sewer capacity to the best of my ability," he said. "This is an attempt — this is not a guarantee, Sanford is under no obligation to work with us or take on our water and sewer needs. We feel we have a good partner with them (Sanford)."

Commissioners expressed support for the resolution, but some shared concerns over job security of the public works employees who operate the town's water infrastructure.

Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin said she had received comments from staff concerned that a partnership with Sanford's water infrastructure could result in job losses.

"They have worked hard ... for the town of Pittsboro — you have one main (line) break, they are there, in the ditch, with their contractors," she said. "I know that this here is just a resolution of intent, so all of those particulars are going to be down the road, and hopefully there will be options towards those employees."

Mayor Cindy Perry also expressed concern for employees. She said some had spent most of their careers in the town and may have special expertise others may lack.

"We've talked about how these people who have worked for us for so long really know the secret side of down under

the Pittsboro streets," she said. "Our system may be where we have to do a tweak that maybe only so and so knows about ... that's what makes Pittsboro so wonderful, and I think Sanford recognizes it, and they want that expertise."

Kennedy said employees will have opportunities to continue working for the town in different capacities. The resolution of intent is not concrete, however, meaning no jobs are in jeopardy at this point.

"There's a lot of questions as to how this is going to work," Kennedy said, "and a lot of that is to be determined."

The town manager also said some had described this merger as a "last resort" solution to Pittsboro's water woes. He called the partnership a good opportunity for the town, not a last ditch effort.

"We've investigated obviously for 23 years now, and we've investigated different strategies," Kennedy said. "This is an opportunity — there's been conversation like this is a last resort, and I don't believe this is a last resort."

Commissioner Kyle Shipp backed the resolution of intent, which passed unanimously.

"This is a plan to make a plan — it's not binding, but we need to come up with a plan," he said. "It's been 23 years that we've had this problem, and the time is now to act ... There's a lot of things we need to figure out as a part of this process, and this is just the start of figuring out."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HeedenTaylor.



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Magic carpet ride



Audience's spirits soared in Pittsboro this month as Pittsboro Youth Theater's Liliana Guaman (Aladdin) took Kinsey McCubbin (Princess Jasmine) on a magic carpet ride six feet above Sweet Bee Theater's stage in Disney's 'Aladdin' musical. The final five performances of 'Aladdin' were held last weekend. Tickets for other performances are available at [online at www.PittsboroYouthTheater.com](http://www.PittsboroYouthTheater.com).

Courtesy of PYT

Chatham County Graduation Schedule

School	Time	Date	Location
Chatham School of Science & Engineering	7 p.m.	Wednesday May 25	Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center
Northwood High School	10 a.m.	Friday June 10	Northwood Football Stadium
Chatham Central High School	7 p.m.	Friday June 10	Wicker Center (Sanford)
Jordan-Matthews High School	10 a.m.	Saturday June 11	JM Football Stadium
Woods Charter School	10 a.m.	Saturday June 11	Woods Charter Gymnasium
Chatham Charter School	10 a.m.	Saturday May 14	Chatham Charter Gymnasium

POLICE REPORTS

FROM CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On May 11, Mandolyn Gail Brewer, 45, of 234 Hillside Dairy Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for obtaining property under false pretense. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 6. Ms. Brewer was also arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for failure to appear. She was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on May 26.

On May 11, Teddy Leon Martin, 33, of 181 Alex Watson Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for obtaining property under false pretense, breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods/property. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 6.

On May 11, Carrie Anne Mote, 29, of 2400 Bowers Store Road, Siler City, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Anthony Norton for failure to appear. She was issued a \$300 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 18. Ms. Mote was also arrested by Staff Sergeant An-

thony Norton for failure to appear. She was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 1.

On May 12, Mark Emanuel Gordon, 47, of 1755 Bill Lambert Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for assault on a female, assault by strangulation and communicating threats. He was placed on a 48 hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 25. Mr. Gordon was also arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for failure to appear. He was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on June 2.

On May 15, William George Squires, 73, of 179 Mountain View Church Road, Moncure, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Chris Burger for assault on a female. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 15.

On May 15, Carlos Lopez Aguilar, 49, of 39 Friendship Lane, Siler City, was arrested by Corporal Robert Hussey for 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 June 8. Mr. Aguilar was also arrested by Corporal Hussey for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Gaston County District Court in Gastonia on June 29.

On May 17, Glenn McKay Womble, 46, of 550 Sugar Lake Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Corporal Michael Cox for obtaining property by false pretense and exploitation of a disabled/elderly person's trust. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 6.

On May 17, Adam Daniel Webster, 35, of Pearlman Teague Road, Siler City, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Anthony Norton for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 7.

On May 17, Shannon Annmarie Burke, 25, of 2208 Alex Cockman Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Anthony Norton for simple possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, simple possession of a Schedule III controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor child abuse. She was issued a \$1,000 se-

cured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 1.

On May 19, Michael O'Neil Faircloth Jr., 32, of 7606 NC Highway 751, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear on citation. He was issued a \$350 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on June 1.

