

Chatham News + Record

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'NOT ANOTHER CHILD'

Residents gather to mourn Uvalde victims, demand for change

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Cries of anger and demands for change rang outside of the Alpha Center on Sunday evening when around 100 people gathered to mourn the loss of the 21 people who died in last week's mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

Chatham County leaders and residents spoke passionately, advocating for gun reform with a unified call for an end to gun violence.

"This is not a partisan political issue," Chatham County Commissioner Karen Howard said during Sunday's vigil. "This is really a question about how much we care about one another, and what we are willing to do in times like these, what we're willing to sacrifice, what we're willing to fight for."

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry and Tami Schwerin, the co-owner of The Plant on Lora, organized the event, held in the parking lot outside of the Alpha Center at 697 Hillsboro St.

"The most amazing people came forward and just dedicated themselves over the last little while to planning this," Perry told the News + Record after the vigil.

The gathering included the reading of the poem "Hymn for the Hurting" by American poet Amanda Gorman, recognizing mass shootings over the last decade, the singing of



Staff Photo by Tanner Bubeck

Participants at the Chatham County vigil for recent mass shootings help one another light their candles on Sunday in Pittsboro.

John Lennon's classic "Imagine," a candle lighting ceremony and remarks by other officials.

Howard said while she was happy to see Chatham County residents gather together, she wasn't happy to come together for another mass shooting.

"There will be a gathering next year if we do nothing differently," she said.

Howard urged those in attendance to act on their

anger by demanding change to gun legislation, whether that be calling representatives in North Carolina or in Washington, D.C., or educating their neighbors on what the Second Amendment may or may not allow.

"I hope when you leave here today ... you will reach out to people as unlike yourself as possible, and convince them that we can do better and that our kids deserve it — that this

is not the legacy we want to hand over to them," she said. "This is not the country we promised them."

Dozens of pairs of children's shoes were lined up in front of the makeshift stage, representing the youngest of gun violence victims. Howard asked attendees to think about the Uvalde shooting victims when looking at the colorful

See **VIGIL**, page A3

'NO MAGIC PILL'

CCS seeks answers in wake of Texas school shooting

BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

Familiar shockwaves rang through the country last Tuesday as the news broke of a school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

The death count in the second-deadliest elementary school shooting: 19 students dead, plus two teachers.

As officials from Chatham County Schools grappled with the tragedy, they knew local attention would quickly turn to them. Parents quickly began asking: What are schools doing to make sure their children are safe? What protocols are in place if this were to happen at their children's schools? Do the schools even have an adequate safety plan?

In recent days, Assistant Superintendent for Operations Chris Blice has attempted to answer these questions.

"I've had calls this morning about bulletproof glass; I've had calls about new classroom door locks," Blice told the News + Record. "It really is not about buying stuff; it's about training adults to know what to do and create muscle memory."

While official school safety plans are confidential, he said the district has participated in additional conversations with

See **SAFETY**, page A6

'UNPRECEDENTED TERRITORY'

For Wilson Brothers Trucking, soaring diesel costs make freight surcharges a necessity

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — His company's trucks travel about 4 million miles each year, and with fuel efficiency at between 5 or 6 miles per gallon, slight variations in fuel prices get Jeff Wilson's attention.

So what does the president of Chatham County's Wilson Brothers Trucking think about diesel prices these days, which have jumped 64% since Jan. 1?

"It's unprecedented territory," he said.

Wilson Brothers, known officially as Wilson Brothers Milling and Trucking Company, has 60 or so trucks on the road or preparing to hit the road at any given time. The company provides transport primarily in the animal agriculture and wood products industries, and like most transportation and freight companies, uses a fuel surcharge — referred to in the industry as an "FSC" — to help calculate freight rates it charges its customers.

The FSC is tied to a weekly "escalator" index (which can be seen at www.eia.

See **TRUCKING**, page A6



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Wilson Brothers employee Darren Fiero pumps fuel into the tank of one of the company's trucks at the Wilson Brothers Milling and Trucking Co. yard Friday in Bear Creek.

Staley man shot, killed by state trooper after traffic stop

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — A Staley man was shot and killed by a N.C. Highway Patrol trooper during a traffic stop Monday afternoon on Harmony Drive, near Solo Drive.

The Highway Patrol told the News + Record that Mark Anthony Diaz, 21, of Staley, driving a Ford pickup truck, was stopped at 4:37 p.m. for a seatbelt violation.

"During the course of the traffic stop, the suspect presented a pistol and the member fired his service weapon, striking the suspect," said First Sergeant Christopher D. Knox, a public information officer for the Highway Patrol. "Authorities on the scene immediately began life-saving procedures until emergency medical personnel arrived. The driver was transported from the scene, but he was pronounced deceased at a later time. The involved trooper was not injured during the traffic stop. A passenger fled from the traffic stop but later returned to the scene during the investigation."

Trooper Rodney N. Cook was identified as the involved patrol member, according to Knox. Cook is a 16-year veteran stationed in Troop D, District 1 in Chatham County. He will be placed on administrative duty pending an internal investigation, which is agency protocol in any trooper-involved shooting. This developing story will be updated online at www.chathamnewsrecord.com.

SILER CITY'S NEW MAYOR

Price sees prosperity, resilience for town

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town's newly elected mayor is certainly a familiar face.

Thomas "Chip" Price, 66, and a lifelong resident of Siler City, takes office June 6 after

serving 11 years as an at-large commissioner. He fills the seat vacated when former Mayor John Grimes died in office back on Oct. 20, 2020, and says he's bringing a deep love for the town and its people to his new post.

"I feel blessed that I have



Price

been given this opportunity," Price said.

Price will be sworn in as mayor at Monday's commissioners meeting. The board decided

after Grimes' death not to appoint someone to the seat immediately, so as he assumes his new role, Price says he can't help but look back on the changes in Siler City since he first took office.

See **PRICE**, page A6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

• **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 6. The location will be announced at <https://www.silercity.org/>. Members of the public can attend in-person or virtually on Zoom.

• **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 6, at the Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.

• **The Chatham County Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 6, at the George Moses Horton Middle School Auditorium.

OTHER

• **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

• **On Pittsboro First Sunday**, June 5, retired professional geologist Chris Palmer will make another appearance to talk about Chatham rocks, soils, and geology in an informal bring-your-curious setting. Here's another chance to bring your treasures and see what Chris can tell you about them, or to learn from our exhibits. Chris will be at the **Chatham Historical Museum** in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro from noon until 4 p.m. The event is free and everyone is welcome.

• **The Silk Hope Ruritans** host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursday of each month. Next on the schedule is June 16 at the Silk Hope Community Center.

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

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

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

• **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems

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

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

SCOUT NEWS

• **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Sickles' essay wins Randall Kenan Prize

Pittsboro's Dolly Sickles has been named the recipient of 2022 Randall Kenan Prize from the North Carolina Literary Review for an essay she wrote about Michele Tracy Berger, a professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Sickles received a \$250 honorarium. Her essays will appear in the Review's 2022 issues' special feature section on writer/teachers of North Carolina.

Her interview essay was entitled "Examining 'Otherness' on the Page and in the Classroom with Michele Tracy Berger." The Randall Kenan Prize is sponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill Creative Writing Program for the year's best essay on or interview with a new or relatively new North Carolina writer, accepted for publication in NCLR.

Glenis Redmond, poet-in-residence at the Peace Center for Performing Arts in Greenville, South Carolina, and former mentor poet for the National Student Poet's Program, selected Sickles' essay on Berger, saying, "In her writing, Berger does the heavy lifting — providing space for others, as well as reflecting, as an intentional mirror for others to imagine themselves in both the present and the future. The author of this essay was eager to find out whether Michele Tracy Berger is more a writer who teaches or a teacher who writes. With countless published stories and a novel coming out this year, we find there is no definitive line between the two. Berger is ever-present in both fields."

A freelance writer and teacher, Sickles is the author of children's books and romance novels. Berger, her subject for the Kenan Prize essay, publishes both scholarship and fiction. Berger's 2017 novella, "Reenu-You," is an example of the speculative fiction by African American writers that she talked about with Sickles.

"Essays like these allow NCLR to fulfill our mission of promoting the literature of North Carolina writers," NCLR Editor Margaret Bauer said about this year's selections for honors. "That includes new writers like Michele Tracy Berger and writers from our rich literary history like Paul Green."

Other North Carolina Literary Review winners were Georgann Eubanks, the recipient of the 2022 Paul Green Prize, for her essay "Paul Green: A Professor of the Practice of Playwriting," and Marian Janssen, the winner of the 2022 John Ehle Prize competition for her essay, "Carolyn Kizer: Flamboyant Feminist at Chapel Hill."

Produced since 1992 at East Carolina University, the North Carolina Literary Review has won numerous awards and citations.

Reception planned for retiring pastor

The public is invited to a retirement reception for the Rev. Ray Gooch from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 4, to say thank you and to celebrate 40 years of service to the people of Chatham County.

Rev. Gooch, who has served Browns Chapel United Methodist Church and Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, has reached mandatory retirement age for the Methodist church and is returning to his home area near Oxford in Granville County. In addition to serving those two churches, he has become involved in much of the life of Chatham County and its residents.

His last Sunday in the pulpit is June 26; his official retirement date is June 30.

The reception is set for the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center just west of Pittsboro.

State agencies and MADD continue sobriety campaign

RALEIGH — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving kicked off the annual "On the Road, On the Water. Don't Drink and Drive" campaign with community events

and safety check points throughout the state during Memorial Day weekend.

The multi-agency safety initiative works to reduce alcohol-related incidents on the state's roadways and waterways, which both see increased traffic during summer months. The Wildlife Commission reported that 16 boating incidents in 2021 were alcohol related, resulting in four fatalities.

"Fatalities that could be avoided with more responsible behavior is always difficult to process," said Lieutenant Forrest Orr of the Wildlife Commission. "It's imperative to designate a sober driver whether you're in a vehicle or on a boat. Undoubtedly a designated driver will prevent alcohol-related incidents on the road and in the water and make everyone's holiday weekend more enjoyable."

During the campaign, law enforcement officers conducted sobriety checkpoints and promoting public awareness to deter impaired operation of cars and boats on various bodies of water and highways. In North Carolina, a driver or vessel operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 or is substantially impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, is subject to arrest.

For more information on boating safety and regulations, visit ncwildlife.org/boating or call 919-707-0031.

Chess club, clinic return to library

PITTSBORO — Chatham Community Library is re-launching its Chess Club and clinic this summer beginning on Saturday, June 11. Participants ages 12 and up will meet to play chess and improve their skills with fellow enthusiasts and a volunteer coach.

The club meets from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays through July 9 inside the Lakritz Storytime Room at the library at 197 N.C. Hwy. 87 N. in Pittsboro. The club is an opportunity for players with all levels of skill to meet, play chess, and develop their skills in friendly company.

Beginners are welcome. Games are provided, and one-on-one coaching by a volunteer is available. Residents may visit

the website for Chatham County Public Libraries at www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the library at 919-545-8084 or

amy.clement@chathamlibraries.org for more information on this and other events and programs.

How did you LAND here?



HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?

83 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

LAND (Representing Sellers) 33 Units

- 8457 Pike Road (22.43 Acres)
- 69 Hazelwood (.62 Acres)
- 0 Diane Street (9.21 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)
- 208 Stonewall Road (3.810 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) 24 Units

- 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 (Slier 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 (Slier 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 (Slier City)
- 8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)
- 488 NC 87 N (Pittsboro)
- 76 Fox Chapel Lane (Pittsboro)
- 354 A Mountain View (Pittsboro)

LAND (Representing Buyers) 9 Units

- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 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)

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 (Slier City)
- 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

(Representing Sellers) 5 Units

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 00 Alston Chapel Road (176 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)
- 1456 Hadley Mill Road (28.353 Acres)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 2 Units

- 138 Oakwood Lane (Pittsboro)
- 218A Poplar Street (Chapel Hill)

Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week
NEW URL: <https://youtu.be/PiA79jQOW6U>

NEW TOPIC: 4 Reasons Timber Companies Decide if they will Sell or Hold their Land

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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CHATHAM CHAT | JUNE 9 PRAYER VIGIL

Pastors organize gathering in response to school shootings

‘When there are no answers, prayer can offer a peace that surpasses understanding’

A mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, last Tuesday, killed 19 students and two teachers. Leaders in Pittsboro held a vigil there Sunday, and on June 9 — next Thursday — faith leaders in Chatham County will host a prayer vigil in response to the tragedy. It'll take place at 7 p.m. at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church at 314 Great Ridge Parkway, Chapel Hill.

We speak with two of the vigil's organizers, the Rev. Andrew Taylor-Troutman and the Rev. Brent Levy. Taylor-Troutman is pastor at Chapel in the Pines and Levy is pastor of The Local Church in Pittsboro.

The public is invited to the prayer vigil.

A common theme in the initial reaction to the shooting in Texas was, ‘Let’s not talk about thoughts and prayers, but real change.’ Prayer, though ... why is it still important?

LEVY: I completely understand the sentiment of “enough with thoughts and prayers.” For too long, politicians and others in power have used “thoughts and prayers” as a way to deflect responsibility and to keep real solutions at a distance. They’ve used prayer as moral cover. It’s been a way of feigning outrage amidst gross inaction as more and more people — especially kids — die at the hands of gun violence.

I mentioned on Sunday that it reminds me of the prophet Amos who, on behalf of God, said, “I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them...” (Amos 5:21-22a)

The first thing I did when I saw the news last Tuesday was pray, but it won't be the only thing I do in response. At its best, prayer orients our action. It gives us the space to discern where God needs us, to feel the compassion that stirs us toward transformation, to channel our anger and frustra-

tion so we can move forward to work for substantive change with greater clarity, vision, and resolve.

It reminds me of the exchange that U2's lead singer, Bono, described with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the throes of apartheid. Bono asked if it was hard to find time for prayer amidst all the important work he was doing to dismantle white supremacy and end the violent oppression there in South Africa. Archbishop Tutu quickly fired back, “How do you think we could do any of this work without prayer and meditation?”

TROUTMAN: I understand the frustration with inaction. Most of us want politicians and leaders to take proactive steps to prevent future tragedies. It enrages us to think that people in power merely pay lip service to the ongoing crisis of mass shootings. Isaiah decried mere thoughts and prayers as “people honoring me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” (Isaiah 29:13)

That said, when I have been at my lowest after the recent mass shootings, prayer has helped. In my grief and worry, anger and frustration, praying to the One who is Love has helped to beat back despair and its weaker cousin, cynicism. When there are no answers, prayer can offer “a peace that surpasses understanding,” (Philippians 4:6).

Despite their frustration with inaction, many people appreciate the prayers of others in times of crisis. It is comforting to know that people care about you. When faced with a serious diagnosis, few people would refuse medical treatment. And many would also request prayer. Action and prayer. Both/and, not either/or.

In the Book of Acts, Paul and Silas prayed after they had been thrown into prison. Suddenly, an earthquake shook the foundation of the prison and all the cells opened! The prisoners were freed! Perhaps many of us want prayer to have that kind of immediate, tangible impact ...

But my experience teaches that there is not a direct relationship between what I pray for and what actually happens. I don't think that means there was something wrong or insufficient with my prayers, such as a lack of faith. I have

noticed, however, that prayer may make a difference over time and the change may occur in me. Gandhi claimed, “If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change.”

Praying for the mourners in Uvalde, Texas and Buffalo, New York, I find that I look with more compassion upon other children at my sons' elementary school and my fellow shoppers at the grocery store. I am less likely to judge by appearance, more likely to smile at a stranger. I pray for the broken-hearted and find my own heart opens a little wider.

Why is providing a public space to lament important for a community?

LEVY: Too often, much of our public outcry in situations of terror and heartache results in what I like to call “sparkler syndrome.” Like a sparkler at a Fourth of July celebration that burns hot, albeit briefly, and then quickly fizzles out, so too does our attention and energy in the wake of another incident of gun violence or another racist murder of a person of color or an unjust war in another part of the world.

But communal lament holds us accountable. It gives our collective grief some staying power that we might hear the cries of our neighbors near and far and be reminded when we are seduced back to our “normal” rhythms and patterns that all is still not as it should be. Public space to lament keeps us focused.

Moreover, communal lament reminds us that we're not alone. Amidst the noise, deflections, and whataboutism from those in power that seek to divide, confuse and stoke fear, public lament in community reveals and reinforces a common people with a common purpose that is able to rise above the noise.

Finally, communal lament points us toward hope. As Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann put it, “Psalms of lament are powerful expressions of the experience of disorientation. They express the pain, grief, dismay and anger that life is not good. They also refuse to settle for things as they are, and so they assert hope.”

Pastors use the Prophet Isaiah's words about ‘beating

swords into plowshares.’ What meaning does that phrase have for you in the wake of another school shooting and so much hate and rage and division?

LEVY: I hope that we use the prophet's words in the same way that Isaiah used them. In the midst of rampant corruption, injustice, and idolatry, Isaiah is pointing to God's promised day in which weapons that destroy communities are transformed into tools to feed and care for community. Notice that it's not just a removal of weapons, but it's a total transformation. That's what Isaiah is inviting people to see and live out: a radical reversioning toward a complete reordering of our common life together — one in which fierce independence is transformed into cooperation, skepticism is transformed into curiosity, idolatry is transformed into sacrifice for the common good, and fear is transformed into love.

In the wake of another school shooting and so much hate, rage, and division, these words name the reality not only of the work to be done with regard to courageous conversations that seek understanding and new ways forward, nurturing relationship, advocating for common-sense legislation, and holding our elected leaders to account, but it also point to where we're headed. It gives us the hope that motivates us to keep working for that day — because we know how the story ends. We have our heading, and it's what's demanded of us as people of faith.

TROUTMAN: In the 8th century, the northern kingdom of Israel was captured by the Assyrians. There were other prophets and pundits who called for military action. They said Judah should arm itself to prevent its own destruction.

Modern politicians and pundits have called for the arming or “hardening” of schools. They claim that more guns, either by teachers or resource officers or both, will prevent future attacks.