On May 19, William Calice Cooper III, 35, of 2903 NC Highway 54, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Alberto Estrada for possession of a stolen motor vehicle, reckless driving to endanger, fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, failure to stop at stop sign/flashing red light, failure to maintain lane control, speeding, resisting a public officer and driving while license revoked — impaired revocation. He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 1. Mr. Cooper was also arrested by Deputy Estrada for injury to personal property and assault on a female. He was placed on a 48 hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on June 6.

CCCC spring graduates celebrate big day

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2022 as the school observed its 59th Commencement Exercises on May 16 at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center in Sanford.

The graduating students entered the main hall to the skirl of a bagpipe, a CCCC tradition.

CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman said in her address: "Graduation represents the culmination of the efforts of all divisions of the college along with those of our graduating students, which makes it one of the most exciting days of our academic calendar. Graduates, the trustees, administration, staff, faculty, and I want to share a heartfelt and proud 'congratulations' to each and every one of you for all you have accomplished. We are honored to join you today as we celebrate your achievements.

"Our community is proud of CCCC, and it is because of how our graduates represent us that we enjoy respect for the college throughout Chatham, Harnett, Lee counties and beyond. I know you will continue that tradition, and I want to thank you for how you have represented the Cougar Nation as students and how you will continue to represent us as alumni," Chapman said.

The Class of 2022 graduation ceremonies had approximately 759 students — including 255 graduates from the fall — who were expected to receive 896 credentials (associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates). Five commencement exercises, at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., were held to accommodate the number of graduates.

Dave Myers, CCCC Faculty Member of the Year, was Chief Marshal and Mace Bearer.

Students presenting commencement addresses include:

- Zaire McMican of Fuquay-Varina (Associate of Arts graduate) was a member of the Male Minority Mentoring Initiative and Phi Beta Lambda — and has begun his studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro as part of the Spartan Passage program.
- "Celebrate today and dream again tomorrow so that we may go on and achieve all that we desire," he said.

- Nikki Lara of Sanford (Associate of Science graduate) is part of the N.C. State C3 program. While in high school, she took den-

tal classes at CCCC. Her goal is to become a dentist who will provide affordable/free dental services to low-income people.

"Congratulations to the Class of 2022, and I wish you all the best in your next chapter in life. I know we will all succeed," she said.

- Victoria Isenhour of Sanford (Associate in Applied Science in Human Services graduate) got her Certified Nursing Assistant credentials from CCCC while she was a student in high school. While working at Westfield Rehabilitation and Health Center, she moved to patient admissions that led her to the CCCC Human Services program.

"My college journey has been an exciting one, requiring my time and dedication. My advice is to keep looking ahead at the end goal despite the difficulties and challenges you may face. In the end, it is worth it," she said.

- Brent Alexander of Sanford (Associate of Applied Science in Welding Graduate) started with the college while in high school as he was a part of the Caterpillar Welding Apprenticeship program. He now works full time at Caterpillar.

"Enjoy this day," he said. "You have earned it. Go forth and prosper."

Consuela Blaizes, CCCC Associate Dean of Health Sciences & Professional Services, spoke to graduates at the 9 a.m. program.

"Some of you may have come to CCCC straight after high school, some

of you may have started at CCCC while you were in high school, and some of you may have traveled a less direct route to get here," she said. "Many of you work, possibly more than one job. Many of you are caregivers to your children or maybe to your parents, but you all have something in common: perseverance. Regardless of the road that led you to college, you found your path.

"You have all accomplished something amazing. Be proud of yourselves. I assure you that the faculty, staff, and administration of CCCC are immensely proud of you!"

Presenting the graduates was Dr. Kristi Short, Vice President/Chief Academic Officer.

Conferring of Diplomas was by Jan Hayes of the Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees.

The Lee County High School JROTC Color Guard had the Presentation of Colors.

Music was provided by an Ensemble of violins by Ken Hoyle (administration), Samantha Lane (staff), Emily Rubio (Lee Early College student); viola by Karen Huey (retired music educator); guitar by David Watson (faculty); clarinet by Lauren Winkens (faculty); cello by Alyson Cochran (faculty); violin and piano by Miriam Bryant; piano by Hunter Hoyle; piper by Peter McArthur.

Providing the invocation during the ceremonies were Bishop Charles Mel-

lette of Christian Provision Ministries, Pastor Brad Simpson of First Presbyterian Church of Sanford, and Dr. Delois W. Curry of Ebenezer Gospel Assembly Training Center.

Dr. Jon Matthews, CCCC Harnett Provost, presented special awards.

During the graduation exercises, students with the highest grade point averages in their divisions were recognized. At the 9 a.m. program: Mariah Nicole Applegate (Early Childhood Education), Samantha Lynn O'Hare (Veterinary Medical Technology), and Cameron DeVol Pulley (Veterinary Medical Technology). At 11 a.m., Shelby Mackenzie Brinker (Associate in Arts), Abigail Tiffany George (Associate in Arts), Jacob Ryan Kimble (Associate in Arts), Autumn-Isabel Sarahi Owenby (Associate in Arts), Jenna Leigh Skinner (Associate in Arts), Kirstyn Nevada Oaks (Library and Information Technology).

At the 1 p.m. program: Alexander Cook (Associate in Science), Patrick Steven McCaw (Associate in Science), Margaret Patricia Safrit (Associate in Science), Alexander Edward Stroud (Associate in Science), Vincente Banuelos (Laser and Photonics Technology).

At the 3 p.m. program: Jeremy Scott Thomas (Business Administration), Raymond Bradford

Biehl (Criminal Justice Technology), Darlene Lizotte (Criminal Justice/Forensic Science), Victoria Scott Isenhour (Human Services Technology), Audrey Grace Thomas (Diploma Business Management). At 5 p.m., Eric Francis Sauer (Sustainable Agriculture), Lyndsey Jordan Taylor (Cosmetology).

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society graduates were also recognized at each commencement. At 9 a.m., Eileen Michele Dove, Erin M. Kaukerit, Kelly Hamilton Kehoe, Samantha Lynn O'Hare, Cameron DeVol Pulley, Lauren Chappell Reynolds, Macie Layne Watson, and Anneliese Nicole Yodlowsky. At 11 a.m., Lizbeth Arvizu-Benavidez, Easton Bodie Brewer, Solomon Bruton, Riley Elizabeth Crouch, Keila Cruz-Hernandez, Kaycee Alexandria Davis, Abigail Tiffany George, Juana Gomez Soriano, Khalya Ashanti Green, Samuel Lee Hill, Hailey Kessler, Jacob Ryan Kimble, Deidra Ann Knight, Melanie Mather, Darrell Christopher McIver, Kirstyn Nevada Oaks, Evan Matthew Pruette, Jenna Leigh Skinner, Mia Sosa DeJesus, Sherry Johnson Sparks, and Jaime Zarate.

At 1 p.m., Nicolette Elana DeChamplain, Mauro E. Di Ilio, Clara Giselle Galeano, Reid Adams Gregory, Patrick Steven McCaw, Erica Makayla McLean, Brandon

James Phillips, Margaret Patricia Safrit, Elena Corinne Stansbury, Grace Virginia Stewart, and Audrey Grace Thomas.

At 3 p.m., Raymond Bradford Biehl, Vanessa Torres Campos, Marley Cheyenne Dinger, Victoria Scott Isenhour, Darlene M. Lizotte, Tamiaka Long, Alyssa Cheyenne O'Shields, Tristan Shane Patterson, Kimberly Ann Pinter, Yolanda Yvette Richmond, Billy H. Riggsbee, Aspen Cian Ling Taylor, and Michaela Wilson.

At 5 p.m., Carly Allen Lopez, Johnnie W. Steward, and Roxanna Flores Zapto.

Also recognized during graduation were three retiring CCCC faculty members: Richard Biggs (Information Technology instructor), Lisa Key Brown (Developmental Education, Chair), and Karen Owen-Bogan (English instructor), as well as college administrator Dr. Linda Sculetta (Vice President of Assessment, Planning & Research).

Following each commencement exercise, family and friends gathered to take pictures of their graduate's special day.

Pictures from the commencement exercises can be downloaded at www.cccc.edu/slideshows.

For information about Central Carolina Community College and its programs, visit its website, www.cccc.edu.

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Art by: Alex Perez

GOP voters reject Cawthorn, Senate duel set between Beasley and Budd, and other results from N.C. primary

A look at top statewide and legislative results across North Carolina from the May 17 election

BY FRANK TAYLOR
Carolina Public Press

Voters across North Carolina cast ballots in recent weeks and in large numbers on Tuesday, selecting their party standard-bearers for contests from county commissioner to U.S. Senate.

The marquee Senate race featured no surprises as Democratic front-runner Cheri Beasley, who served as N.C. Supreme Court chief justice before a razor-thin general election loss in 2020, finished well ahead of a crowded field. U.S. Rep. Ted Budd also easily won the Republican nomination over a similarly crowded field in which former Gov. Pat McCrory finished a distant second.

But surprises or remarkable results did take place in races further down the ballot across the state.

In the closely watched race for U.S. House District 11, the westernmost in the state, incumbent and conservative fire-brand Madison Cawthorn went down to a narrow defeat by state Sen. Chuck Edwards in the Republican primary.

Cawthorn dominated in the district's rural counties but trailed Edwards in metropolitan Buncombe and its suburban areas in Henderson and Transylvania counties. This may have indicated a divide between those who preferred Cawthorn's brand of outspoken conservatism to the more establishment image of Edwards.

Cawthorn, who has been plagued by scandals and controversial statements this year, had the backing of former President Donald Trump. It appeared that this drove some support for Cawthorn but may have turned other voters against him. Edwards received the endorsement of many of the state's other well-known Republicans.

Buncombe County Commissioner Jasmine Beach-Ferrara easily won the Democratic primary for the seat.

Based on recent history, the district appears likely to lean Republican in the general election.

While U.S. Rep. David Rouzer skated to an easy victory in the Republican primary for District 7, stretching from Fayetteville to Wilmington along the state's southeastern edge, the Democratic contest to challenge Rouzer proved exceptionally close.

With all precincts reporting late Tuesday, state Sen. Charles Graham held a narrow lead of several hundred votes over Cumberland County Commissioner Charles Evans.