Yet, Isaiah offered a radically different vision — transform your weapons into agricultural tools.

I believe that legislation does have a role in preventing mass shootings. We can ban the sale of assault weapons

and enforce background checks before gun purchases. We can restrict the sale of large-capacity magazines that allow rapid spray fire.

It's also the case that the act of transforming weapons into tools for life represents a radical change of values. As I suggested is the case with prayer, both things are true — changing both laws and hearts. Not either/or.

Addressing the “hate and rage and division” in our society, I think much of it is rooted in fear. The opposite of fear is faith. Instead of fearing one another, we can trust others, even if they are different on the outside. This would mean that we would not wish to bear arms against them, but put our arms around them. That self-transformation would be as faithful as turning swords into plowshares.

Why should people attend the June 9 vigil?

TROUTMAN: If prayer can change an individual, does it not follow that people praying together can change a community?

This is why I hope readers will join us at the vigil at Chapel in the Pines on June 9. We do not have to grieve alone. We can come together as people of different races and religions not only to decry what is wrong but also name what is right. The Muslim mystic Rumi said, “Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder.” We come together to hope for a solution and inspire our collective action to make a difference. We pray to act, and we act by coming together to pray.

Prayer may not end mass shootings or war overseas. Yet, prayer may be like the sowing of seed, which in due time, produces a crop yield 30, 60 or even 100 times greater than expected.

LEVY: By June 9, two weeks will have passed from the school shooting at Robb Elementary. We invite the community to attend to let this be a checkpoint on our journey, to not lose sight or momentum in our common work to end gun violence and keep our children and educators safe, and to move forward toward with tangible, results-driven actions with greater clarity and purpose. By God's grace, we can only do it together.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Commissioner Karen Howard addresses the crowd during the Chatham County vigil for recent mass shootings on Sunday in Pittsboro. ‘I am heartbroken to see you all here,’ Howard said.

VIGIL

Continued from page A1

shoes.

“Think about what a 10 year-old's body feels like,” she said, “Their arms wrapped around your neck ... a 10-year-old boy that brings you weeds and thinks they're flowers and you love them anyway ... what a 10-year-old girl's voice sounds like, what she's singing in her room and thinks you can't hear her. I want you to look at these shoes, and the shoes of those teachers who tried to put their bodies in front of them ... there is a mother, not just last week's mother, all the mothers that we have let go home with broken, bat-

At the rate we're going, it's only a matter of time before it's within North Carolina, or it's in one of our schools, shopping malls, or churches or synagogues.

KAREN HOWARD,
Chatham County commissioner

tered children to bury.” Perry concluded the vigil by announcing her intention to create Women Mayors against Gun Violence, which she said would start in North Carolina and then expand nationwide.

“We are here in Pittsboro ready to say no



Staff Photo by Tanner Bubeck

Empty shoes lay in a semi-circle to represent the 19 children and two teachers who were killed in Uvalde, Texas, during the Chatham County vigil for recent mass shootings on Sunday in Pittsboro. The event participants sang songs and read poems to honor the victims of gun violence and call for change.

more,” Perry said. “We are ready to do something, anything, because we are beautiful, peaceful people seeking this Memorial Day weekend to be free of hatred, free of racism, free of all that has kept us apart.”

Howard echoed Perry's sentiments after the vigil. She said she hopes Chatham residents and all Americans can come together to support a change she thinks is long overdue.

“At the rate we're going,

it's only a matter of time before it's within North Carolina, or it's in one of our schools, shopping malls, or churches or synagogues,” Howard said. “As small as we are, there is something we can do, our voices count, and we can reach out to other people and let them hear the pain in us and hope that we can encourage people to say, ‘Not another child.’”

After the vigil, Perry shared how the mass shooting at Robb Elemen-



Staff Photo by Tanner Bubeck

James Vose, center, and his son Waylon Vose (14), right, volunteer to read aloud the list of mass shootings that have occurred in the United States during the Chatham County vigil for recent shootings that took place Sunday in Pittsboro. The long list detailed the places where the shootings occurred and the number of victims.



Staff Photo by Tanner Bubeck

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry advocates for stricter gun control legislation during the Chatham County vigil for recent mass shootings on Sunday. ‘We are here in Pittsboro ready to say no more,’ Perry said.

tary School in Uvalde impacted her, as well as what she plans to do with the Women Mayors against Gun Violence group she's forming.

She said she hopes the anger and sadness Americans are feeling will help spur gun reform.

“This would be another

one of those outreaches that would hopefully keep the momentum going,” Perry said. “I hope people look around at each other and say, ‘Yes, there are many people that don't agree with us, but there's a little nugget in everybody that could agree that we don't need to be here.’”

VIEWPOINTS

Eva and Irma: they believed in their students

We know the names of the two teachers killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, last Tuesday were Eva Mirales and Irma Garcia.

We know that both these women were mothers of small children in that same school. We know that they had more than 40 years of combined teaching experience. We know that both of them loved to cook and dance and hike to scenic overlooks. We know that, on the morning of May 24, Eva and

Irma applauded their students at an end-of-the-year awards ceremony.

We know that Eva and Irma believed each one of their students had a future.

We know these women taught math, science and history. They helped many bilingual students learn to read and love literature. They poured their time and energy into every child in their classroom. They strove to instill integrity, kindness and confidence in their students, lessons that would serve them as long as they lived.

We know that Eva and Irma died trying to save lives of their students.

We all know what it's like to be in elementary school. We have

been in a classroom, and for all the differences in schools and communities across the country, we have flipped open textbooks and counted on our fingers. We have raced around a playground and scarfed down tater-tots in the cafeteria. We have chalked on the blackboard and bubbled in the scantron sheets.

Eva and Irma kept a globe in their classroom, and they encouraged their students to spin it and put a little finger down on a faraway country.

We all know what it is like to dream.

We have all known teachers. We might not have liked particular ones. We might even have given certain ones a hard time.

We never know when our time

will come to an end.

One of my teachers, Brian Doyle, wrote a tribute to the two teachers who died in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Their names were Dawn and Mary. Lauding their courage in confronting that school shooter, Doyle wrote, "There is something in us beyond sense and reason that snarls at death and runs roaring at it to defend children."

We know that Eva and Irma summoned the same snarling, roaring courage. While the police stood outside the building, Eva and Irma confronted the dead-eyed shooter and shielded their students with their bodies.

I would like to think that I would have done the same, but I don't know for sure.

No one knows why 19 children and two teachers were murdered on May 24 at Robb Elementary School. We do not know why this blessed and brutal world is the way it is. Why do innocent people suffer? Why is there disease and famine and violence? Why do the fires of hatred and cruelty rage and burn?

We know Eva and Irma faced the fire on behalf of children. We know they are heroes. May we not forget.

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



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

The urge to return home

We're having baseball games, weddings and graduations. It must be June.

Add to that another feature of the times — church homecoming services — and we'll know for sure we're in the sixth month.

"Homecoming" can mean many things. In autumn, it's that event around a football game, usually against a team the home folks think is a "patsy" so the ol' alums can enjoy a good pasting by the local boys. At other schools, depending on the school, "the boys" may be "the girls," and it may be a volleyball match at another time of the year.

But whatever, the idea is the same: get the old folks back, have a game, or maybe a meal, and throw in a dance if the school administration isn't afraid of a rumble of some sort.

Of course, most of the time, the alums are worn out after the game, and dancing is the last thing on their minds.

That gala event, however, is not the "homecoming" of which I speak and which I have considerable experience as an attendee and a participant — especially with that part still known in many places known as "dinner on the grounds."

Many a good chicken has given his all in the name of fried drumsticks through the years at such events; I'm proud to say I was there for many of them.

It's not, however, the meal that's the only drawing card. It's important and enjoyable, sure. But it is, I believe, that yearning and drawing back to something basic that pulls us to church homecomings.

As a youngster, I knew the fourth Sunday of May — which is almost June — was the annual homecoming at my boyhood church, and as that youngster, I liked part of the day but didn't especially care for other parts. I would tolerate the Sunday morning service, partly because my father "encouraged" me to do so. Later, as I began to think less like a child, I came to listen to what was being said and to glean something meaningful from it.

For a number of years, there would be an afternoon music service, to which my mother always went and to which, until I could drive, she also played the encouraging card. After I got my driving license, I'd slip away, with permission, and my folks would catch a ride home, or I'd come back for them. Then, in time, that afternoon service went the way of all flesh, becoming a precious memory.

I won't lie to you: Lunch was a big deal and always good. There was enough fried chicken, ham biscuits, deviled eggs and potato salad to feed the National Football League. And tomato sandwiches — I always preferred those made the night before with lots of Duke's mayonnaise, wrapped in wax paper and allowed to absorb some of the morning heat. Soggy, but man, were they good.

Ditto for the desserts. Some I didn't recognize and couldn't name, but it didn't matter. My favorite was chocolate something-or-another on top of chocolate stuff with chocolate drizzled on the whole thing. Today, as far as I'm concerned, chocolate remains one of the basic food groups.

And then there was the tea. I will go against all things Southern here and call it "sweet" tea, although anybody worth their salt reared south of Durham knows that's the only kind. What made it so good was it came out of a metal drum with a faucet on it. Folks just came by and poured in what they had made, so the final product might not be something you could duplicate later, but it was more than drinkable. Usually there was homemade lemonade in a metal washtub, as well.

By now as I write this, I'm several things — hungry, thirsty and nostalgic. Which is what homecomings are all about: seeing old friends, making new ones and acknowledging that all of us, if we'll admit, have within us the same thing that makes swallows fly back to Capistrano yearly and compels salmon to leave the ocean, swimming upstream to where they were hatched so they, too, can lay their eggs.

The good news is we can have more than one home as we move through life. I consider myself fortunate to have a couple or so places where I'm accepted and welcomed. I've long ago given up trying to figure it all out, where that all comes from. I'm pretty sure it's part of the Divine that's in us all.

Now I just go and enjoy. May it be so for you, as well.

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.

What's happening in Ukraine hurts us, too, but they're worth supporting

TO THE EDITOR:

Two weeks ago, Chris Mayfield from Pittsboro ("Some questions about our strategy with Ukraine," letters, May 19-25) described well many of the ramifications of Putin's War. In the same edition, Mike Walden ("Do we live in the most uncertain of times?") included the disaster in Ukraine with uncertainties of inflation/recession, work changes triggered by COVID, and Damocles Sword/nuclear war.

We in Siler City are no strangers to ripple effects of a global economy. Before Mountaire, a chicken processing business, spent about \$12 million on renovating the closed Tyson plant based on a business model of shipping Ukrainian corn here to feed the chickens, the Ukrainian "government" of the day slapped a 12% export tax on corn and put him/us out of business. Now much-needed corn and wheat from Ukraine cannot help feed the world because of Russian/Putin blockade of Black Sea shipping. Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabrielius Landsbergis has elicited help from the UK to move ships of grain past the Putin blockade. That is real backbone. Lithuania borders Russia. We should help.

The evaluation of concerns changed with the actual invasion on 24 February. What were legitimate Russian concerns — NATO expansion, control of predominantly Russian-speaking areas, Crimea and Donbas — became opportunities for appeasement. The Bear was rebuilding Stalin's empire by war. Zelensky stayed to fight instead of fleeing to government in exile. He pulled a real Churchill: "We will fight them on the beaches." He rallied all of NATO.

Chris, the strategy of our policy to end Putin's War is to have him "bogged down" and not "backed into a corner." The tactics for doing so are tricky, sometimes subtle, sometimes blunt. Putin must "lose"; he may "save face." Remember, Ukraine surrendered its massive nuclear arsenal because the U.S. and Russia both guaranteed Ukrainian borders and sovereignty.

Internal Russian leadership change may alter the dynamic drastically. Our goal is for commerce to triumph over conflict. Mike Walden, if we successfully negotiate a commercial resolution to Putin's war, even though the Fed was a year late in even talking about raising interest rates, our economy is sound — so long as we maintain the peaceful transfer of power. Add to your list the great transition from fossil fuels to renewables over the next 40 years. Add the improving standard of living that will inevitably accompany falling birth rates in every tribe on our one shared planet.

Meanwhile, even if it hurts for a while, we support the Ukrainians with extra money for a gallon of gasoline. They are fighting Putin's War for us, too. None of us are being shelled, bombed, or drafted. (Get my book "Every War Is An UnCivil War" on Amazon for Kindle/ in Paperback.)

John R. Dykers Jr., MD
Siler City

A behavioral approach to gun violence

TO THE EDITOR:

I am hardly alone in being horrified at the recent massacre in Uvalde, Texas.

Some say that the issue is mental health, that we should look to the finger that pulled the trigger rather than the inert metal trigger itself.

Some say that the issue is guns, that we should reduce access to weapons, especially semi-automatic rifles.

I'd like to humbly propose a both/and approach.

BJ Fogg, a Stanford professor of behavioral design, posits in his Fogg Behavioral Model that Behavior = Motivation + Ability + Prompt. You need all three elements for a behavior, like a mass shooting, to occur. Motivation and ability (how easy it is) need to reach a certain threshold. If motivation is too low, or the task is too hard, nothing happens.

Let's dig into these terms a bit more.

Motivation is the desire to do the action. Confronting the scarcity of mental health services at this time in our nation's history could alleviate suffering and thus make some progress in reducing the motivation to gun violence. Let's fund them.

Ability is how easy it is to do the behavior. It is easier to get a gun than it is to buy a car, get a job, or even enroll your kid in school for kindergarten. Gun control measures like delay to purchase or bans on assault rifles can make it harder without eliminating the right

LETTERS

to bear arms. Let's pass gun control measures.

And, the prompt, well, that's whatever happens that can finally push an assailant over the line. We can't keep someone from, say, getting fired from their job. But, if we can lower both their motivation and their ability, then the prompt (ironically also known as the trigger) is rendered ineffective.

We can reduce mass shootings. Join with me in sharing this both/and approach with our legislators. Adequately fund mental health programs. Pass effective gun control legislation. The road ahead might be hard, but the time to act is now.

Emily Harrison, Ph.D.
Pittsboro

(The writer is the parent of 1st and 3rd graders and a research psychologist.)

Time for state legislators to support Medicaid expansion

TO THE EDITOR:

The North Carolina Assembly has a historic chance to insure 600,000 North Carolinians, and receive \$2 billion in federal funds, simply by voting to expand Medicaid.

As a retired teacher, my heart breaks for students whose families have COVID but can't go to the doctor because they are uninsured. Thirty-nine states, including Republican-led states like Oklahoma, Indiana and Arkansas, have already accepted this offer for the federal government to pay 90% of the cost. Veteran groups, the business community, and 70% of Republicans and Democrats support this. We thank Sen. Valerie Foushee and Rep. Robert Reives II for their support of Medicaid expansion. Now is the time for the North Carolina Assembly to take a simple vote providing health care to over half a million of our fellow citizens.

Lynn Holbein
Pittsboro

Building fortresses ... or not

TO THE EDITOR:

For many politicians and some constituents, the answer for school safety is more armed police and reducing access to schools. If you believe that is the answer then don't go halfway. There is so much more that can be done.

As a two-tour combat veteran, I know that to properly protect your base-camp (school) you need much more than trained armed forces. It starts outside the perimeter (school property). Defensive placement of material to stop intrusion, perimeter fencing, and roving guards would be good (think Supreme Court building). Additionally, "hardened" walls around buildings are critical so if engagement is necessary, inhabitants (children and teachers) can be kept safe while the enemy (an 18-year-old with an assault rifle) is engaged.

Transportation to and from the camp (school) needs protection as well. As the camp becomes better protected, intruders (you know who I mean) will look for other easier opportunities to wreak destruction. You can see where this is going. Do we really want to build fortresses?

Some might say: "Don't be ridiculous!" I say, "The current approach is not working because most of the schools where mass murders took place already had police officers on site!" The military illustration is meant to highlight a logical trajectory of a one-sided solution and to expose our failures. There are many choices and combinations of solutions we could select, but all of them are currently framed by two extremes: guns or no guns.

We need to identify and address the source of the problems. Surely, we can provide for people who want to hunt, sport shoot, or collect guns while recognizing the right to be safe from pursuits outside those desires. Relatively unfettered access to guns or its opposite, no guns, is not the answer. There is a whole lot of space between those two points.

Every problem-solving study has recognized that though problems and solutions seem obvious, they are not. What is obvious is that we are failing. We do not have to accept the unacceptable. We should demand our politicians develop comprehensive plans that are broad enough to support a range of views after the real problems are identified ... or build fortresses.

Choose!

Jim Vanderbeck
Pittsboro

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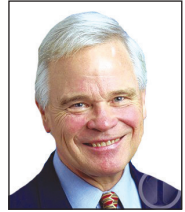
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VIEWPOINTS

Charles Kuralt's lover's Montana land

Would you be interested in a new privately published memoir by a Bozeman Montana lawyer, titled "Tilting at Montana's Windmills for 50 Years"? No? But what if he were my law school



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

classmate? Still, no? But what if I told you my classmate-author had been the lawyer for Charles Kuralt's long-time extramarital lover in her effort, after Kuralt's death, to secure a valuable tract of land in Montana that Kuralt had promised her before he died? Does that get you interested? Kuralt was beloved by people all over the country, but especially in his native North Carolina, for his hu-

man-interest stories on CBS TV's On-the-Road and Sunday Morning programs. His warm, authoritative voice with perfectly pitched rhythms was irresistibly convincing. Kuralt was married for many years to his second wife, Petie, and they lived together in New York City. Only a few people knew about Kuralt's dual life and his long-term friendship and financial support for Patricia Shannon. My Yale Law School classmate, Jim Goetz, is a hero in Montana for his work saving creeks and rivers. In his memoir, Goetz writes that Kuralt, "who fished in Montana, particularly in September, purchased land located on the Big Hole River." Kuralt and Shannon had planned for him to convey this property to her in the fall of 1997 when Kuralt would be in Montana to fish. Earlier, however, Kuralt became very ill, suffering from

lupus. To reassure Shannon about his intention to convey the parcel of Montana land on which she was living, Kuralt wrote the following: "June 18, 1997. Dear Pat - Something is terribly wrong with me and they can't figure out what. After cat-scans and a variety of cardiograms, they agree it's not lung cancer or heart trouble or blood clot. So they're putting me in the hospital today to concentrate on infectious diseases. I am getting worse, barely able to get out of bed, but still have high hopes for recovery... if only I can get a diagnosis! Curiouser and curi- ouser! I'll keep you informed. I'll have the lawyer visit the hospital to be sure you inherit the rest of the place in MT [Montana] cx. if it comes to that. I send love to you ... Hope things are better there! Love, C." Kuralt died in a New York hospital on July 4, 1997, at age 62.