Congress roundup

In congressional contests across the state, the election night results were as follows (in very close races, late-arriving absentee ballots, military votes and provisional ballots, as well as possible recounts, could change the final outcome):

- District 1 Democrats: State Rep. Don Davis won with 63% of the vote.
- District 1 Republicans: Sandy Smith leads with 31% of the vote. Smith previously lost in the 2020 general election for this seat to U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-Wilson, who is retiring. According to the News & Observer, Smith blamed that loss on voting machine fraud involving voting machines that are not used in North Carolina.
- District 2 Democrats: U.S. Rep. Deborah Ross



CPP photo by Colby Rabon

Derek Murray campaigns for his father, District Attorney Andrew Murray with his daughter Charlotte on May 17 in Henderson County at the Fletcher Town Hall polling place.



CPP photo by Colby Rabon

Beth Privette campaigns for U.S. Rep. Madison Cawthorn at May 17 outside the Fletcher Town Hall.

was unopposed.

- District 2 Republicans: Former police officer Christine Villaverde won with 55% of the vote.

- District 3 Democrats: Nonprofit organization founder Barbara Gaskins won with 80% of the vote.

- District 3 Republicans: U.S. Rep. Greg Murphy won with 76% of the vote.

- District 4 Democrats: State Sen. Valerie Foushee won with 46% of the vote. Celebrity candidate Clay Aiken finished a distant third with just 7% of the vote.

- District 4 Republicans: Registered nurse Courtney Geels won with 65% of the vote.

- District 5 Democrats: IT worker Kyle Parrish was unopposed.

- District 5 Republicans: U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx won with 77% of the vote.

- District 6 Democrats: Incumbent U.S. Rep. Kathy Manning was unopposed.

- District 6 Republicans: Army veteran and former Pentagon official Christian Castelli leads with 36% of the vote.

- District 7 Democrats: State Sen. Charles Graham leads with 31% of the vote.

- District 7 Republicans: U.S. Rep. David Rouzer won with 79% of the vote.

- District 8 Democrats: Navy veteran and nonprofit founder Scott Huffman was unopposed.

- District 8 Republicans: U.S. Rep. Dan Bishop was unopposed.

- District 9 Democrats: State Sen. Ben Clark was unopposed.

- District 9 Republicans: U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson won with 79% of the vote.

- District 10 Democrats: Army veteran and registered nurse Pam Genant won with 77% of the vote.

- District 10 Republicans: U.S. Rep. Patrick McHenry won with 68% of the vote.

- District 11 Democrats: Buncombe County Commissioner Jasmine Beach-Ferrara won with 60% of the vote.

- District 11 Republicans: State Sen. Chuck Edwards won with 33% of the vote, defeating incumbent Madison Cawthorn, who had 32% of the vote.

- District 12 Democrats: U.S. Rep. Alma Adams won with 92% of the vote.

- District 12 Republi-

cans: Real estate investor Tyler Lee won with 42% of the vote.

- District 13 Democrats: State Sen. Wiley Nickel won with 52% of the vote.

- District 13 Republicans: Former N.C. State football player Bo Hines won with 32% of the vote. Former U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers finished a distant fifth in the crowded field, with just 9% of the vote.

- District 14 Democrats: State Sen. Jeff Jackson won with 86% of the vote.

- District 14 Republicans: Army veteran and business owner Pat Harrigan won with 76% of the vote.

Statewide judicial races

North Carolina Republican primary voters had choices in two statewide judicial races, while Democratic candidates for those seats ran unopposed.

In the race for state Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 5, Trey Allen, a UNC School of Government professor and former Marine Corps judge advocate, won the Republican primary with 55% of the vote.

He will face the Democratic Justice Sam Ervin IV in November.

In Court of Appeals Republican primaries, incumbent Donna Stroud easily defeated a challenge with 59% of the vote and will face her Democratic opponent, former State Rep. Brad Salmon, in November's general elections.

Republican District Court Judge Michael Stading won his primary with 71% of the vote and will face the Democratic incumbent, Darren Jackson, in November.

Selected legislative contests

The state saw a number of close legislative primary races, some of which will determine the outcome in November in districts where candidates have no major party opposition or where the district was drawn to heavily favor one party.

In other cases, strong incumbents in favorable districts faced no primary opposition, but the opposing party hosted a primary despite slim chances for the winner in November.

With decennial redis-



CPP photo by Colby Rabon

Democratic congressional candidate Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, currently a Buncombe County commissioner, campaigns in Henderson County on May 17, outside the Whitmire Activity Center polling place in Hendersonville. Following a victory in the primary, she will face Republican state Sen. Chuck Edwards in the general election.



CPP photo by Colby Rabon

Buncombe County poll worker Rachel Naso checks in Catherine Perez for primary voting on May 17 at the St. Mark's Lutheran Church polling place in Asheville.

tricting in play this year, several current legislators were forced to run in new districts. It remains to be seen how some of these candidates will do in the general election if the districts' political makeup has shifted significantly.

Some of Tuesday's legislative results follow:

- State Senate primaries:
- Senate District 1 Republicans: Incumbent Norman Sanderson won with 55% of the vote.

- Senate District 3 Democrats: Challenger Valerie Jordan won with 60% of the vote, defeating incumbent Ernestine Bazemore.

- Senate District 4 Democrats: Incumbent Toby Fitch won with 54% of the vote.

- Senate District 4 Republicans: Former State Sen. Buck Newton won with 68% of the vote.

- Senate District 5 Democrats: State Rep. Kandie Smith won with 86% of the vote.

- Senate District 10 Republicans: Lawyer Benton Sawrey won with 66% of the vote.

- Senate District 12 Republicans: Incumbent Jim Burgin won with 53% of the vote.

- Senate District 13 Democrats: Lawyer Lisa Grafstein won with 66% of the vote.

- Senate District 13 Republicans: Businessman David Bankert won with 52% of the vote.

- Senate District 18 Republicans: Businessman E.C. Sykes won with 85% of the vote.

- Senate District 19 Democrats: Fayetteville Council member and former Mayor Val Applewhite won with 56% of the vote over incumbent Kirk DeViere, who finished with 37%. Applewhite benefited from an unusual endorsement of a primary challenger from Gov. Roy Cooper.

- Senate District 19 Republicans: Former state Sen. Wesley Meredith won with 72% of the vote.

- Senate District 22 Republicans: Army veteran and nonprofit director Larry Coleman won with 68% of the vote.

- Senate District 23 Democrats: State Rep. Graig Meyer won with 82% of the vote.

- Senate District 23 Republicans: Businessman Landon Woodson won with 58% of the vote.

- Senate District 30

Republicans: State Sen. Steve Jarvis, who currently represents District 29, won with 66% of the vote.

- Senate District 36 Republicans: Wilkes County Commissioner Eddie Settle won with 37% of the vote.

- Senate District 37 Republicans: State Sen. Vickie Sawyer, who currently represents District 34, won with 82% of the vote.

- Senate District 42 Republicans: Cardiologist Dr. Cheryl Russonarow leads businessman Scott Stone by fewer than 200 votes.

- Senate District 46 Republicans: Incumbent Warren Daniel won with 61% of the vote.

- Senate District 47 Republicans: Incumbent Ralph Hise narrowly leads state Sen. Deanna Ballard, who currently represents District 45, by a little more than 300 votes.

- Senate District 49 Democrats: Incumbent Julie Mayfield won with 68% of the vote.

- State House primaries:
- House District 6 Republicans: Joe Pike leads Murray Simpkins by about 75 votes.

- House District 8 Democrats: Gloristine Brown won with 59% of the vote.

- House District 13 Republicans: Celeste Cairns won with 55% of the vote.

- House District 42 Democrats: Incumbent Marvin Lucas won with 56% of the vote.

- House District 43 Democrats: Elmer Floyd won with 60% of the vote.

- House District 43 Republicans: Incumbent Diane Wheatley leads Clarence Goins Jr. by about 120 votes.

- House District 52 Republicans: State Rep. Ben Moss, who currently represents District 66, won with 53% of the vote over incumbent Jamie Boles.

- House District 63 Republicans: Stephen Ross leads Ed Priola by about 150 votes.

- House District 66 Democrats: Sarah Crawford leads Wesley Knott by about 130 votes.

- House District 70 Republicans: Randolph County school board member Brian Biggs won with 52% of the vote over incumbent Pat Hurley.

- House District 71 Democrats: Kanika Brown won with 48% of

the vote.

- House District 83 Republicans: Kevin Crutchfield won with 45% of the vote.

- House District 89 Republicans: Incumbent Mitchell Setzer won with 57% of the vote.

- House District 103 Democrats: Laura Budd won with 57% of the vote.

- House District 109 Republicans: Incumbent Donnie Loftis, who was appointed to complete the term of a deceased House member, won in his own right with 34% of the vote.

- House District 112 Democrats: Former state Rep. Tricia Cotham won with 48% of the vote.

- House District 117 Republicans: Jennifer Capps Balkcom leads Chelsea Walsh by about 140 votes.

- District attorneys

- District 1 (Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and Dare counties): Assistant District Attorney Jeff Cruden won the Republican primary with 59% of the vote. Democrats did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 2 (Tyrrell, Washington, Martin, Beaufort and Hyde counties): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Seth Edwards ran unopposed.

- District 3 (Pitt County): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Faris Dixon ran unopposed.

- District 4 (Craven, Pamlico and Carteret counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Scott Thomas ran unopposed.

- District 5 (Sampson, Duplin, Jones and Onslow counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Ernie Lee won with 69% of the vote. Democrats did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 6 (Pender and New Hanover counties): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Ben David ran unopposed.

- District 7 (Halifax, Northampton, Hertford, Bertie): Assistant District Attorney Kim Gourrier Scott won the Democratic primary with 51% of the vote to about 49% of the vote for former Assistant District Attorney Jamal Summey. In a close race to replace a retiring district attorney, Scott held a 500-vote lead. Republicans did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 8 (Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson counties): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Robert Evans ran unopposed.

- District 9 (Wayne, Greene and Lenoir counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Matthew Delbridge ran unopposed.