Goetz agreed to represent Shannon. Although it was clear from the handwritten letter that Kuralt intended to give the land to Shannon, Goetz writes that the sole issue is whether the language or the letter "is sufficient to establish Kuralt's intent to devise that property to Shannon." Goetz writes that most of the estate lawyers he talked to thought that the language was "well short" of what is required to constitute a valid will. The judge in the first hearing agreed, ruling against Goetz and Shannon. But after four appeals to the Montana Supreme Court, "the first in 1999, the fourth in 2003," they won. Shannon was awarded the property. Goetz acknowledges, "Although we won, most estate lawyers I've talked to think the result was wrong. Nevertheless, the case is discussed routinely in many courses in law

schools around the country, probably because of Charles Kuralt's celebrity status." Goetz does not have a high opinion of Kuralt. He writes, "My impression, by the way, is that Kuralt, although a very warm public personality, had a dark, depressive streak. Rumor was around Dillon [Montana] that he and Shannon were heavy drinkers." Goetz is a good friend and is entitled to his opinion, but if he ever comes to visit, after I thank him for his fascinating book about lawyering for good causes in Montana, I will remind him that for me and most others in this state, Kuralt will always be one of North Carolina's great heroes.

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

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

Only legislatures can rein in Congress

To paraphrase the old saying, you may not be interested in the federal debt, but the federal debt is interested in you. There's abundant evidence for this proposition across the economy right now as prices continue to soar for food, fuel, housing, and other necessities. Inflation consists of too much money chasing too few goods and services. So President Joe Biden is right to observe that limitations on supply, some originating with the COVID-19 pandemic, are part of the problem. His observation is doing himself no political good, however, because Biden seems unwilling to deregulate key economic sectors or do anything else of consequence to boost the supply of good and services.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Moreover, Biden has taken no responsibility for his role — first as a senator and vice president, and now as president — in causing the first part of the problem, that of too much money, via many years of massive federal deficits financed by the Federal Reserve. In shirking his responsibility, Biden is hardly alone. Federal politicians of both parties share blame for deficit spending. Although they talk a good game about fiscal discipline, they rarely practice it.

State policymakers don't have that luxury. Here in North Carolina, for example, the governor is legally required to submit an operating budget in which expected revenues exceed planned expenditures. The General Assembly, in turn, is legally required to enact such a budget. If during the ensuing year an operating deficit occurs, the governor is further required to close it by tapping reserves or cutting spending.

We voters have often promoted politicians from state to federal office, hoping that they'd retain their commitment to fiscal probity, only to be disappointed with the results. That's because we focused too much on the character of our representatives rather than on the institutions within which they make decisions. We thought leaders would do the right thing even if it wasn't required. We were mistaken.

That's why I've come to believe that the only practical solution to the problem of rampant deficit spending in Washington is something that may seem at first to be wildly impractical: We need to amend the United States Constitution. We need to impose a balanced-budget requirement on Congress and the president, enforceable either by federal courts or state legislatures or both.

It's not a new idea. Activists of various political stripes have proposed balanced-budget amendments to the federal constitution for decades. Indeed, Thomas Jefferson suggested something like it as early as 1798. Not only does almost every American state operate under such a requirement, but a number of European countries have either balanced-budget rules or borrowing caps imposed by law.

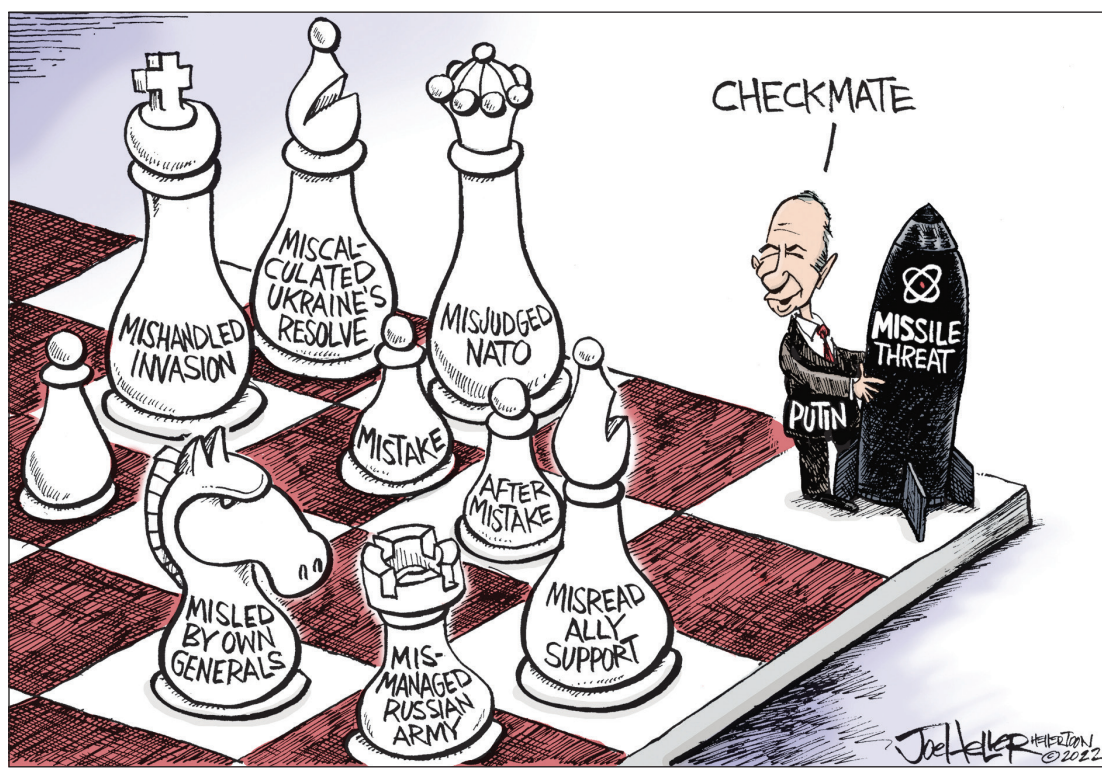
Do politicians find ways to evade such requirements? Of course! That's even happened in North Carolina from time to time, though not lately. But a less-than-perfect rule is better than no rule at all. Moreover, even I think that Washington should be able to borrow to build long-lived assets such as aircraft carriers, or to finance deficits during wars or other national emergencies.

To my way of thinking, then, a federal balanced-budget rule must be carefully designed to keep these reasonable exceptions from destroying the rule. I think state constitutions can serve as a useful guide here. While operating budgets must be balanced, states and localities issue bonds or other debt instruments to build certain capital assets they own. But they can't get away with declaring public-employee salaries or office supplies or grants-in-aid to be "capital" items they can fund with debt.

States aren't just models for reform. They are the places from which reform will have to come. As lawmakers return to Raleigh this month for the General Assembly's 2022 short session, they ought to give Senate Bill 414 a serious look. It would add North Carolina to a multi-state compact. If enough states sign on, that would trigger a constitutional convention to enact a balanced-budget amendment.

It's the only answer. And it's time to stop dodging the question.

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 (MountainFolkBook.com).



If you see something, say something

The first day of class the law professor strode into the room.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

The first thing he did was ask for the name of one student sitting in the front row.

"What's your name?" "My name is Nelson," replied the student. "Get out of my class and never come back," the instructor ordered. Nelson was confused, but he got up quickly, packed up his stuff and hurriedly left the classroom. Everyone else was nonplussed and a bit frightened, but no one said a thing.

"Very good," the teacher said. "Now let's get started. What are laws for?"

The students felt intimidated, but slowly began answering. "To have order in our society," one said. "No," the answer was immediate.

"So that people pay for their actions," another responded. "No! Does anyone know the answer to this question?" he continued.

"For justice to be done," one timid answer came from a young girl. "Finally," the professor applauded. "Justice! But what is justice?"

By now, the students were irritated and confused, but they kept answering.

"To protect the rights of the people," another offered. "OK. But still ..." The teacher wanted more.

"To differentiate good from bad, to reward those who do good," another student offered.

"So, answer this question: Did I act correctly when I kicked Nelson out of class?" the teacher asked. Nobody spoke. The room was

silent. "Speak up. I want a unanimous answer," the instructor bellowed.

"No," they answered in one voice. "Could we say I committed an injustice?" the teacher probed.

"Yes," came back the united response. "So why has nobody done anything about it?" the teacher asked. "Why do we want laws and rules if we don't have the will to practice them? Each of you is obliged to speak up when you witness an injustice. Every single one of you. Don't ever stay quiet again. Now somebody go and get Nelson to return to class. After all, he is the real teacher."

I have paraphrased this narrative that came across my Facebook feed and, trying hard, couldn't find a source for whom to attribute it. At the bottom of the story was the name Doris Carrier, but no proof of her authorship was found; the source, however, isn't as important as the message.

The point of the story is that each of us encounters injustices frequently but too often say or do nothing in response. Not everyone keeps quiet. CNN recently aired a story about James, a Lyft driver in Pennsylvania. He was assigned to pick up a fare and when he arrived, the woman got into the car and immediately made a racially directed remark to him.

James told her to get out of the car, that he didn't have to drive people who were prejudiced. Her husband, not yet in the car, heard the driver and was incensed, threatening him with physical violence or legal action. James boldly told the guy to bring it on. He had the whole interchange filmed on his camera, and he wasn't going to put up with this. His company backed him up, even praised him, for refusing abuse and

speaking against it.

Sadly, the driver's response was uncommon. Why have we become so intimidated, so browbeaten, so threatened that we aren't willing to speak out?

I have a theory. We have been bullied into submission and acquiescence when injustices occur, whether large or small. We have forgotten that this country exists today because colonists spoke up and took action against injustice. We have sent our young to fight wars to right injustices. We have marched and protested against racial, sexual and social injustice. But for some reason we are too timid, too intimidated or too threatened by repercussions to raise our voices.

The oft-spoken piece by Lutheran Pastor Martin Niemoller is a poignant reminder of the results of silence to injustice.

"First, they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out —

Because I was not a Socialist. "Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out —

Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

"Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out —

Because I was not a Jew. "Then they came for me —

and there was no one left to speak for me."

A growing number are voicing concerns about the future of this country. Their warnings are valid. Our way of life, our country, will not stand long if we just watch injustice and do nothing to oppose it. As we've often heard, if you see something, say something.

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.

TRUCKING

Continued from page A1

gov/petroleum/gasdiesel/); it shows average national and regional retail fuel costs per gallon as calculated by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) and is updated each Monday.

Escalating prices mean higher costs, of course, and they're typically passed on by transportation companies to consumers — one of the reasons inflation has reached an all-time high.

About 75% of all consumer goods, at some point between manufacturer and consumer, "are rolled on a truck," Wilson said. High demand and supply chain issues add to the surge, creating what he called "a huge impact" for retail goods and food costs.

"Every which way you look at it, the transportation costs, the shipping



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Jeff Wilson, president of Wilson Brothers Milling and Trucking Co., stands next to one of his company's trucks on Friday. Wilson Brothers drivers put more than 4 million miles on those trucks annually, so increases in fuel prices are something Wilson pays attention to.

costs, have been impacted heavily by all this," he said.

Two years ago, during COVID lockdowns, regular gasoline prices were under \$2/gallon. A year ago, the price jumped up to just below \$3 per gallon. Today? A whopping \$4.59/gallon — according to EIA, the highest inflation-adjusted price since 2012 and the highest all-time price since the agency began providing updates in 1990.

The price increases have been driven by several factors, the EIA says, including the high price of crude oil, the effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and rising U.S. demand, which is outpacing refinery production. And that's not all: European Union leaders agreed Monday to ban most imports of Russian oil; that, and China's tentative lift of COVID-19 shutdowns in Shanghai

will only increase worldwide demand.

Historically, diesel prices have been lower than conventional gas prices, but that's no longer the case. Wilson points to the high demand for diesel related to the construction boom's impact on the economy as a whole as part of the reason. Nationwide, the average diesel price was \$3.24 per gallon one year ago; today, it's around \$5.90 — an 82% jump, despite a slight drop in the last week or two — with some areas of the country seeing diesel prices in excess of \$6/gallon.

That means annual fuel costs at Wilson Brothers may have jumped well in excess of \$1.5 million from last year to this year. And that's not all: Wilson points out that increases in fuel prices means higher expenses in other areas for the company — including tires (which are petro-

leum-based) and parts deliveries. And even though the company purchases diesel fuel in bulk, that doesn't always provide much protection given rapid price fluctuations.

Not an easy journey

If there's a silver lining, though, record inflation and prices mean everyone — including Wilson Brothers' customers — are dealing with the same, or similar, circumstances, he said, meaning everyone's navigating the rough road together.

"I won't say it's anywhere near an easy journey," he said.

And if history is any indicator, Wilson has some insight into what'll happen when fuel prices finally begin to fall: It won't happen quickly.

"It seems that when the fuel price changes, it never rescinds as quickly as it does when it increases," he said.

Farmers keep a close

watch on the weather forecast. In the transportation business, those in Wilson's position must react to price changes and hope — for his sake and his customers' — for the best.

But he won't venture a guess about a solution.

"If I had the answer to that, I probably would be doing something different," he laughed. "Yeah, I don't really have the solution for that. You know, so many commodities, such as fuel and other things ... I mean, they're so volatile. The least interruption and, whatever circumstances there are, whether there's conflict in areas of the world, it has such a quick impact. There has to be some resolution of some of these circumstances we're seeing overseas."

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

PRICE

Continued from page A1

"You can't find a house for sale in Siler City right now, but back when I was first on the board, you couldn't find anybody who wanted to buy a house here," he said. "We (the town) were spending more money than we took in every year, and we corrected that."

Price said he wanted to ensure the town didn't go backward in its progress, which propelled him to seek the position.

"I don't know that I really ever had a burning desire to want to be mayor until probably a year and a half ago," Price said. "All the hard work that the board and all individuals in town had made to get to this point, I just didn't want to see that go back."

In seeking the mayorship, he faced long-time resident Don Matthews and newcomer Nick Gallardo — one of the four "Unity 2022" candidates, each of whom finished last in their respective races — for Siler City's

highest elected office. The nonpartisan election was part of the May 17 primary, which had been rescheduled from last fall because of the delay in Census data and redistricting legal proceedings. Price won 52.3% of the 826 votes cast in the mayoral race, with Matthews receiving 35.2% and Gallardo with 11.7%.

Price's professional career has seen him work in manufacturing for Boling Chair Company, as a manager for Southern States Cooperative and in logistical work at Atlantic Power Solutions.

Joining him on the board will be other winners in Siler City's commissioner board races, including incumbents Cindy Bray and Lewis Fately, along with newcomer Albert Alston. All commissioner races were contested except for Commissioner Norma Boone, who won reelection to her unexpired seat.

What Price envisions now is fulfilling goals he has for the town — economic growth and a better quality of life for current residents.

"We're ready now to start growing," Price said. "We're ready to start recruiting different businesses here, and things of that nature ... I really just want to make sure that we capitalize on the progress we've already made, carry it on into the future and do the things that will benefit the citizens."

One of the things Price wants to accomplish during his first term as mayor is to help finally bring a manufacturing business to the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing site (CAM) in town, which would bring major jobs and investment.

"There's just way too much activity and interest in that," he said. "It's too good of a site for somebody to not have a major interest in and locate some type of manufacturing facility here."

Price said he believes a major manufacturer moving into Siler City may come sooner than people think.

"I don't think it's like years out in the future — I think it's somewhere

close by," he said.

Price is motivated to also ensure the young people in Siler City will have a place to work once they are ready to find full-time work. When he thinks about the future of youth in Siler City, he wants to ensure they have jobs at home and wants to start their own families in Siler City.

"The folks that live here, the young people that live here, will have an opportunity," Price said. "They'll have an opportunity to have a place to live and work and make a decent wage so they can afford to live and buy a house, do whatever they want to be able to afford to do that, and not have to go off to Greensboro, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, all these other places."

Another important issue Price wants to address during his first term as mayor is to create more affordable housing options for Siler City residents. Wallick Communities, an Ohio-based affordable housing developer, is set to build 72 housing units behind

Chatham Hospital for households earning 60% of the Area Median Income and below, but Price said the community will need more options as the county continues to grow.

"The median household income for Chatham County is somewhere around \$70,000, but if you divide the county into east and west along (N.C.) 87, the average yearly household income for the western half of that, it's only right at \$30,000," Price said.

Price said he believes bringing in new businesses will help to raise the wages of residents and bring new people to town, increasing the chances for developing affordable housing and creating more equitable living conditions.

"A rising tide floats all boats," Price said. "When we get a manufacturing facility, we got to have some more affordable housing for people. We got to have places for them to live, so all those things are sort of tied together."

Price said he was excit-

ed to work with the board at a different capacity.

"We're already used to working with each other, and we sort of know where everybody's coming from," Price said. "We all have different ideas, and they're not all the same. But we bring those ideas, and in the end, we come to a consensus or conclusion, and vote on it."

Siler City is ready for an era of growth, security and prosperity, according to Price, and he is ready to get to work on behalf of the town's citizens. Residents know what they're getting with Price, he said, and he hopes his tenure will help Siler City blossom.

"I've lived here 66 years, and everybody knows me — good, bad, indifferent," Price said. "We have positioned ourselves now to be able to start capitalizing on the things we have changed and put into place."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HeedenTaylor.