- District 10 (Wake County): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Lorrin Freeman won with 59% of the vote. She will face a general election challenge from Attorney Jeff Dobson, who ran unopposed in the Republican primary.

- District 11 (Person, Granville, Vance, Franklin and Warren counties): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Mike Walters ran unopposed.

- District 13 (Johnston County): Republican incumbent District Attorney Susan Doyle ran unopposed.

- District 14 (Cumberland County): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Billy West ran unopposed.

- District 15 (Bladen, Columbus and Brunswick counties): Republi-

See **PRIMARY**, page B10

Socialization, educational programs draw Widman to Council on Aging

BY JIMMY LEWIS
Chatham Council on Aging

Editor's note: This story is part of a periodic series profiling clients of the Chatham County Council on Aging as they describe 'Why I Come to the COA.'

Unknowingly, Bill Widman missed out on two years of involvement with the Chatham County Council on Aging.

"I was actually 62 when I came in and told George (Eastern Chatham Senior Center receptionist Lee) I wanted to join the senior center," Widman recalled. "I thought 62 was how old you had to be to officially be a senior citizen, because that's when you can apply for Social Security. And George told me you only had to be 60! I said, well I could have joined two years ago!"

Since that day of epiphany in 2017, he's worked tirelessly to make up for lost time.

In many respects, the 67-year-old Widman represents the 2022 national theme of Older Americans Month, which is "Age My Way."

A retired gardener and landscaper, Widman, who spent his formative years in the Washington, D.C., area, lives in a rural Chatham County setting where isolation reigns and effort must be made to reach a neighbor.

This is by choice. While loneliness remains one of the biggest issues facing older adults, Widman embraces the serenity — but only to a certain



Courtesy of the Chatham Council on Aging

Bill Widman, left, poses with Eastern Chatham Senior Center manager Liz Lahti during the Council on Aging's Saint Patrick's Day celebration in Siler City in March.

extent.

"I find that although I'm very good at keeping myself occupied, I'm happy when I'm home with the birds and the butterflies and the deer and the rabbits and the squirrels," Widman said. "I love nature, but I find that I still have a need for human interaction. I get good human interaction here. There's very little hostility; people have good attitudes and are generally friendly and easy to get along with. A lot of them seem to share my sense of humor, which helps a lot."

As the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro goes through its final stages of renovation, Widman drives to the center daily and dutifully waits

for the Chatham Transit bus to transport him to Siler City and the Western Center for congregate activities during the week. In particular, Widman appreciates the Council's nutrition education offerings — owing to the fact that the nutritional requirements of older adults change.

"I've learned that as you get older, your nutritional needs change," Widman said. "You can't keep on eating like you did when you're a teenager. You can't eat pizza and burgers and French fries all the time."

However, before joining the Council, Widman opted to forego a steady helping of vegetables in favor of fried foods. The result was what he



Courtesy of the Chatham Council on Aging

Among Bill Widman's patronage of Council on Aging events includes Chatham County Senior Games, where he claimed a gold medal in men's bocce.

termed a "spare tire" around his midsection, which has since been removed through improved food choices informed by the Council's educational programming.

"You're not growing up anymore," Widman said. "You're sort of shrinking now. So you need to eat differently than you have been. As a result, I can wear size 32 jeans again!"

Unfortunately, unscrupulous figures routinely target the senior population in the effort to promote scams. Widman considers himself more able to spot such campaigns.

"Not only has it been educational, it has been fun," Widman said. "Fun seems to be the emphasis on all of the programs. We want you to learn, we want you to be healthy, but we also want you to have fun. I love Jackie (Eastern Center Activities Specialist Green) for this. Jackie can make anything fun. She does this exercise program, but she's so perky and so bubbling over with enthusiasm that it's contagious. She makes you want to do it, to get up and participate."

Protecting mental health also comes into play as Widman ages in his own way.

"I like where I live, where the deer and the raccoons play," Widman said. "But for human interaction, I'm restricted to just my neighbors. At the most, we've got 50 people on my road. You tend to forget how to interact with people when you spend most of your time alone. I've discovered that you forget niceties like saying thank you or you forget how to interact. That's something we have to keep in practice with to be good at."

Widman is a faithful participant annually in Chatham County Senior Games, where he is an ardent bocce competitor.

All the while, Widman continues to age his way.

"Every now and then, I find that I need interaction with my fellow humans," Widman said. "And this is the best place for it that I've known since I've moved to Chatham County."

PRIMARY

Continued from page B9

can incumbent District Attorney Jon David ran unopposed.

- District 16 (Durham County): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Satana Deberry won with 79% of the vote. Republicans did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 17 (Alamance County): Republican incumbent District Attorney Sean Boone ran unopposed.

- District 18 (Chatham and Orange counties): Assistant District Attorney Jeff Nieman won the Democratic primary with 60% of the vote. Republicans did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 20 (Robeson County): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Matt Scott ran unopposed.

- District 21 (Anson, Richmond and Scotland counties): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Reece Saunders ran unopposed.

- District 22 (Caswell and Rockingham counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Jason Ramey ran unopposed.

- District 23 (Stokes

and Surry counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Tim Watson, who was appointed to finish the term of retired District Attorney Ricky Bowman, ran unopposed.

- District 24 (Guilford County): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Avery Crump defeated newcomer Brent Boyce.

- District 25 (Cabarrus County): Republican Assistant District Attorney Ashlie Shanley ran unopposed.

- District 26 (Mecklenburg County): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Spencer Merriweather won with 71% of the vote. Republicans did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 27 (Rowan County): Republican incumbent District Attorney Brandy Cook won with 61% of the vote. Democrats did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 28 (Stanly and Montgomery counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney T. Lynn Clodfelter ran unopposed.

- District 30 (Union County): Republican incumbent District Attorney Trey Robison ran

unopposed.

- District 31 (Forsyth County): Republican incumbent District Attorney Jim O'Neill ran unopposed in the primary. He will face Former District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield, who ran unopposed in the Democratic primary, in the general election in November.

- District 33 (Davidson and Davie counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Garry Frank ran unopposed.

- District 34 (Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes and Yadkin counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Tom Horner ran unopposed.

- District 35 (Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Seth Banksran unopposed.

- District 36 (Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Scott Reilly ran unopposed.

- District 38 (Gaston County): Republican incumbent District Attorney Travis Page ran unopposed.

- District 39 (Cleveland and Lincoln counties): Republican incumbent

District Attorney Mike Miller ran unopposed.

- District 40 (Buncombe County): Democratic incumbent District Attorney Todd Williams holds a slim 155-vote lead over challenger Courtney Booth, an Asheville attorney. According to multiple news media reports Wednesday, if a margin in that narrow range holds following canvassing, the race could be eligible for a recount if Booth requests one.

- District 41 (Rutherford and McDowell counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Ted Bell won with 61% of the vote. Democrats did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 42 (Henderson, Transylvania and Polk counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Andrew Murray won with 63% of the vote. Murray, the former U.S. Attorney for the district, was appointed to

fulfill the term of former District Attorney Greg Newman after the courts removed him from office last year. Democrats did not field a candidate for this seat.

- District 43 (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties): Republican incumbent District Attorney Ashley Welch ran unopposed.

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A free archery camp and unique Vacation Bible School is planned for ages 3 to 18, June 6 through June 9. The archery camp is for ages 8 through 18, with age appropriate games for ages 3 to 7. There will be snacks, a Bible lesson, and games each night. On Thursday evening, there will be an archery tournament for the children, their parents, grandparents, and friends.

The church is located at 1745 East 11th Street, Siler City



Rebecca Whitney Tysor graduated with a BS in Biology and a Minor in Art from UNC Wilmington on May 13, 2022. She will begin working with the Montana Conservation Corps. this month.

Rebecca is the daughter of Joanna and Michael Tysor of Bear Creek.

Congratulations

Congratulations Lillie

Lillie Justice is a graduate of Uwharrie Charter Academy in Asheboro. She will be attending UNC Charlotte in the fall. Lillie is the daughter of the late Heather Phillips of Asheboro and Jason Justice of Siler City.

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Pictured: Cathy Baker



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 W U S N Q Y O R T M E R O K I
 F D B Z I T Z E N B X E F W U
 S Q O N L T N O L S J I U H F
 D C A Y W O R O K B I P A V T
 S Q P N M R C A P R M O E L K
 I H F E A T N O M U A E B C B
 Z Y W H V U S R Q P D S R U N
 L A C S A P M L S A M O H T D

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: IMPRESSIONIST CLAUDE —

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Beaufort | Colbert | Martin | Sarkozy |
| Beaumont | Dubois | Pascal | Thomas |
| Blanchet | Dupont | Perrot | Tremble |
| Charron | Favre | Pierre | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3					2			1
	1		9		7	8		
			8		6			4
	3			7				6
2						1	4	
		5	3					1 9
5	4				6			3
	7			9				2
		1	8			7		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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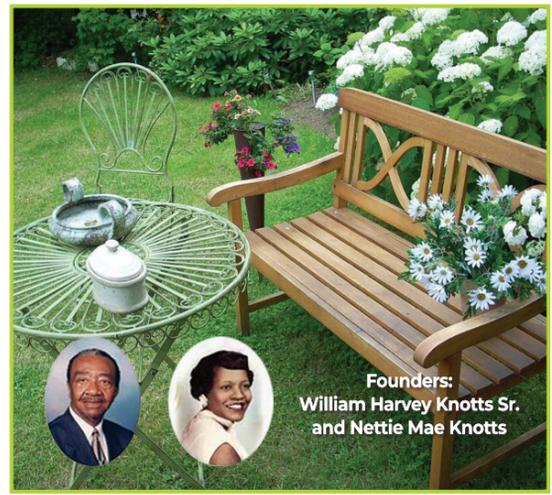
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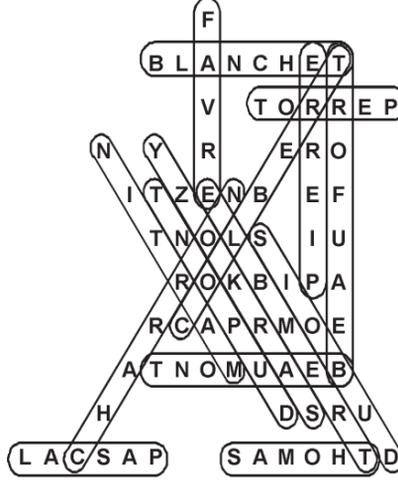
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FRENCH SURNAMNES