SAFETY

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County Sheriff's Office since last Tuesday's tragedy.

"Any time there's an incident in a school, we dissect it and make adjustments," Blice said. "We are in the process of evaluating what has happened in Texas as information becomes available."

Blice said there have been no formal adjustments to the policies so far, but conversations with principals and school safety officers have included important "reminders" about the protocols currently in place.

Since he took over the role in 2013, Blice has made several adjustments to school safety policy, including enlisting the help of Risk and Strategic Management Corporation — a Virginia-based company which creates safety plans for institutions and corporations — in providing an updated written safety plan.

"We take this very seriously and we constantly review our plans," Blice said. "Every time something like what happened in Texas happens, we tear our plans apart and make more adjustments."

Blice wouldn't provide details about any adjustments made in the past week or from previous school shootings, but Chatham County Schools issued a statement Wednesday regarding the Uvalde shooting.

"Our hearts go out to all of those grieving the loss of at least 19 students

and two adults following Tuesday's shootings in Uvalde, Texas," the statement said. "Safety is always a priority within our schools. We monitor safety on our grounds through multiple channels. We regularly review our safety protocols, policies and technology, and provide staff training. The most recent review of safety procedures was conducted this fall. The district and the Sheriff's Office have a strong partnership, as well, with the goal of keeping our students and staff safe."

Imperfect Solutions

Blice said the solutions to these safety problems and school shootings are imperfect. In Charlotte, the police department has already advised families to "not be alarmed" due to increased police presence around Charlotte-Mecklenburg elementary schools following the Uvalde shooting. When asked if Chatham County would consider something similar, Blice said that had not yet been discussed, but doing so comes with its own consequences.

"Unfortunately, there is no magic pill to this," Blice said. "If there was, we would already have it all over America. There is not a school district in America that wants this to happen."

The assistant superintendent said CCS continues to pay close attention to school security by consulting experts and community partners. He said even after last week's events, he maintains the belief that schools are the safest place for young

Resources for parents when talking to children about violence

From the National Association of School Psychologists:

Reassure children and make time to talk. Make sure you review safety procedures with them and keep explanations of events developmentally appropriate. High profile acts of violence, particularly in schools, can confuse and frighten children who may feel in danger or worry that their friends or loved ones are at risk. They will look to adults for information and guidance on how to react. Parents and school personnel can help children feel safe by establishing a sense of normalcy and security and talking with them about their fears. For more information visit nasponline.org.

From Common Sense

people to be. Blice said the district hadn't planned to provide information about the Uvalde shooting to students; doing so would be at the discretion of each school's principal. If students do feel traumatized by this event, however, schools do have guidance counselors available.

Providing a safe space after trauma

One person advising guidance counselors on how to communicate with both students and parents after events like this is Dr. Karen Barbee. She runs Clinical Director of Renaissance Wellness Services LLC, which provides outpatient mental health services to Chatham, Or-

ange and Wake counties. Barbee said the best way to talk to young people about traumatic events is to start where they are developmentally. "Traumas like this shooting can sometimes be above a child's understanding depending on their age and development," Barbee said.

She said if students are young and unaware of the events — usually kindergarten through 2nd grade — it may not be best to approach the topic because it can be beyond their comprehension. Teaching them about these events can lead to further trauma if parents aren't careful.

Barbee said if a child is old enough or already knows about the event,

to these adults for information, comfort, and help. There are many common reactions after mass violence. These generally diminish with time, but knowing about them can help you be supportive, both of yourself and your children. For more information, see NCTSN's "Parent Guide for Helping Youth After Mass Violence."

From the American School Counselor Association:

Keep routines in place. Even if kids are anxious or fearful, there's benefit to going to school and maintaining daily activities. Kids gain security from the predictability of routine. The ASCA has also compiled a list of tips and further resources on its website schoolcounselor.org.

it's best to put this in the simplest terms possible.

"Tell your child that unfortunately there are bad people in the world and something bad did happen," Barbee said. "You also want to assure them that they are safe and that the school is doing everything necessary to keep them safe."

She said it's best to think of it like an assurance sandwich — you are safe now, a bad thing happened, but you will continue to be safe — two pieces of support with the bad part in the middle. "You don't want to leave young people in a traumatic state," Barbee said.

As children get older, like middle and high school, Barbee said parents shouldn't tiptoe

around serious issues if their children bring them up.

"Teenagers get it; they don't want to hear sugarcoating, especially when it comes to their safety," Barbee said. "Be open to conversation and allow your child to process this kind of trauma."

She said the most important thing parents can do for their child, regardless of age, is provide a safe space for them to process this difficult situation. For more parent resources about how to talk to children after traumatic events, see this week's edition.

Beyond parents, Barbee said the school needed to take a proactive approach to counseling and mental health services. And the approach needs to serve two-fold: to identify students in need of mental health services, and spot signs of potentially harmful activity.

"The reality is, school shootings are a relatively new phenomenon," Barbee said. "And all the time we are hearing that these kids who become dangerous fly under the radar."

Being proactive, she said, means focusing on more than just students with behavioral problems.

"We need to be covering all the bases through screenings and updated prevention strategies," Barbee said. "We need to be asking ourselves why we are ignoring the signs, and right now I don't have an answer to that."

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

Jennie Kristiansen's pandemic adaptability earns Social Services Director of the Year honor

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Through her 15 years of service in Chatham County Social Services, Jennie Kristiansen, 45, has learned the importance of serving people in need. She said it takes resilience, adaptability and focus.

"It's important to take time to understand the challenges and stressors that individuals and families are facing in their daily lives," Kristiansen said.

Facing those challenges earned Kristiansen the 2022 Director of the Year by the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS). She received the award at the NCACDSS annual direc-

tors' meeting on May 5th in Blowing Rock.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners recognized Kristiansen for this award at its May 16th meeting in Pittsboro.

"We are very proud of Jennie, and she is so deserving of this statewide honor," said Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chair Karen Howard. "Jennie excels in all aspects of the director's role, from employee relations to program knowledge to administrative functions. She approaches all these things with a high degree of integrity and commitment."

As Social Services Director, Kristiansen oversees the work of the department as it relates to economic services and

family services. The economic services program deals with assessing eligibility for federal programs such as Medicaid, child subsidies and workforce services. The family services division deals with child welfare programs and child protective services.

"Jennie manages one of the most complex budgets in the county and annually presents well-justified and thorough requests that forward the mission of the department," said Assistant Chatham County Manager Carolyn Miller. "The budget team routinely uses her budget submissions as examples of excellence for other departments. Jennie led the Department of Social Services through the pandemic by adapting to changing circumstances quickly, with the needs of the clients and the safety and health of employees and clients as a guiding principle."

Kristiansen has served as the director of Chatham County Social Services for eight years. She said she was honored to receive the award but was quick to divert the honor to other members of her team.

"All I can say is that I work with really good people," she told the News + Record. She added she believes her work makes an important impact on the lives of vulnerable populations. "I have been really fortunate



Submitted photo

Chatham County Department of Social Services staff, pictured from left, include Donna Gigowski, economic services program administrator; Cim Brailer, deputy director; Jennie Kristiansen, director; LeAnn McKoy, human services planner & evaluator; and Ben Townsend, fiscal officer.

nate during my time in this role to have had the opportunity to learn from people here locally and at the state level through committee work and related initiatives."

Her committee work includes serving as a member of the Human Services Collaborative Impact Team (CIT), which is a collective of human services departments and agencies that work together to address current and emerging issues that affect the team. She is also the chair of the Community Child Protection Team, a multi-disciplinary team charged with promoting a community-wide approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect.

Through those committees, Kristiansen has developed several initiatives to streamline budget adaptations amid rising needs during the pandemic. She said the pandemic saw needs for social services skyrocket in Chatham County,

especially for Medicaid programs. The growing need led Kristiansen to implement a new initiative to allow more people to remain connected to their doctors.

The updated local Medicaid program also means women are also now able to get Medicaid coverage for 12 months after giving birth and hospitals are able to electronically submit a notification of the new baby so that their coverage is automatic and families don't experience any barriers to accessing medical care during this critical period.

Kristiansen's work is also helping to build out future programming and updated services for the agency. That includes a new Low-Income Water Assistance Program, which assists individuals and families with water and sewer bills. She has also helped establish an expanded foster care program. She said as a former adoption social worker, ensuring Chatham's foster

care was top-notch.

"About half of the children in foster care in Chatham County are living with family or kin and we are working diligently to get families engaged in training and support," she said. She added she wanted to ensure families have the tools needed to care for children who are facing the separation from parents and the trauma associated with it.

Through all of these programs, Kristiansen said she hopes to improve Chatham County's social services and continue to adapt for the changing times.

"This has been really meaningful work for me, personally, as we look toward impacting the health and economic disparities experienced by many people we serve," Kristiansen said.


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



**Siler City Lions Club
-Sponsoring-
BLOOD DRIVE
SAT., June 25th**

**9:00AM to 1:30 PM
Loves Creek Baptist Church
1745 East 11th St.**

It's time to join us again and give the Gift of Life. Easily schedule your appointment on www.redcrossblood.org and get a Quick Pass to save time at the Drive. Please understand that appointments made online have priority.




Pittsboro Street Fair
Saturday, October 29


Seeking Vendors—The Rotary Club of Pittsboro invites you to be a part of one of Pittsboro's biggest & most highly anticipated annual events! Attendees come from miles around to enjoy a day of music, family activities, food, & shopping, so be sure to take advantage of our Early Bird rates & lock in your spot! Whether you're a crafter, independent consultant, an awesome food truck, or offer a valued service, we want YOU to be a part of the festivities!

Apply now: <https://forms.gle/zBzWxJiqdbBRiSeL6>

Interested in knowing more or want to be friends? Follow us on Facebook or join us at a weekly meeting (Wednesday @ noon, Postal Fish)



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Maintaining the well-being of our companion animals

BY BRIANNA DIAZ
Chatham Animal Rescue and Education

Pets of all species are an important part of our lives. As owners, we commit to making their well-being a priority. Proper nutrition is important for pets to have good digestion and prevent illness. As with humans, a balanced diet provides pets with needed nutrients, including proteins, vitamins, and minerals.

Appropriate nutrition for pets varies based on their stage of life as they grow and if they are pregnant or lactating.

As meat eaters, dogs and cats have a high protein requirement. They need key ingredients that are included in prepared foods made specifically for pets rather than table scraps to stay healthy. Table scraps can cause an upset stomach and be life threatening for pets, depending on the ingredients.

Spaying and neutering a pet is another example of preventative care that insures the health and well-being of our pets. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, pets have longer lifespans on aver-

age than those that do not have this surgery and are at a lower risk of disease.

Female pets will be more protected from urinary infections and breast cancer. They will also not go into heat during the breeding season. Male pets will be less likely to develop testicular cancer. Neuter surgeries can also decrease unwanted behavior issues, such as marking and aggressive behaviors. Unneutered males are more likely to travel farther from their home in search of a mate than neutered males. In addition to providing preventative care, pet owners will help reduce unwanted litters and overcrowded animal shelters by spaying and neutering.

These surgeries can be done at a spay and neuter clinics for a lower cost. There are also some low-cost programs that make it more affordable, such as the Lillie's Fund through Chatham Animal Rescue and Education (CARE). It is specific to Chatham County residents, whose total household income is \$40,000 or less. After an application is approved, pet owners receive a voucher that they can use at CARE's participating veterinary partners. This program also includes the cost of vaccines, including rabies and microchipping. CARE is currently offering a "3 for FREE" special through June 30 for up to three female pets in a household to be spayed for free.

CHATHAM IS BOLD!



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OBITUARIES

PAUL BLAND MCCOY



February 18, 1929 ~ May 25, 2022

On Wednesday, May 25, 2022, Paul Bland McCoy, 93, passed away peacefully at home with his wife, granddaughter, Alexandria and great niece, Alena by his side. Paul is survived by his wife of 36 years, Barbara Cotten McCoy; a son, Donald Patrick McCoy and wife Barbara Gray; daughter, Paula McCoy Schaefer; granddaughter, Molly Comins and husband Clayton, granddaugh-

ter Rene Blayton and husband Josh; granddaughter, Savannah Schaefer, granddaughter, Alexandria Hurley; grandson, Ruffin McCoy; and son-in-law, Brian Hurley, five great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Wesley McCoy and Candace Farrar McCoy, sister Hazel McCoy Ferguson, brother John Franklin McCoy, step-daughter, Christine Miller Hurley, and son, Barry Nelson McCoy.

Paul was born in Chatham County on February 18, 1929, and graduated from Moncure High School. He became a respected farmer and was appointed by former Gov. Jim Martin to be a member of the Vocational and Applied Technology Panel representing agriculture. Paul was past president of Chatham County Farm Bureau, former member of the Chatham County Planning board, past chairman of the Chatham County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, former member of N.C. State University Agriculture Foundation and former member of the Chatham County Farmer's Home Administration Committee. Paul was also a member of the Chatham County Agriculture Business Council and State board member of N.C. Farm Bureau. Along with his many agricultural commitments, Paul was a former member of the Board of Directors, First Citizens Bank, Pittsboro, N.C. In 1992, Paul McCoy was the recipient of The Order of The Long Leaf Pine, a prestigious award given by former governor, Jim Martin.

Paul attended Ebenezer United Methodist Church and later in life became a member of Christian Chapel Church. His rich baritone voice will be missed by anyone who heard him sing in the choir or at various events such as weddings or reunions. Many times his wife Barbara would accompany him.

The family visitation will be held at Donaldson's Funeral Home and Crematory, 396 West St., Pittsboro, on Wednesday, June 1, from 5:30-7:30 pm. A celebration of Paul's blessed life will be held at Christian Chapel Christian Church, 3262 Christian Chapel Church Rd., New Hill on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 2 p.m. with a brief interment ceremony in the cemetery. (Due to a road closure, you should follow Highway 42 through Corinth to get to the church.)

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for you to honor Paul's love for his church by donating to Christian Chapel Church Cemetery Fund. Donations can be sent to Christian Chapel Church, c/o B. McCoy, 3557 Pea Ridge Rd, New Hill, NC, 27562.

Sonnet

How do I love thee, Let me count the ways.
I love thee with the breath, Smiles and tears of all my life.
And if God choose, I shall love thee better after death.
Elizabeth Barrett Browning

VERGIE MAE HACKNEY ARRINGTON

May 30, 1936 ~ May 24, 2022

Vergie Mae Hackney Arrington, age 85, of Chapel Hill, died Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC.

Vergie was born in Orange County, N.C., on May 30, 1936, to the late Charlie Hackney and Annie Crabtree Hackney. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Arrington.

Surviving relatives include, two daughters, Lee Ann Churchill and husband Robin of Carrboro, Amy Williams and husband Todd of Pittsboro; six grandchildren, Tori Churchill and husband 1LT Robert Haggerty, Tyler Churchill and wife Catherine, Josh Womble and fiancé Leslie Eades, Jeremy Womble, Blake Schemmer, and Blair Schemmer, and two great-grandchildren, Serene Womble, and Bodhi Womble.

A graveside service was held Friday, May 27, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Westwood Cemetery with Pastor Mark Hall presiding.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Vergie's memory to Lighthouse Baptist Church, 12063 15-501 Highway, North Chapel Hill, N.C. 27517.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Arrington family.

VIRGINIA 'JENNY' CASTEVENS HAYES

September 3, 1944 ~ May 26, 2022

Virginia "Jenny" Castevens Hayes, 77, of Siler City, passed away Thursday, May 26, 2022.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at Pleasant Grove Christian Church, with Pastor Michael Crigler officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Jenny was born in Chatham County on September 3, 1944, the daughter of Morgan and Maudie Brower Castevens. She had been employed by Boling Chair Company. She is preceded in death by her husband, Ralph "Jack" Thomas Hayes Jr.; brothers, Lindo and Paul Castevens; and sisters, Kathleen White, Marie Martin, and Helen Hayes.

Survivors include a daughter, Tammy Light of Siler City; a son, Dale T. Hayes of Bear Creek; brother, Morgan Castevens Jr. of Bonlee; sisters, Ethleen DiGregorio of W. Va., Hazel Johnson of Bonlee; and three grandchildren.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Hayes family.

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

JEAN FOX

Jean Foxx of Siler City departed this life on Saturday, May 28, 2022.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 4, 2022, at First Missionary Baptist Church, Siler City.

Visitation will precede that service from 10:30 to 11 a.m., at the church. Interment will follow the service in the church cemetery.

Survivors include a daughter, Maria F. Spaulding of the home; a son, Charlie Richard Foxx of Raleigh; a sister, Dorothy Price of Newport News, Virginia; and five grandchildren.

Arrangements by Lea Funeral Home, 919-231-1000, leafuneralhome.com.

VERNON CLAYTON MCAULEY JR.

June 28, 1980 ~ May 24, 2022

Vernon Clayton McAuley Jr., 41, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, May 2, 2022, at Cape Fear Valley Medical in Fayetteville, N.C.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

ELWOOD ALONZA MITCHELL

October 12, 1956 ~ May 26, 2022

Elwood Alonza Mitchell, 65, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at Betsy Johnson Hospital in Dunn.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

DONNA LEE RICE

February 2, 1951 ~ May 26, 2022

Donna Lee Rice, 71, of Sanford, passed away, at her home, on Thursday, May 26, 2022.

Donna was the daughter of the late Robert and Marie Fritz, and was also preceded in death by her first husband, Richard Pulito. Donna graduated from Texas Tech University, later working with Belk as the head of visual merchandising.

Donna is survived by her husband, Phillip Rice of Sanford; daughter, Kathryn Pulito of Sanford; son, Michael Pulito of Greensboro; stepson, Bradley Rice of Lubbock, Texas; brother, Robert Fritz of Tennessee, and five grandchildren.

A memorial service for Donna's life will be held on Saturday, June 4, at noon at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

MARY LEE (KELLY) CHALMERS

November 18, 1935 ~ May 26, 2022

Mary Lee Chalmers, 86, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

LINDA CHARLENE TILLOTSON

Linda Charlene Tillotson, 69, of Cameron, passed away Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

The memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 2, 2022, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Rev. Randy Buchanan, Rev. Jerry Holder and Rev. Hilda Rosser officiating.

She was born in Lee County on September 11, 1952, to the late Charles Tillotson and Beatrice Blake Tillotson Stout. Linda attended Sanford Community Church where she was a member.

Linda is survived by her sister Kathy Cameron.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

RONNIE LEE TODD

Ronnie Lee Todd, 75, of Sanford passed away Friday, May 20, 2022, at his home.

The family received friends on Thursday, May 26, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, with interment following at Buffalo Cemetery.

Ronnie worked with Universal Leaf Tobacco Corporation Inc. He was predeceased by his parents, Leon and Ruby Wicker Todd, and his sister, Linda Gualdoni.

He is survived by his wife, Mercedes J. Todd of Mexico and daughter, Crystal T. Littlefield of Johnston County; and his brother, Larry K. Todd of Sanford.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sandhills Antique Farm Equipment Club, P.O. Box 906, Lillington, N.C. 27546.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JOHNNIE MAE GOLDSTON

October 20, 1944 ~ May 21, 2022

Johnnie Mae Goldston, 77, of Siler City passed away Saturday May 21, 2022, at UNC Hospice in Pittsboro.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts and Son.

STEPHEN PATRICK HOLDER

April 8, 1968 - May 25, 2022

Stephen Patrick Holder, 56 of Bunnlevel, died Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill. He was the son of the late Dallas Melvin and Silvia Williford Holder. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Thomas Edward Holder.

A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Grace Independent Baptist Church, with Rev. Darrell Woods officiating.

Surviving is his wife, Stella S. Holder of the home; daughter, Stacey Holder Woods of Bunnlevel, and four grandchildren.

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

County supports water jump exercise with Fort Bragg soldiers

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County emergency responders partnered with several other local agencies to support a jump exercise last Tuesday at Jordan Lake with US Army Special Operations Command 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) of Fort Bragg.

One hundred soldiers loaded onto CASA C-212 aircraft, parachuted into Jordan Lake, and floated until they were "rescued" by local partner agencies. Several crews from water rescue teams awaited the soldiers' arrival in boats, pulled them on board, and delivered them to shore.

The 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) requested Chatham County to support the training exercise, and Chatham County Emergency Management coordinated all public safety participants, including:

- Chatham County

Emergency Management

- Chatham County Emergency Communications
- Chatham County AUXCOMM
- Chatham County Sheriff's Office
- North Chatham Fire Department
- South Orange Rescue Squad
- First Health of the Carolinas

The purpose of the exercise is for soldiers to build proficiency jumping into different environments, while local agencies gain water rescue experience.

"A water jump aims to allow units to validate safety training when jumping in an environment where water is present. Specifically deep water, there is always a potential for change in winds that can place you in water," said MAJ Bradford Long, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) Commander. "The average jumper has heavy equipment and a

heavy parachute and are not used to swimming in those conditions — this exercise allows units to practice safety measures in a safe, controlled environment to execute their training."

"The military is the only group that local agencies can train with on such a large scale, in these types of dynamic environments, and under real-world conditions," said Chatham County Emergency Management Director Steve Newton. "Public safety agencies respond to incidents on Jordan Lake and our rivers, especially during the summer months. The jump exercise is critical for different agencies to practice coordination, communications, and rescues on the water which we could neither emulate on land nor safely do with traditional volunteers as victims."

Newton added that he hopes to continue receiving requests to support these and other future



Courtesy of 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) Public Affairs Office

A scene from a jump exercise at Jordan Lake last Tuesday, which included Chatham County emergency responders and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) of Fort Bragg.

training missions.

More information about Chatham County Emergency Management and Chatham County Emergency Operations can be found on the County website. More information about the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade can be found on the US Army Special Operations Command website.

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Health board honors Fulton-Black as Employee of the Year, Hispanic Liaison as Community Partner of the Year

From Chatham County Board of Health

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Health announced its award winners for 2022 during its regular board meeting on May 23, recognizing individuals and groups that played a significant role in the Chatham County community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in advancing public health.

Dr. Karen Barbee, the board's chairperson, presented the awards.

Maia Fulton-Black, the department's population health data scientist, was recognized as the department's Employee of the Year. Fulton-Black started with the department in the fall of 2020 in a new position designed to provide insight and guidance into public health response from data analysis, but her biggest task of the last year is the soon-to-be-completed Community Assessment process. Fulton-Black's nomination letter noted leadership and dedication in that process. Colleagues also praised her as easy to work with and skilled at her job.

The nomination form for Fulton-Black stated: "Maia has promoted our mission to build a healthy Chatham County through community partnerships and a commitment to equity by providing invaluable expertise on population level data, leading innovative approaches to community assessment survey design, advocating for data-driven decision making, and through her drive to meaningful-



Courtesy of the Chatham County Public Health Department

COVID-19 Project Manager Will Mendoza, left, and Executive Director Ilana Dubester, center, received the 2021-22 Community Partner of the Year Award from the Chatham County Board of Health on May 23. The award was presented by Board of Health Chairperson Dr. Karen Barbee, right.

ly center equity in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs, policies, and initiatives."

The Hispanic Liaison/El Vínculo Hispano, a nonprofit based in Siler City serving Chatham's immigrant population, was named the department's Community Partner of the Year. Founded in 1995 by current executive director Ilana Dubester, the Hispanic Liaison has been a key partner in the response to COVID-19, particularly among Chatham County's sizable Hispanic community, hosting COVID-19 vaccination events, Facebook Live videos to educate the community, and recently hiring four "lay health advisors" to conduct on-the-ground outreach.

"The Hispanic Liaison's established role as a trustworthy source of information, resources, and support for the Hispanic-Latinx community

in Chatham County has been critical during the COVID-19 pandemic," the nomination form for the Hispanic Liaison stated. "The increase we've seen in vaccination rates among the Hispanic/Latinx population in Chatham would not have been nearly as successful without the partnership of the health department and the Hispanic Liaison."

Among other efforts, the Liaison partnered with the health department to put on several COVID-19 vaccination drives at St. Julia Catholic Church, which saw 280 first doses of vaccine administered in the first clinic in March of 2021. They've also partnered with Greensboro-based medical provider Better Care to hold Sunday vaccination clinics in more remote areas of Chatham County to increase access, as well as a COVID-19 Health Fair last summer in which



Courtesy of the Chatham County Public Health Department

Maia Fulton-Black, right, receives the 2021-22 Chatham County Board of Health Employee of the Year award from Dr. Karen Barbee, chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Health, last Monday in Pittsboro.

more than 300 people received the shot at the fair, plus its accompanying follow-up clinic.

In December, the partial vaccination rate among the county's Hispanic population pulled ahead of that of Chatham's non-Hispanic population after months of trailing other demographic groups by double-digit percentage points — a feat Public Health Director Mike Zelek at the time attributed to the "hard work of community organizations like Hispanic Liaison and our staff who carried our critical efforts to make the vaccine accessible and share reliable information."

"We at the Hispanic Liaison feel very honored by this award, humbled by the fact that our work is recognized by the

Health Department, and even more energized to continue with our work in the counties we serve," Will Mendoza, the Liaison's COVID-19 Project Manager, told the News + Record. "On behalf of our team I want to thank the many partners, volunteers, and community members who have supported us in this effort to help our LatinX community. Also, I want to acknowledge that the Chatham County (Public) Health Department has been nothing but stellar in their effort to provide culturally appropriate support to our community, and look forward to the future collaborations."

Barbee congratulated the award recipients and said they "exemplify what the Chatham County Public Health Depart-

'We are so grateful to all of our staff and community partners for the amazing work they have done over the past year.'

MIKE ZELEK, public health director

ment stands for."

"It was a pleasure to award this year's Chatham County Board of Health Community Partner and Employee of the Year recipients," she said. "Our community partner, the Hispanic Liaison, worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to increase the vaccination status of the Hispanic/Latinx community in Chatham, thus protecting their health and safety. Our Employee of the Year, Maia Fulton-Black adjusted her approaches to collecting data for the Chatham County Community Assessment, which is already a challenging task to undergo pre-pandemic, and was even more successful."

"We are so grateful to all of our staff and community partners for the amazing work they have done over the past year," Zelek added. "Both Maia and the Hispanic Liaison are very deserving of this recognition."

To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

Reporter Victoria Johnson contributed to this report

How Should You Respond to a Bear Market?

So far, 2022 has not been a good year for investors. In fact, we're moving into bear market territory. What should you know about bear markets? And how should you respond?

To begin with, a bear market occurs when a stock market index, such as the S&P 500, falls at least 20% from its most recent high point. You might think this type of drop is rare, but that's not actually the case. Historically, bear markets have occurred every few years and are a normal feature of the investment landscape. We experienced a bear market fairly recently, from mid-February 2020 through late March of that same year.

What causes bear markets? Each one is different, but the current one is largely the result of several factors, including high inflation, rising interest rates, the war in Ukraine and global supply chain problems.

When will the financial markets again start moving in a positive direction? No one can say for sure, but in any case, it's not really a good idea to make investment decisions based on what may happen next in the financial markets. Instead, consider these moves:

- **Be patient.** It can be challenging to look at your investment statements during these days. But you'll help yourself by taking a long-term view. Consider this: From March 2009 until the end of 2021, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained more than 460%. So, if you've been investing for a while, compare where you are now to where you were 10 or 12 years ago.

You've probably made pretty good progress over this time — and 10 years from now, the current downturn may not look like such a big event, either.

- **Review your risk tolerance.** If you're having a hard time coping with investment losses — even if they're just "paper losses"

for now — you may want to review your tolerance for risk and see if it's still the same as it was when you began investing. Even without a bear market, people's risk tolerance can change, especially as they approach retirement.

- **Review your goals.** A bear market is not meaningless, but by itself, it shouldn't cause you to change your long-term goals. And if your goals haven't changed, neither should your investment strategy.

- **Look for buying opportunities.** During a down market, you can find quality investments at attractive prices. So, you could take this opportunity to fill gaps in your portfolio or add shares of investments that you already own and that you believe have good prospects for growth.

- **Get some help.** When trying to navigate a lengthy market downturn, it can be useful to get some support and guidance. Consider this: Among investors who work with a financial advisor, 84% said that doing so gave them a greater sense of comfort about their finances during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey conducted in 2020 by Age Wave and Edward Jones. And getting professional help may provide the same type of reassurance during the current market turmoil.

A bear market is never enjoyable. But taking the long view and making moves appropriate for your needs can help you get through this period and look ahead to better days.

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

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J-M honors top student artists at 2022 JMArts Awards Night

From JMArts

SILER CITY — More than a dozen Jordan-Matthews High School musicians, actors and visual artists were honored for their outstanding work during J-M Awards Night, an annual ceremony held May 23 to honor top students across many disciplines.

JMArts Scholar Emma Wieber was named the 2022 Outstanding Graduate in Band. The trombonist, who also plays French horn, was honored for her leadership in instrumental music — as drum major and an outstanding performer in band and jazz. She even made a successful transition to vocal music this spring, performing as Aunt Eller in J-M's production of "Oklahoma!" Wieber plans to enroll this fall at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

JMArts Scholar Laci Burt and Wilson Ramos Meza were both named 2022 Outstanding Graduates in Theater and plan to enroll this fall at UNC Greensboro. Burt most recently appeared at J-M as Ado Annie in "Oklahoma!" and Jack's Mother in "Into the Woods," and performed at Temple Theatre this past December in its Mainstage production of "A Christmas Carol." Ramos Meza performed as Jud Fry this semester in "Oklahoma!" and as Wolf in "Into the Woods." Both were honored not only for their outstanding performances, but for their leadership within the acting company and setting a high standard and positive example for underclassmen as theater returned after the two-year pandemic hiatus.

Cody Decausemaker was named the 2022 Outstanding Graduate in Visual Art, having demonstrated a passion for improving his artistic skill and delving deeper into styles of art that are not necessarily his first choice. Art teacher Marcus Lawson said Decausemaker was one of J-M's selections for this year's Chatham All-County Arts Day and successfully diversified from his love of drawing to explore acrylic painting, spray painting, apoxie clay sculptures and even photography. Decausemaker plans to begin his career after graduation.

Courtney Nicole Shackelford was named the 2022 Outstanding Graduate in Vocal Music for demonstrating an immense amount of growth as a leader and a vocalist. She is one of the founding members of The Golden Tones, J-M's new a cappella choir, and has performed with several vocal music ensemble and as Laurey earlier this spring in JM's production of "Oklahoma!" Choral Director Elliott Peterson said, "Shackelford goes above and beyond to be a positive and welcoming member of her ensembles, whether she's helping a classmate with sight-singing or offering words of encouragement."

She plans to enroll this fall at UNC Charlotte. Because of circumstances related to the pandemic and enrollment, the award for Outstanding Graduate in Jazz was not presented this year.

Other awards recognized outstanding students early in their high school studies who have already demonstrat-

ed significant artistic potential.

Callie Fogleman, a freshman, received the 2022 Young Actor Award for her outstanding work as Vivian in J-M's spring production of "Oklahoma!" The Dual Language student also studied this semester in JMArts' after-school Spring Theater Workshop.

Sheccid Rangel Garcia and Yazmin Lopez-Muñoz, both freshmen selected this semester to participate in Chatham's All-County Art Day, shared the 2022 Young Artist Award. Art teacher Marcus Lawson said both are amazing artists who showed leadership and dedication to their work.

Aidee Davalos-Orozco, a sophomore and flautist, received the 2022 Young Instrumentalist Award for her inspiring work and perseverance while developing her musicianship.

Taylor Matthews, a freshman, received the 2022 Young Vocalist Award. Choral Director Elliott Peterson credited her soulful voice, positive attitude, leadership and willingness to meet any challenge.

Also honored during the ceremony were seven recently announced JMArts Scholars, each one earning a scholarship for intensive arts study over the summer — most at a weeklong, residential workshop offered on a university campus. They are Victoria Barlow, Clara Rojas, David Tabon, Buck Thornton, Audrey Ureña Secena, Karsyn Vann and Traycey Wall.

More information about JMArts — including details about awards, JMArts Scholars and upcoming events — is available at jmarts.org.

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LOST - FOUND

FOUND - One bag that was bought at Southern States and lost in front of my house. You know where you lost it - come and get it! If anyone knows this person, tell him. Jn2,1tp

FOR SALE

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

GARAGE SALE, June 11, 8a.m. to 2 p.m., Electronics, tools and other household goods. 1010 Candlewood Circle, Siler City. Jn2,9,2tp

YARD SALE, Saturday, June 4 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4215 Alston Bridge Rd, Siler City with lots of stuff: Household, clothes, shoes, etc. Jn2,1tp

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, Appliances (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

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HELP WANTED

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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

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LEGALS

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 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 Suess, 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 Executrix 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 My12,My19,M26,Jn2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-244

All persons having claims against **DOUGLAS JOHN SEDLAK**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of May, 2022. Drew-Anne Carson Sedlak, Administrator c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 My19,My26,Jn2,Jn9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 227

All persons having claims against **GREGORY ALEXANDER HUBBARD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of May, 2022. Alicia Hubbard, Administrator 263 Clover Thatch Pittsboro, NC 27312 My19,M26,Jn2,Jn9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 294

All persons having claims against **ROBERT EDWARD JACKSON JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of May, 2022. Judith Ann Jackson, Executrix 126 Ellis Creek Dr Pittsboro, NC 27312 My19,M26,Jn2,Jn9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 267

All persons having claims against **JOANNE SROCYNSKI**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of May, 2022. Harold Sroczynski, Executor 1714 Mitchells Chapel Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 My19,M26,Jn2,Jn9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 274

All persons having claims against **THOMAS MARTIN JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of May, 2022. Cornelia Doretha Martin, Executrix 198 Chatham Business Drive, Apt. 101 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My19,M26,Jn2,Jn9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

File No: 22-E-199 ON ESTATE OF: Donna Marie Peoples **NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PROCESS BY PUBLICATION** ALL persons, firms and corporations having claims against **DONNA MARIE PEOPLES**, deceased are notified to exhibit them to Tiera Sellars, c/o Kenneth M. Johnson, P.A. 701 E. Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27401, Administrator for decedent's Estate, on or before the 19th day of August, 2022, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator. This 19th day of May, 2022. Tiera Sellars, Administrator c/o Kenneth M. Johnson 701 E Market Street Greensboro, NC 27401 Kenneth M. Johnson Attorney at Law

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 248

All persons having claims against **MARVIN W. HEDGEPEETH aka MARVIN WILLIAM HEDGEPEETH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of May, 2022. Michelle Hedgepeth-Smith, Executrix 1208 Chowan Ave. Durham, NC 27713 My19,M26,Jn2,Jn9,4tp

PUBLIC NOTICE

The tentative budget meeting for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 for The Goldston Gulf Sanitary District was presented to the Goldston Gulf Sanitary District Board on April 12, 2022 and is available for public inspection at the Goldston Gulf Sanitary District, JR Moore and Son Store located in Gulf and/or the Goldston Public Library. A public hearing will be held at 6:00pm on June 7, 2022 at the Goldston Town Hall Building in Goldston, NC at which time any persons who wish to be heard on the budget may appear. Danny Scott, Treasurer Board of Directors My26,Jn2,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Tatiana Beane, having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of **DONALD LEWIS BEANE, JR.**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on May 17, 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 24, 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 17th day of May 2022. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandevver, 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. Vandevver, Attorney of Record 101 Conner Drive, Suite 402 Chapel Hill, NC, 27514 My26,Jn2,Jn9,Jn16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 277

All persons having claims against **ANNIE KATHERINE NETTLES**, 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. John Norris Nettles, Administrator 94 Horace Goldston Rd Siler City, NC 27344 M26,Jn2,Jn9,Jn16,4tp



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Investigation into election-related text messages still ongoing; officials say there are no updates

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — An ongoing investigation into disturbing text messages sent to former political candidates in Chatham County has been handed off to the Siler City Police Department, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Patrick Gannon, the public information director for the State Board of Elections, told the News + Record that the SCPD is working to investigate further messages and images sent to Chatham County Commissioner candidate Rev. Dr. Albert Reddick and Siler City Mayoral candidate Nick Gallardo.