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	5	7	4	8	2	6	9	1
4	1	6	9	3	7	8	2	5
9	2	8	1	6	5	3	4	7
1	3	4	2	7	9	5	8	6
2	8	9	6	5	1	4	7	3
7	6	5	3	4	8	2	1	9
5	4	2	7	1	6	9	3	8
8	7	3	5	9	4	1	6	2
6	9	1	8	2	3	7	5	4

A little bit of R&R

My little brother is a ridiculously picky eater



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

(now an adult, he blames it on his “problematic” digestion). But growing up, he was so

fussy about his eats, my mom basically made two meals every night — one for the rest of the family, and one for him. Somehow his always contained French fries and either buttered, canned corn, or broccoli with so much cheese sauce the broccoli was impossible to identify.

Early on, I decided that if I had kids, they would what I cooked, or it would be PBJ, made by them.

Lucky for me, The Kid (who just turned 30, BTW) really isn't a very picky eater.

Even as a little Kid, food was an adventure to take on, not an adversary to be avoided. My new food motto was, “What if this could be your new favorite food and you'd never know because you refused to give it a try?” When the child was 5, he wanted to try sushi. It wasn't a hit then, but six months later it was and has been a life-long fave.

There were other dishes that were more of an acquired taste.

Duck? Forget it. Gramma didn't like it, so no way.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Both the Reuben (right) and the Rachel sandwich combine unusual ingredients for a great taste.

Until The Kid actually tasted it. Then instead of two expensive duck breasts for a meal, I had to start buying three.

Asparagus? First it was “eww!” Then my child volunteered to eat it as long as they could eat only the very tips. This time I said, “no way.” That delicious spring veg was too expensive to throw away the entire stalk save for the final inch and a half. And Petey and I didn't think eating The Kid's scraps was a good precedent to set (although isn't that really what a lot of par-

enting is?).

Eventually the entire stalk was eaten and enjoyed.

Avocados were another “eww” food that ended up becoming a favorite. Yup, The Kid is a millennial who loves avocado toast (so's mom, for that matter).

But the big NO was cabbage, or anything resembling cabbage.

Sauerkraut and coleslaw were an abomination. I honestly don't remember the child ever actually trying it, I think it smelled and looked funny and Daddy wasn't

a fan.

But eventually the curiosity won out over cruciferous discomfort. Coleslaw was eaten with relish (enjoyment, not chopped sweet pickles).

Sauerkraut is now enjoyed on the world's greatest hot dogs; the German Shepherd from Durham's Dog House eateries.

Along with another former feared and loathed ingredient, corned beef, the Reuben sandwich entered the culinary pantheon of The Kid's most loved foods. The Reuben is a crazy combination of

Reuben

- 2 slices hearty rye, or rye/pumpernickel swirl
 - 3 slices Swiss cheese
 - 6 or 7 slices of corned beef, sliced very, very thinly
 - 2-3 tablespoons sauerkraut
 - Thousand Island dressing or brown deli mustard
 - Mayonnaise
- (For my grilled sandwiches, I use mayo rather than butter. It spreads easier and the egg in the mayonnaise gives it an almost French toast-like grilled surface.)
- Spread a thin layer of Thousand Island dressing or mustard on the first slice of bread, then lay down 1 slice of cheese, attempting to cover the entire slice of bread. Place corned beef next, draping it rather than one flat layer of meat. Put down sauerkraut, covering corned beef. Top with the rest of the Swiss. Put a thin layer of mayo on the other slice of bread and cover sandwich. Wrapped and refrigerated, this can be made ahead up to overnight.

To finish: Spread the thinnest layer of mayonnaise the outside of both slices of the sandwich. Place in a heavy skillet turned to about 3 or 4. Cook slowly and when the cheese starts to melt and the first side is nicely browned, flip and cook the other side.

Rachel

- Rye or marble bread
 - 3 slices Swiss cheese
 - 6 or 7 slices of thinly sliced turkey
 - 2 or 3 tablespoons Coleslaw
 - 1000 Island or brown mustard
 - Mayonnaise
- Assembly and procedure are exactly the same as the Reuben.

ingredients that should not only never work, but never be eaten in the same week without serious risk to one's physical and mental health. But this treat is the perfect example of gestalt, that wonderful German concept which is that whole is greater than the sum of it's parts.

Today for The Kid's birthday dinner, we planned on having Reubens, and of course, potato salad.

But my parents aren't huge fans, and my friend Darby isn't a fan of, as she says, “eating cows”.

So, we made grilled sandwiches for everyone.

The Kid and I enjoyed Reubens, my folks had patty melts, and for Darby, we made a Rachel. She'd never even heard of a Rachel, but she loved it.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



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