“The State Board of Elections is aware of the status of the investigation and will continue to monitor the situation and assist as necessary,” Gannon said. “Federal authorities, including the FBI, are also aware of these incidents.”

Reddick went to the SCPD, the state’s board of elections and the FBI to report a series of messages he received, which included a text with an image of what Reddick says is a gorilla in a noose. Gallardo said he received similar messages and said his family and friends had been the target of several abhorrent text messages and various types of harassment.

Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner has told the News + Record there are no updates on the investigation. He

previously said the digital communication to and regarding Reddick contained “nothing criminal — no threats. Some troubling statements, yes, but nothing criminal.”

Wagner said he understood some information had been gained in tracking the source of the text messages, but declined to comment further.

And one of the photos in question he was shown — the one Reddick claims showing a noose — could be a mannequin.

“You don’t see a noose, you don’t see skin color,” he said. “You can’t see anything from the shoulders up. We have no idea where this picture is from. There’s nothing in the photo that would lead to a criminal case.”

Wagner said a second photo in question shows Reddick “sitting on a porch.”

Reddick contacted the state board of elections and the board reached out to the FBI, according to Wagner.

“We’ve had conversations with the agent who has responded,” Wagner said, declining to provide any additional information., and previously said there were no updates on the investigation in a text message to the News + Record last week.

Reddick said he was concerned with how the police department responded to his complaint, as well as how other organizations in the county have responded to the messages he received.

“We’re not satisfied with the Siler City Police Department investigation,” he said.

Reddick said he has a number of questions for the police department, as well as other organizations in the county which were made aware of the messages he received.

One question Reddick has arose from an incident at the apartment complex where he works as site manager. A tenant’s Life Alert went off and instead of giving law enforcement the address to the apartment unit, the device sent first responders to the renter’s office where Reddick works, and they decided to try to break into the office, according to Reddick.

“They were attempting to break into the entrance to the office that I was in as opposed to coming into the office and asking the site manager because the site manager has a master key,” he said. “That level of inadequacy gave me great concerns about the attention to this report.”

Reddick also wasn’t satisfied with the response he got from the East Chatham Branch of the NAACP about the text messages. He said he believes the NAACP didn’t take his complaint seriously enough, especially given the organization recently held a remembrance ceremony in partnership with the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham to honor the lynching victims in Chatham County.

“They just had a celebration, celebrating lynching

of an African American in Chatham County, but here’s one being threatened [to be lynched] and running for office, and they never responded,” Reddick said. “So that’s troubling to me.”

Reddick also said he saw members of the NAACP in Chatham handing out information promoting local candidates, which he said was against the organization’s policy. He would not say which candidate the NAACP was promoting. Chatham Community NAACP President Mary Nettles said some of the organization’s members may have been campaigning through other organizations to which they belong.

Reddick said he was also worried when he was unable to reach Wagner, the police chief, between May 12 and May 17, and he also said “some members of the media” could not contact Wagner during the five day period. (The News + Record reached out to Wagner on May 14 by text message and received a phone call back on the same day.)

At the end of the day, Reddick said he wants the public to know what’s going on in the investigation and hopes he can get the answers he is looking for.

“It appears to me they said to put it (the investigation) off until after the election,” he said. “The public has a right to know.”

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

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Chatham Board of Elections certifies primary results

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Elections’ post-election “canvass” process didn’t see any changes to the outcomes of Chatham County’s 2022 primary elections, held on May 17, according to Chatham County Board of Elections Director Pandora Paschal.

The board met at 11 a.m. Friday inside the county elections office in Pittsboro to certify the primary and municipal election results after reviewing all provisional votes and absentee ballots the day before.

“Now, we did have some provisionals that

were counted and also some supplemental absentee ballots. ... And then we added those vote totals to the final count, and then the election was made official at canvass on Friday,” Paschal told the News + Record. “ ... It didn’t affect the outcome of the election, or make anybody close to getting a recount or anything like that.”

Following every election, county election officials must, by law, hold a “canvass” meeting to compile and certify election results from all precincts, after carrying out several “audits” designed to ensure the integrity of all votes.

“Basically, what it’s about is it’s finalizing the

election from the time polls close on Election Day — that is the unofficial results that you get on Election Night,” Paschal said. “And then that means that we’re still waiting to do the provisionals, we’re waiting on the supplemental absentees to come in and also we’re auditing the precincts to make sure that the total ballots cast equal the total amount of people that have voted.”

For more information, including board meeting times, visit the Chatham County Board of Elections’ website at bit.ly/3abAJ3Q.

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

NEWS BRIEF

Siler City’s Bray Park aquatic facility now open

SILER CITY — Bray Park’s aquatic facility opened for the 2022 season on Saturday and will operate through Labor Day weekend.

The pool is open from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. weekdays through June 8 and from Aug. 29 to Sept. 5, and from noon to 6 p.m. weekdays during the rest of the summer.

Saturday and Sunday hours are noon to 6 p.m.

Open swim general admission includes a \$5 entry fee for ages 3 and over. Children 2 and under are free and senior citizens receive a

50% discounted rate.

“Two-Fifty Tuesdays” are being offered again this season where patrons may enjoy the pool each Tuesday at a discounted rate of \$2.50. Due to increased attendance on Tuesdays, Daycares and Camps will not be scheduled during open swim general admission.

Pool furniture will be available with sanitation stations located on the pool deck for patrons to utilize. Outside furniture is not permitted.

Daycares and camps should contact Carolina Pool Management to schedule swim times at the facility prior to attending. To register for swim

lessons, purchase season passes, rent the pool for a pool party or inquire about lifeguard job opportunities, please contact Carolina Pool Management at 336-854-8884.

The Bray Park Aquatic Facility features exceptional amenities including a swimming pool, bathroom, splashpad and two picnic shelters. The facility is located at 700 Alston Bridge Rd.

For pool rules, restrictions or more information, visit the Town of Siler City website at www.silercity.org or contact the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at recreation@silercity.org or call 919-742-2699.

CHURCH NEWS

HICKORY MT. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Annual Homecoming Services will be held on Sunday, June 5, at Hick-

ory 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.

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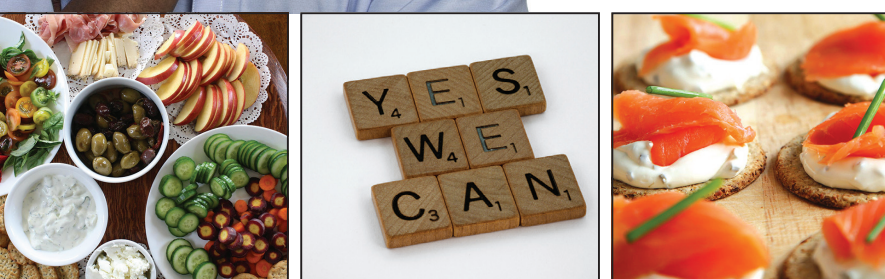


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Murder victim identified as U.S. Army veteran missing since 1976

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

PITTSBORO — An ongoing partnership between the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Unidentified Project, and Othram Inc., has led to the successful identification of a victim from a 46-year-old murder case.

In March of 1976, Chatham County deputies opened a homicide investigation after the body of an unidentified man was found in Moncure. Early investigation into the case was hampered by a lack of basic information or viable clues, but with advancements in forensic DNA testing, members of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office remained open to new methods and opportunities to identify the deceased.

Sheriff's Office Investigator Ricky Culberson eventually connected with the N.C. Unidentified Project, an initiative co-founded by Dr. Ann Ross (a board certified Forensic Anthropologist and director of the N.C. Human Identification & Forensics Analysis Lab at N.C. State) and Leslie Kaufman (a forensic genealogist with First Genes and member of the Carolinas Cold Case Coalition) in 2020 to raise and provide funding or assistance with unidentified person cases. Forensic testing can quickly drain the resources of any law enforcement agency, so the N.C. Unidentified Project obtained a small grant to begin funding DNA extraction and analysis on behalf of participating agencies.

The project worked with Othram Inc. to employ Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing to build a genealogical



Courtesy of the Brooks Family

Photo of Jimmy Mack Brooks

profile from skeletal remains. Ultimately, a DNA link to the 1976 case led investigators to a family member of the victim who identified the deceased subject as Jimmy Mack Brooks. Brooks, an unmarried Army veteran, was only 26 years old when he was killed.

"It is bittersweet to be able to share this information with his loved ones who never stopped looking for him," says Lieutenant Sara Pack of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. "Although his identity has finally been revealed, there are many more questions to be answered. We will continue to seek justice for Jimmy and his family."

"I have worked on criminal cases all over the state, but cases involving unidentified bodies really speak to my heart," explains Kaufman. "These men and women deserve to have their names known and their stories told... That's what drives me to do what I do."

Jimmy Mack Brooks is the seventh victim so far to be positively identified by the N.C. Unidentified Project as well as the second Chatham County victim to be identified by the group using advanced DNA technology;

in April, the Sheriff's Office revealed the previously unknown identity of another homicide victim, Alexander "Alex" Wirtz Jr., who was reported missing out of Baltimore, Maryland, in December 1978.

"Identifying these victims has given us a new launch point and fresh leads to follow," said Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson. "We are endlessly grateful for all of the hard work and partnerships that led to these amazing revelations. We are hopeful that such technology will lead to similar breakthroughs in other unsolved cases."

"Leslie [Kaufman] and Dr. Ann Ross of the NC Unidentified Project are providing an incredible service to law enforcement agencies and families of victims throughout the state. They are brilliant at what they do, and we are excited to continue partnering with them in the future," Pack said. "We are also deeply appreciative of the support we have received from the NCSBI Cold Case Investigation Team, Othram Inc., and the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Without their assistance, none of this would be possible."

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office is now asking other members of the public to share what they know regarding the life and death of Jimmy Mack Brooks. Investigators say a single small detail could potentially lead to the next big leap in the case. Anyone with information pertaining to events or circumstances leading to the disappearance and murder of Jimmy Mack Brooks is asked to call the Chatham County Sheriff's Office at 919-542-2911.

Chatham Park developers propose soccer complex, Miracle League field

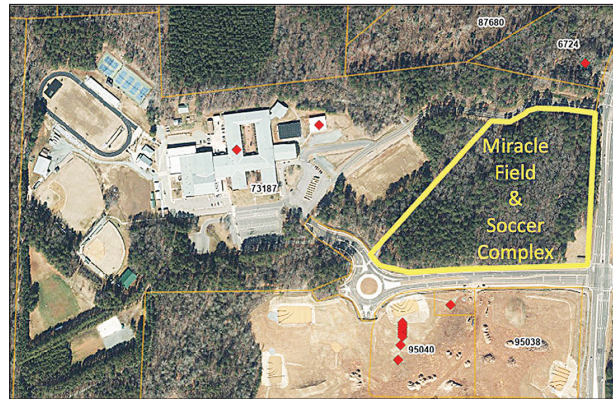
BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham Park's developers are in talks with Chatham County Schools to create a space where all county children, regardless of disabilities, can participate in physical and recreational activities.

Preston Development has approached CCS administrative staff with sketches for proposed soccer fields and a Miracle League field — a baseball diamond designed for all children, including those with physical disabilities, to play with their peers — according to Vanessa Jenkins, executive vice president at Preston Development.

The fields would be located on Chatham Park property in front of Northwood High School, adjacent to a formerly wooded area that has been cleared for Lowes Foods and Zaxby's. Jenkins stressed, though, that the development isn't specifically for Chatham Park — it would be a product of a proposed partnership between Chatham County Parks & Recreation, Chatham Park and CCS for school-aged children across the county to use.

The fields are currently in the designing stage and have yet to be approved by any county, municipal or school administrative body, according to Jenkins;



From Chatham Park presentation

An aerial view of the proposed recreational complex adjacent to Northwood High School (upper left) and the parcel of Chatham Park property that will include Lowes Foods and a Zaxby's restaurant (bottom right).

talks between Chatham Park and CCS's administration are underway, she said.

"We just wanted to make sure the board knew what the administrative staff was discussing with us, and to make sure that the board either said, 'No, stop, we're not interested,' or 'Yes, go forward and bring us back a full blown proposal,'" Jenkins said. "That kind of spiraled into (people saying) 'Oh, they're taking over and cutting down trees.'"

Nancy Wykle, the school system's public information officer, confirmed no trees had been cut down on the property belonging to CCS. The only trees that have been felled are near the Northwood sign, which is next to the land where a Lowes Foods grocery store and Zaxby's restaurant will be built.

"We're still in the process of working with them to figure out the fields," Wykle said. "It's probably premature to say it's an absolute 'yes' or 'no.'"

CCS owns the property in front of Northwood School Road and Charger Boulevard, which is why Chatham Park developers approached the administrative staff with plans. Jenkins plans to approach county staff about the project once CCS signs off with its approval.

"The only thing we have are just sketches of how and what could potentially fit on the property," Jenkins said. "This is a good thing for the community."

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



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WOODS CHARTER 6, PERQUIMANS 0

'I'm so happy': 5 years after school's best finish, Wolves are semifinals bound

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

CARY — In 2017, a scrappy, high-scoring women's soccer team from Chapel Hill was on a quest to shock the state.

That year, the Woods Charter Wolves — led by the NCHSAA leader in career goals scored, Isabel Pearce — were 6-4-1 on April 17 with six regular-season games left on the schedule.

They finished the season at 16-5-1, having rattled off 10 straight wins, including seven shut outs, to make the program's first-ever state semifinals appearance as a No. 10 seed.

Prior to falling to top-seeded Franklin Academy, 3-0, in the East Regional, the Wolves had posted a clean sheet in every game that postseason, winning all four playoff matches by a

combined score of 26-0.

"You think of this little high school that has like 200 or so students and you think of all the 1A schools in North Carolina and how we were in the top four of all of those schools," Pearce told the News + Record last year, reminiscing on her time with the Wolves for who she's now an assistant coach. "It was really nice to see all of my teammates be super happy just to make it that far, especially with a limited amount of players."

Five years later, the Wolves find themselves in a similar position: deep in the postseason, posting shut out after shut out, with one game standing in between them and a state title berth.

And it still hasn't sunk in. "I'm so happy about it because I've always wanted to go — and, hopefully, we do

— to the state finals," Leyla Noronha, the Wolves' leading scorer, said after their win over Perquimans in the 1A state quarterfinals last Thursday. "And I've been just thinking about how (Isabel) Pearce went to the semifinals and they were the first team in (school) history to do it. Nobody else had done that, but now we're doing it, so I'm just super, super excited."

Noronha was one of five Wolves to put the ball into the net in No. 1 Woods Charter's 6-0 blowout win over the No. 4 Perquimans Pirates at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary last Thursday.

Having not scored in the Wolves' third-round win over the No. 8 Voyager Academy Vikings on May 23, she said she was determined to get back on

See **WOODS**, page B2



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Woods Charter women's soccer team celebrates with a group hug after sophomore Caroline Mitchell scored one of her two goals in the Wolves' 6-0 win over the Perquimans Pirates in the 4th round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs last Thursday in Cary. The Wolves are undefeated on the season at 18-0-2.



Photo courtesy of N.C. State Athletics

N.C. State outfielder Carson Shaner walks down the first base line on her way to the outfield in the Wolfpack's 12-4 loss to Delaware on Feb. 26. Shaner was 'in complete shock and honor' to be voted team captain for the 2021-22 season.

Northwood legend Carson Shaner sunsets softball career at N.C. State as leadership, home runs fuel legacy

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — Carson Shaner could have called it quits.

Nobody would have blamed her. In late March, N.C. State was sitting at 19-10 on the season and 2-7 in the Atlantic Coast Conference, good for last in the ACC softball standings.

The Wolfpack had just suffered six straight conference losses in two series sweeps to then-No. 13 Duke and unranked Virginia.

She could have called it a career, riding off into the red-, white- and black-themed sunset as the ACC's

2022 home run leader, refusing to risk further injury to her broken hand.

But — as anyone that knows her would tell you — quitting isn't in her DNA.

"I was just pushing through," Shaner told the News + Record ahead of the Wolfpack's first-round ACC Tournament game against Georgia Tech on May 11. "I was like, 'It's not going to feel good,' but I just wanted to be back for my team and finish my career how I want to finish it."

Her refusal to give up and willingness to make sacrifices for the greater good of the team — including the health of her hand — are just a couple

of reasons why Shaner's presence has been invaluable to the Wolfpack during her three seasons in Raleigh.

But it started well before then, during her time 30 miles down the road in Pittsboro, the town in which her last name is synonymous with athletic greatness.

Cementing a legacy

At Northwood High School, the surname "Shaner" is akin to athletic royalty, thanks in part to Carson Shaner's grandfather, John R. "Jack" Shaner, Northwood's first-ever football

See **SHANER**, page B4

I'm sorry, Caniacs. I (kind of) hate it had to end this way.



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

Well, that didn't quite pan out like I assumed it would.

I guess what they say is true — trends and streaks really are meant to be bucked, snapped and broken.

I was fully prepared to come in here this week with my head held high and accept defeat, using clichés like "We'll get y'all next time" and "Maybe it just wasn't our year" to hide my frustration with the fact that the Carolina Hurricanes eliminated my New York Rangers for the second time in three seasons. And by all accounts, that's what was supposed to happen.

That's what the scriptwriters had in mind.

The Rangers were down 2-0 in the series with things flipping back to New York for Game 3 on May 22. They'd scored just a single goal in seven periods (counting overtime) of playoff hockey, an abysmal offensive performance that left them in a hole against the East's No. 2 seed.

I knew, however, that the Rangers had a great shot at evening the series. In fact, I was certain of it.

If this postseason taught us anything, it's that the Hurricanes were ferocious on their home ice in Raleigh, but middling on the road.

Prior to Monday's Game 7 of this series, the Canes were 7-0 at home and 0-6 on the road, marking the first time in NHL history that a team's first 13 playoff games were all won by the home team.

But as I mentioned, all streaks are made to be broken.

The Rangers tied up the series, 2-2, after two dominant wins at Madison Square Garden, 3-1 on May 22 and 4-1 on May 24.

So the trend continued. Carolina, naturally, mopped up New York with a 3-1 win last Thursday in its return to PNC Arena, then immediately suffered a 5-2 thumping at the hands of Filip Chytil and the Rangers in Game 6 last Saturday to force the all-important clinching Game 7.

Both teams played a seven-game series in the opening round, meaning they were familiar with the territory. And with the Rangers needing to hand the Hurricanes their first home loss since April 14 to advance, I'd be lying if I said I was confident.

I was petrified. That is, until 3 minutes, 40 seconds into the game, when defenseman Adam Fox banged in an early power-play goal to give the Rangers a 1-0 lead with ease.

Then, my nervousness morphed into coolheadedness a little over four minutes later when fan-favorite

See **COLUMN**, page B4

'YOU BECAME A POWERHOUSE'

Seaforth celebrates inaugural season with end-of-year awards banquet

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Jason Amy, the athletic director at Seaforth High School, took the stage in front of a jam-packed auditorium of athletes, coaches and proud parents and made his way to the podium.

"We've accomplished goals, developed teamwork

and created the Hawks Nation, a foundation for future athletes and parents to follow," he said into the microphone. "This year, I'm blown away by how well Seaforth Athletics did, not just the fact that we're beating teams and winning conferences, but that you guys are 9th and 10th graders."

Amy is often grinning from ear-to-ear when

speaking, a hard-to-miss characteristic of his infectious personality, one that — along with assistance from passionate parents and other staff members — helped cultivate an exciting atmosphere around Pittsboro's newest high school.

His speech, which was short and sweet, acted as the opening for Seaforth's first-ever End of Year Athlet-

ic Banquet last Wednesday, a night meant to celebrate the school's inaugural athletic year.

As has been the case with many of Seaforth's firsts this year, it surely wasn't your typical athletic banquet.

The event featured a pre-celebration that included live music, mocktails and

See **SEAFORTH**, page B3

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

For the second week in a row, it's all about Woods Charter. This week, the only scheduled events are two of the top-seeded Wolves' women's soccer games, including their 1A state semifinals game against No. 7 Hobbton at 6 p.m. on Tuesday (which starts after the News + Record goes to press) and, if they win, the NCHSAA 1A State Champion-

ship Game on Saturday against either unbeaten No. 1 Union Academy or No. 3 Christ the King. By this time next week, Chatham County may have another state champion — we'll just have to wait and see. Keep an eye on our website for updated results. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, June 1

No events scheduled.

Thursday, June 2
No events scheduled.

Friday, June 3
No events scheduled.

Saturday, May 7
Soccer: (1) Woods Charter women vs. TBA (NCHSAA 1A State Championship, taking place at Wake Med Soccer Park in Cary; depending on Tuesday's results against No. 7 Hobbton in

semifinals), time TBA

LAST WEEK

Monday, May 23
Soccer: The No. 1 Woods Charter women earned a shutout win over the No. 8 Voyager Academy Vikings, 4-0, in the 3rd round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Scoring for the Wolves were junior Chloe Richard (3 goals) and junior Lucy Miller (1 goal).

Tuesday, May 24
No events scheduled.

Wednesday, May 25
No events scheduled.

Thursday, May 26
Soccer: The No. 1 Woods Charter women dominated the No. 4 Perquimans Pirates, 6-0, in the 4th round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Scoring for the Wolves in the win were sophomore Caroline Mitchell (2 goals), soph-

omore Leyla Noronha (1 goal), junior Lucy Miller (1 goal), sophomore Taylor Young (1 goal) and junior Megan Nowak (1 goal).

Friday, May 27
No events scheduled.

Saturday, May 28
No events scheduled.

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



Photos courtesy of UNC Athletics

Throwin' for the Champs

Former Northwood Charger and two-time school Pitcher of the Year Davis Palermo, now a relief pitcher for the UNC Tar Heels, saw action in Carolina's 9-4 win over N.C. State in the ACC title game in Charlotte last Sunday. Palermo pitched 0.1 innings and recorded the final out of the game to seal the Heels' 8th ACC championship. At left, Palermo prepares a pitch in the 9th inning of UNC's 10-4 victory over Florida State on May 20. He's pitched 50.1 innings for the Diamond Heels this year, recording an ERA of 2.50 to go along with a 2-1 record, 5 saves and 64 strikeouts. At right, UNC sophomore Davis Palermo hurls a pitch toward the mound in the Heels' close 7-5 win over Florida State on May 19. Palermo threw 2.0 innings for Carolina in the victory, earning the win and striking out three batters in the process.

WOODS

Continued from page B1

the board against the Pirates — and she did, with the help of a little motivation from her coaches.

"I made a bet with one of the coaches, because my left foot's not my strongest," Noronha said, smiling. "But then I scored with my left, I slotted it to the corner, so every time I score with my left foot, it feels really good. ... I kind of loved it."

Woods Charter's 6-goal victory punched the team's second-ever ticket to the state semifinals, where it'll face the No. 7 Hobbton Wildcats (19-1-2) back at WakeMed Soccer Park on Tuesday evening (after the News + Record goes to press).

While its season has had a much different feel than it did in 2017 — with this year's squad rolling through the regular season with an unbeaten record to claim the program's first No. 1 seed — the similarities remain, namely in its defensive genius.

Through three games this postseason, Woods Charter has outscored its opponents by a combined 15-0 score, thriving in the business of limiting offensive opportunities and keeping them away from the net entirely.

In those three contests, totaling 240 minutes of game time, the Wolves have allowed just four shots on goal, including two shots against the Pirates.

Woods Charter's mindset: you can't score if you can't shoot.

"We dominated possession," Graeme Stewart, the Wolves' longtime head coach, said after the fourth-round victory. "I think they maybe had two shots (tonight), but positionally, they didn't have much at all. That's because we were working so hard off the ball and our shape was good."

At this point, Stewart and the Wolves have become somewhat of a broken record.

In every game this postseason, Woods Charter has been consistent in doing just that: dominating possession, winning nearly every 50-50 ball and pelting its opponent's goalkeeper with shots until they finally start falling. It's like clockwork.

"We've got good momentum and the girls love being with each other," Stewart said. "We're a decent team right now. The girls are confident and they're playing for each other. And that's one of the things we've talked about, 'You play for yourself and you play for each other.' Everything's positive, there's no negative,



Staff photo by Simon Barbare

Woods Charter sophomore Caroline Mitchell (13) prepares to fire a shot in the Wolves' 6-0 victory over the Perquimans Pirates in the 4th round of the 1A state playoffs last Thursday. Mitchell scored two goals in the win, her third multi-goal game of the season.

no blame. And we just work. Talent plus hard work, that's what we do."

The Pirates (10-5-2), despite their hard-fought run to the state quarterfinals, weren't built for a team like the Wolves.

In total, Perquimans brought just 14 players on its 158-mile trip from Hertford to Cary, allowing for very few substitutions for rest and injuries. And it showed.

All game long, Woods Charter did its best to simply wear Perquimans out, battling for every loose ball, refusing to give up open passing lanes and meeting the Pirates at the point of attack.

More importantly, though, the Wolves flourished in doing one thing the Pirates couldn't: moving the ball.

It didn't matter which of Woods Charter's star players had the ball, they were almost always looking for the chance to dump it off for a better shot elsewhere.

"I think it really just starts with knowing how to move the ball, we know how to move it back and forth really well," Caroline Mitchell, the Wolves' sophomore midfielder, said after the win. "I think we know how to switch fields really well, too, and that throws them off each time."

Early in the first half, the Wolves made a point to spread the ball out wide, typically sending it to the right side of the pitch as they brought the ball up. There, sophomore Cate Czyzewski was usually waiting for the pass so she could sprint toward the corner, search for a crossing pass opportunity and set up a potential goal.

WakeMed's Field No. 2 — host of the Pirates-Wolves matchup, acting as Woods Charter's home field — is FIFA international regulation size (120 yards by 75 yards), much wider than many schools, including Woods Charter, are used to.

The field's size allowed the Wolves to play their game, using their conditioning and sharp passing ability to their advantage as the Pirates struggled to keep up.

"You can play as wide as you can on our home field (in Chapel Hill), but it's not this, so the first 15-20 minutes, we had to get used to it," Stewart said. "The angles are different, the spacing is different. ... (Getting the ball outside) is what you should be doing on any field if you can do it, but on a big field like this, you have to do that."

"You need to move them around, you need to test their shape," he added. "If they don't move, then that's where the space is. If they do, then they've got to be fit enough to do it for 80 minutes. ... What we've worked on in practice is exactly that, using the width. And you could see that today."

As special as the Wolves' defense has been this season, it's offense continues to click at an otherworldly level.

In each game this postseason, Woods Charter has had a different leading scorer, including Noronha (3 goals; hat trick) in the second round and junior Chloe Richard (3 goals; hat trick) in the third round.

But last Thursday, Mitchell posted her first multi-goal game since April 26 with a 2-goal performance against the Pirates, scoring both in the game's first 30 minutes.



Staff photo by Simon Barbare

Woods Charter sophomore Leyla Noronha (in green) fights for possession with Perquimans freshman Anna Fisher in the Wolves' 6-0 win over the Pirates in the 4th round of the 1A state playoffs last Thursday in Cary. Noronha was one of five goal-scorers for the Wolves on the night.

She opened the scoring in the 20th minute when — after the Wolves had been peppering shots near the Pirates' goal for much of the first half — junior Lucy Miller delivered a textbook leading pass to Mitchell toward the left side of the goal, who went one-on-one with the goalkeeper and slotted an undeterred shot directly into the center-left portion of the net for the 1-0 lead.

"I saw Lucy coming with the ball and it was just an absolutely great pass," Mitchell explained with a laugh. "And I just shot it from there."

Then, 10 minutes later, Mitchell was in position again when the ball ricocheted off of Pirates freshman goalkeeper Mariah Clark, who dove for the save, and landed right in front of her, allowing Mitchell to tap it in for her second goal of the night.

With the Wolves nursing a 2-0 advantage and plenty of confidence, they scored again in the 35th minute when sophomore Taylor Young knocked it into the net on another rebound chance for her third goal of the season.

"We work a lot on finishing and it's not just about one player when you're playing against us," Stewart said. "You've got to earn the right against all of our players. ... We've got that good balance."

In the 52nd minute, the Wolves were awarded a corner kick to the right side in which, after being inbounded by Richard, the ball came soaring back to her wide open in the corner.

That allowed her to reset, survey the field and send another pass flying toward Miller in the penalty area, which she belted into net's left corner to give Woods Charter a 4-0 lead with 28 minutes to play.

The final two goals would come from Wolves junior Megan Nowak — who scored on a penalty kick following a foul on the Pirates that knocked Mitchell to the ground — in the 59th minute and Noronha's left-footed knock in the 65th minute that sealed the 6-goal victory.

If it makes it to the title game on Saturday, Woods Charter's final three games will have been played at WakeMed Soccer Park, giving them a distinct advantage against Hobbton and whichever team makes it out of the 1A West (either unbeaten No. 1 Union Academy or No. 3 Christ the King).

That's just one more reason why the Stewart and the Wolves feel confident they can finish what the 2017 team started.

"We're used to (this field) now, so whoever we play on Tuesday, they've got to get used to it, too," Stewart said. "We've got great structure and the kids know what they're trying to do, they know the plan. And they're playing for each other. There are no cliques, there's no nothing, they just play for each other."

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SEAFORTH

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catered hors d'oeuvres for athletes and parents in the school's courtyard with decorations galore and plenty opportunities for photos.

About an hour later, the award ceremony began with guest speaker Coleman Scott, head coach of UNC Wrestling, and a performance by the Bouncing Bulldogs, a Triangle-based jump rope club that specializes in dropping jaws and earning applause.

But the focus, of course, remained on the athletes, the coaches and every person who helped make Seaforth's inaugural year a resounding success.

"Today, we build a legacy of appreciation of the value of being on a team," Amy said in his speech. "You guys got together, created a team and then became more than a team, you became a powerhouse. You guys are out there doing things that surprise everybody."

While there weren't any awards given out to athletes specifically — a process that would have taken much longer than the couple of hours allotted for the night's festivities with coaches representing 27 teams in attendance — there were a few handed out to some of the athletic department's most crucial behind-the-scenes individuals.

- They included:
- **Robert Eanes and Kim Brower:** Outstanding Service Awards
 - **Nicole Stevenson:** Social Media Award
 - **Amber Brown:** Junior Hawk of the Year
 - **Brandon O'Neill:** Hawks Nation Award

While the Bouncing Bulldogs were surely there to entertain, Scott's purpose was to lend some of his expertise — both as a four-time All-American wrestler at Oklahoma State and Olympic bronze medalist — to the student-athletes, telling them how to best prepare for college, stay on track and unlock both their athletic

and academic potential. "Everybody in this room's got a strong work ethic, right? But what does it take? What does it take to achieve your goals for what you want to do, what you want to be?" Scott asked, rhetorically. "At 10 years old, I knew what my goal was, it was to be an Olympic champ. I came up a little bit short, but I lay my head on my pillow every night knowing I gave it everything I had."

"Once you make a decision on what you want to do," Scott continued, "ask yourself, 'How am I going to get there?' There are a lot of parents and coaches in this room, lean on those people."

Amy also called every Seaforth coach in attendance up to the stage at once and, one-by-one, allowed them to say a few words about their players and seasons, many of which rattled off all-conference names, team records, most-improved players and even told stories about their favorite moments from the year.

After the ceremony, each athlete received a packet with an 'S' patch that could be placed on a letterman jacket alongside certain pins associated with the sport they competed in.

It was a night not only meant for mingling and handing out awards, but also reflecting on everything the Hawks had accomplished in their first year as an athletic program.

When most of the crowd had left, Amy sat down in a booth inside of the school's cafeteria with a look of relief on his face, seemingly a year in the making.

"Everybody's been great, everybody's been excited to start their own program," Amy told the News + Record. "It's been a real joy."

On April 28, 2021, the News + Record published that Amy would be leaving his decade-and-a-half-long post at Northwood High School to become the AD at Seaforth.

Despite what it looked

Seaforth by the numbers

- 21:** varsity sports offered
- 223:** rostered athletes
- 54:** team captains
- 90:** all-conference selections
- 7:** conference championship teams
- 11:** Conference Player of the Year awards
- 6:** Conference Coach of the Year awards
- 40:** state qualifiers
- 6:** state placers

like on award night, Seaforth didn't always look so put together.

At one point, it was defined by rooms full of boxes, halls full of construction equipment — still a staple northeast of the main building, where a multipurpose storage facility is being built — and staff members frantically working to get everything ready for the school year.

When asked a year later if he was ever nervous about whether or not his vision would come to fruition, Amy answered with a story.

"One of the pictures I had (in the slide show) was a picture of me in my beach chair in my office with boxes and I think I had my laptop on the box," he explained. "And I started laughing because I was sitting there thinking, 'I left a great school, I left all of these great people, and here I am sitting in this room with my beach chair and boxes.'"

"Then, all of a sudden, the teams started forming and coming together and then we're seeing the first-ever win for a program," he continued. "Every single program won at least one game and that shows a lot for the kids and their commitment. This year was kind



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Athletes rush toward tables stationed outside of Seaforth's auditorium to pick up their packets with letterman jacket patches and pins inside during the Hawks' end-of-year athletic banquet last Wednesday.

of a blur, but ultimately, I think it was a really successful year."

Amy is quick to thank those working around him, including O'Neill, who was instrumental in starting the program's booster club, Hawks Nation, along with making seasonal program "yearbooks" on the level of college or pro sports teams.

For a school that competed on the varsity level in just about every sport with only freshmen and sophomores on its rosters, the success Seaforth saw in its first year was unprecedented.

During his speech, Amy read off some of the more impressive statistics from the program's first year: the Hawks competed in 21 varsity sports, had 223 total rostered athletes, 90 all-conference selections and seven teams that won conference championships.

He said that when he took the reins, he refused to be anything but competitive.

"I'm very competitive, so I told people right out of the gate that I wanted to go varsity in everything and they said, 'They're going up against 17-18-year-olds, bigger kids, so I don't know if you can do that,'" Amy said. "I said that I think we can because I know the kind of area that we're in and I know these kids. ... And the results speak for them-

selves."

From here, Amy said he expects his student-athletes to build off of their experience in the Hawks' inaugural season and has high hopes for every athletic program in the building, even those that only won a few games this year.

He all but guaranteed that a state championship (or two) is coming. He just doesn't know when.

"Every single person here has worked probably triple time trying to get these results, so it's not been an easy process by any means," Amy said. "Everybody told me, 'Well, you've got to give it about three years and then you're going to start getting good,' but we did it in one year, we're pretty good. That's been our concept from day one is we've just kind of taken everything here and made our own identity. ... And, hopefully, we're looking toward that state championship."

Here's the full list of Seaforth's spring award winners:

- Women's Soccer**
- **Most Valuable Player:** Caitlin Erman
 - **Most Improved Player:** Morgan York
 - **The Rock Award:** Jadah Carroll

- Men's Golf**
- **Most Valuable Player:** Griffin Ching

- **Coaches Award:** Gray Stewart

- Men's Track & Field**
- **Rising Hawk Award:** Wyatt Parker
 - **Most Valuable Player:** Jack Anstrom
 - **Exemplar Hawk:** Walter Entrekin

- Women's Track & Field**
- **Rising Hawk Award:** Charlie Ann George
 - **Most Valuable Player:** Gabrielle White
 - **Exemplar Hawk:** Claire Morgan

- J.V. Softball**
- **Hawks Standout Player:** Addison Clarke

- Baseball**
- **Most Valuable Player:** Dane O'Neill
 - **Iron Hawk:** Anders Johansson
 - **Hawks Circle:** Makaio Stephenson

- Men's Lacrosse**
- **Most Valuable Player:** Layne Armstrong
 - **Offensive Player of the Year:** Ethan Hughes
 - **Defensive Player of the Year:** John "Ethan" Becker

- Men's Tennis**
- **Most Valuable Player:** Walker Magrinat
 - **Coach's Award:** Felton Burleigh and Logan Ching

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N.C. State power hitter Carson Shaner (1) prepares to take a pitch in the Wolfpack's 5-2 win over Fairfield on Feb. 18. Shaner, the team's second-leading home run hitter on the season, rocketed a 3-run, walk-off homer in the 7th inning to lift the Wolfpack past the Stags.

Photo courtesy of N.C. State Athletics

SHANER

Continued from page B1

head coach from 1970-74, who served another stint as the Chargers' head man from 1978-81.

Carson's parents, John and Natalie Shaner, each had their own athletic careers at Northwood in the 1980s, with John being a three-sport athlete in football, basketball and baseball, while Natalie was a cheerleader.

When Carson was around 3 years old, she said her dad put a bat in her hands for the first time, discovering she was a lefty just like him.

From there, she was destined to create her own legacy.

She did just that.

However, it took work to become a Division I softball player — and lots of it.

In middle school, Carson said she was one of the smallest players on her team.

"I really just didn't have much power," she said, a statement that would soon be light years away from the truth.

When she got to high school, Carson said she joined a travel softball team out of Burlington called the NC Thunder, which was led by Head Coach Dave Wilkinson, who lit a fire underneath her.

"He was like, 'Look, if you want to compete at any college level, you've got to get serious. You've got to get serious into lifting, hitting extra, doing all of these things,'" Carson said.

He referred her to Carolina Acceleration, a Greensboro-based training program, where she began doing strength and conditioning training, including running on the treadmill, powerlifting, throwing, hitting and everything else under the sun to boost not only her softball technique, but her physicality and strength, too.

It didn't take long before she began seeing results.

"I just started to see a lot of growth in my game; in all aspects of the game, actually," Carson said. "And after I started lifting and getting really serious with that side of the game, I started to see power, started getting

more doubles and hitting home runs and I even had a better arm in the outfield."

In a couple of short years, Carson went from what she deemed the smallest player on her middle school team to a dangerous power hitter, paving the way for her historic career with the Chargers.

She collected 103 hits and 98 RBIs in four varsity seasons at Northwood as one of the best offensive players in program history. She still holds the school record for most career home runs (16) and single-season records for home runs (8), hits (42), triples (11), RBIs (47) and batting average (.609), all of which came in her senior season in 2017.

Her individual success also translated to team success, with the Chargers posting a 74-18 record during her time at Northwood, which included four playoff berths and third-round appearance as the No. 2 seed in 2016.

But as great as it felt for her to win games on the field as a Charger, her favorite memories come from those she formed relationships with off of it.

"I was able to play softball and basketball at Northwood, which was really awesome, and I had some great teammates on both teams," Carson said. "I just built some really cool relationships that are still going to this day. ... Some of my favorite memories were winning (conference) championships and having great playoff runs, but honestly, just those relationships I built and those forever friendships were my favorite parts about high school."

Carson made her college decision well before her breakout senior season, committing to UNC-Wilmington her sophomore year — despite strong pushes from UNC-Pembroke, where her dad played college baseball, and UNC-Greensboro — where she'd spend the first two years of her collegiate career as a Seahawk.

In 61 career games with UNC-Wilmington during the 2018 and 2019 seasons, Carson collected 29 hits, 28 RBIs, four doubles and seven home runs,



N.C. State outfielder Carson Shaner (in black) darts toward first base after making contact with a pitch in the Wolfpack's 5-2 win over the Fairfield Stags on Feb. 18.

Photo courtesy of N.C. State Athletics

including her first college homer that came in the form of a grand slam against East Carolina on March 13, 2018.

After two seasons, however, she decided it was time for a change, citing a desire to be closer to home where she'd be able to see her family and friends in the stands of most, if not all, of her home games.

Enter Head Coach Jennifer Patrick-Swift and the Wolfpack.

"When I went into the transfer portal, Coach Patrick(-Swift) contacted me pretty quickly, so we talked on the phone and we wanted to talk in person," Carson explained. "As soon as I got (to Raleigh), I was like, 'Wow, this is exactly what I'm looking for.' A family environment close to home that competes at a high level. I just knew this was the place I wanted to be."

From then on, Carson would leave her mark on Dail Stadium and her teammates and coaches as a player with tons of on-field skill and a boatload of leadership qualities off of it.

She'd almost instantly become a leader of the Pack.

Leading the Pack

Carson underwent surgery for her broken hand — an injury she sustained during a game against Virginia on March 20 when a pitch connected with the outside portion of her right hand — on March 22.

She was back swinging a bat less than five days

later.

Then, in the third of a three-game set against Louisville on April 3, she made her return from injury — just 12 days after her surgery.

If that doesn't tell you all you need to know about Carson, then what will?

"I was leading the conference in home runs at the time, and it would have been the easy decision to go out on a high note, where everybody remembers what I did, but that's not how I want to be remembered," she said. "I was voted the captain and I wanted to be back and lead my team, help them in all aspects of the game."

The Wolfpack's coaching staff doesn't typically name a formal team captain for each season. Instead, they have the players rank each of their teammates in five categories: family first, self second; grit; pride; strength and excellence.

And when the votes were tallied for the 2021-22 season, Carson was ranked at the top of just about every category by her teammates. Her coaches, who said they agreed with her teammates' assessment of her, then chose to name her the official 2021-22 team captain, a decision that she said caught her off guard.

"I was honestly just in complete shock and honor. We never have captains, but I was honored with the opportunity," Carson said. "I was just thankful that not only did my coaches believe in me

to hold that standard, but so did my teammates."

In three seasons with the Wolfpack — including the COVID-19-shortened season in 2020 — Carson grew by leaps and bounds in terms of leadership and on-field production, seeing her numbers jump dramatically from her junior year to her first year as a graduate student.

In 2020, Carson played 21 of the Wolfpack's 25 games, collecting 10 hits and 10 RBIs to go along with five home runs in a season in which N.C. State could have competed for the ACC title had the coronavirus pandemic not prematurely ended the season.

But in her final season, Carson played 47 games — nearly the same number as her junior and senior seasons combined — and racked up 26 hits, 22 RBIs, four doubles and 11 home runs, a number that left her tied for 15th in the ACC and second on her team behind redshirt junior Logan Morris (14).

It was a season that came to an end in the first round of the ACC Tournament to Georgia Tech, 4-2, with the Wolfpack finishing last in the ACC with an overall record of 33-23 (7-17 in conference).

It wasn't the ideal way to end Carson's career with N.C. State, but it hardly taints her journey, her accolades and her accomplishments over the last decade as a Charger, a Seahawk and member of the Wolfpack.

"I think just wearing 'Wolfpack' or 'N.C. State'

or anything like that across your chest is a privilege and an honor," Carson said when asked about her time at N.C. State. "And even stepping on the field in front of the fans, looking up and seeing my whole family there, who has been watching me compete for the last 18-19 years that I've played, has been really special and I'm really going to miss that."

Carson will be sticking around Raleigh for the time being to finish up her master's degree in the Parks, Recreation, Tourism (PRT) and Sport Management graduate program at N.C. State. She received her undergraduate degree in Sport Management with a minor in Sports Science in May 2021.

And she hasn't ruled out the idea of getting a coaching job once she graduates, an interest fueled by her leadership qualities, knowledge of the game and work she's done with the Northwood baseball team on which her brother, junior Jackson Shaner, is an important member.

Last summer, she helped Northwood Head Coach David Miller coach the Chargers' American Legion summer league team, working with the hitters. She said she hopes that her summer coaching contributed even a little to Northwood's postseason success this past season, when the Chargers made it to the third round of the playoffs.

"I would definitely be interested in (coaching) because I just love working with young kids since I know that they have a lot of the same resources that I did," Carson said. "I want to be able to give back not only to my community in Pittsboro and my high school, but just the softball and baseball community because they can achieve those goals and those dreams they have just like I did."

"I was a little tiny girl from Pittsboro and I was able to do it," she continued with a laugh, "so I just want to help these kids achieve their goals, as well."

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COLUMN

Continued from page B1

winger Chris Kreider — who had just one goal in the first six games of the series — scored from point-blank range to not only give New York a 2-0 lead, but give him his 15th-career goal in an elimination game, putting him one shy of the all-time record.

Rangers were on cruise control as they scored four more goals, allowing just two late in the third period to secure the 6-2 win and succeed in the impossible by knocking off the Canes at home.

It was a game undoubtedly impacted by the losses of Canes forward Seth Jarvis and goalie Antti Raanta in the first and second periods, respectfully, but one in which New York controlled the

whole way.

For the second straight series, the Rangers had come back from a massive series deficit — including a 3-1 disadvantage against the Pittsburgh Penguins in the first round — to win in a Game 7. And I need them to stop playing with my heart like that.

For all of the Caniacs out there, I don't mean to brag or rub the loss in your faces, especially

because y'all have been nothing short of awesome. There's a reason why PNC Arena is so tough for opponents to play in, and a lot of it has to do with the fans.

I know this loss also presents a major challenge for Carolina, which has plenty of expiring contracts and could be witnessing its Stanley Cup window coming to a close soon.

So it's safe to say that

all of Raleigh is pretty down in the dumps right now.

But even though I'm by no means a die-hard hockey fan, I can't help but smile in thinking that this really may be the Rangers' year. It's been a long time since 1994.

There's a good chance the Rangers get trounced by the two-time defending champion Tampa Bay Lightning in the

Eastern Conference Final starting this week, but who cares? I'm just happy they're living to see another day.

And if they somehow find a way to squeak it out, then we'll realize what we've known all along: there's simply no quit in New York.

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TT&LIAM LLC	79082	136.35	WILKIE NANCY LIFE ESTATE	1018	351.7
TT&LIAM LLC	79083	121.9	WILKIE RUTH B	4219	981.52
TULLIS DENNIS DALE	6008	558.12	WILKIE RUTH B	4224	4.34
TURNER GALILEO C HEIRS	9679	2.72	WILLIAMS ANNA ESTATE	15042	148.35
TYSON CHARLOTTE FAYE	18208	82.05	WILLIAMS ELENA MARIE	8629	1158.07
TYSON GARY T ETAL	9312	18.22	WILLIAMS GEORGE EDWARD II	79695	1311.39
TYSON WILMA ALSTON LIFE EST	13152	363.96	WILLIAMS JESSIE JR	14386	43.57
UBUNTU MA'AT NATURAL FARMS LLC	6133	1106.37	WILLIAMS LOIS HEIRS	11986	367.66
VACATION HOMES OF THE WORLD IN	81474	622.78	WILLIAMS MELANEY DEAL	5222	1084.83
VAISHNAV SAMAJ OF RTP INC	88773	37.2	WILLIAMS NANCY	75100	11.97
VALADES PEDRO LLAMAS	7326	1644.15	WILLIAMS PAUL HEIRS	75006	63.6
VALADEZ LEONEL GUTIERREZ	6198	685.77	WILLIAMS STANLEY E III	88057	209.37
VASQUEZ GILBERT	89828	79.64	WILLIS ROBERT J	78298	900.37
VASQUEZ JHOANA YESNIA FERNANDE	12701	353.53	WILSON JIMMY R	4048	1921.45
VASQUEZ JHOANA YESNIA FERNANDE	62736	1100.18	WILSON JOHNNY CLAYON	11107	1833.6
VASQUEZ JHOANA YESNIA FERNANDE	75646	1009.46	WILSON MYRTLE HEIRS	12409	57.74
VAUGHN CAREN JENNIFER	8373	1282.13	WILSON PAUL	61412	905.61
VICENTE GREGORIO GUOX	16566	7.74	WILSON PAUL	4596	489.62
VIDAS DE ESPERANZA	16109	3711.18	WILSON RUTH HEIRS	19905	1249.53
VIGIL BUENA VENTURA	74637	975.03	WILSON RUTH HEIRS	74982	201.83
VIKING VILLA BONLEE LLC	4742	62.25	WINGERTER STEWART	11991	336.16
VIKING VILLA BONLEE LLC	5050	14.53	WINN MICHAEL T	67314	426.21
VIKITSRETH MICHAEL	74966	1652.69	WINN MICHAEL TODD	84002	2156.66
VILLALOBOS ELPIDIO HERRERA	62929	27.97	WINSTON DEBORAH G	19931	1309.03
VOGLER KURT D	4435	704.89	WOFFORD MICKLE	61095	476.89
VP HOLDINGS LLC	83151	303.25	WOMBLE LILLIE EST	8624	610.82
WADDELL HATTIE EST	7780	291.54	WOMBLE THEODIS HEIRS	4616	523.97
WADEN KIZZY ETAL	556	337	WON JOHN S	80017	14109.95
WAITERS XIANA S	87848	11.49	WOOD ARTHUR J	62501	1079.08
WALDEN EDMOND EUGENE DEVISEES	84289	27.36	WOOD EFFIE HEIRS	75306	181.4
WALDEN FLOYD DASHAWN SHAREED	3104	402.92	WORLEY CAROLYN ETAL	5284	1536.91
WALDEN KENYA RAHEEM	3104	402.92	WORTHINGTON CHARLES L	19698	39.79
WALL DANNY L	666	1462.51	WRIGHT THOMAS B	90763	1007.17
WALLACE JULIA ELIZABETH	89372	372.99	WYATT DOROTHY WOMBLE	9337	11.32
WALSH RICKY	61097	1707.1	YANEZ RAMIRO HERNANDEZ	74223	744.55
WARREN JOSEPH D HEIRS	13180	310.32	YOUNG PEARL W	3564	208.1
WASMUTH MARK ALLEN	87794	29.57	YOW CLARENCE D	71728	400.01

Ashlyn Martin takes reins of Council on Aging

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — While attending college in Greensboro about a decade ago, UNCG student Ashlyn Martin thought she knew which area of social work she wanted to go into.

And so, when the Greensboro Housing Authority interview panel asked about her preference for an upcoming undergraduate internship, she responded, “Children and families.”

“The interview panel, they knew better,” Martin said with a laugh.

Instead, the organization placed her in one of its communities for individuals aged 55 and older — a decision which kindled her passion for serving older adults and kickstarted a career in gerontological social work that has, nearly a decade later, led her to Chatham County as the Council on Aging’s new executive director.

“I fell in love with it, and I haven’t looked back since,” said Martin, 31, about working with adults 55 and older during her undergraduate studies.

She officially took up her new role on April 18, a little over two months after Dennis Streets, the council’s previous and much-loved director, retired after eight years in the post. Founded in 1974, the COA has since worked to promote and enable independent living among Chatham’s older population.

“Everybody has just been so welcoming, but also very supportive of the ideas that I’ve brought so far, but also kind of seeing where the agency has been and where it’s headed, it’s a very exciting time,” Martin said. “... So far, it’s a lot to take in, a lot of people to meet, a lot of information just to come to kind of absorb, but overall, the past few weeks have just been a wonderful experience.”

‘Make the community a better place’

Growing up in Catawba County, Martin didn’t have a concrete childhood dream job — but all the same, her younger self wouldn’t be surprised at

the path she’s taken.

“I think growing up, I have always enjoyed helping other people, and I’ve always kind of had a passion for wanting to make a difference in the lives of others, which is why I chose social work for my degree,” she said. “So I... just wanted to help others and try to make the community a better place.”

But after graduating high school, she wasn’t quite sure yet how she wanted to go about making the community a better place. So, she attended Catawba Valley Community College for two years while she worked it out.

“Originally, I thought I might want to go into nutrition,” she said, “but then ultimately decided that social work was the better path for me.”

Soon after, she moved to Greensboro to attend the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, from which she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social work in 2013. Then, right after graduation, she went straight into the Joint Master of Social Work Program between North Carolina A&T and UNCG. Just a year later, she received her master’s.

Beyond her undergraduate internship with the Greensboro Housing Authority, she also secured a graduate-level internship working at the Salisbury VA Medical Center.

“So both opportunities, I was able to work with older adults,” Martin said, “and that’s really where I discovered that, you know, this was the population that I knew I wanted to work with.”

And why? Part of the reason, she said, lies within her own family — a great aunt and two grandmothers, now deceased, who meant a lot to her. Her great aunt in particular, she said, inspires her.

“She is now in her 80s, still drives, still works for around four days a week, so she’s definitely been an inspiration, but I also had a grandmother-in-law, who also was very special to me,” she said. “So (it’s) just really wanting to make sure that older adults anywhere can receive quality services, but I also



Staff photo by Victoria Johnson

Ashlyn Martin, the Chatham County Council on Aging’s new executive director, stands outside the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro. She started in the position in April.

saw how much it meant to them to be able to remain independent and also remain at home.”

That, Martin said, is her goal in working with older adults.

“You know, I kind of look at my family and what I would want my family to receive and then being able to provide that for someone else,” she added.

After completing her master’s program in 2014, she found a job with Senior Resources of Guilford, a private nonprofit based in Greensboro which provides many of the same services as the COA as part of its mission to promote independent senior living.

Martin stayed there for about seven and a half years, serving in a variety of roles — from an access to services program director and family caregiver support coordinator to assistant director of home and community-based services and most recently, assistant director of the nonprofit itself.

She started out supervising social work staff, interns and coordinators providing seniors informational resources. A couple of years later, she moved on to overseeing the nonprofit’s nutrition services department — including a Meals on Wheels program, among others — a rural outreach program, a geriatric adult mental health specialty team and even a refugee outreach program.

Around the beginning of this year, however, she saw a senior

center listserv email advertising COA’s newly vacated executive director role, and after taking a peek at the job description, she decided to give it a shot.

“Seeing that it was very similar to what I had been doing in years past, I felt like it was a great opportunity that I could bring my skill set here to that area,” Martin said. “And then seeing how much Chatham is really growing up and will continue to grow up over these next several years, it’s an exciting place to be.”

So far, she said, the most rewarding part of her job has been meeting the COA program participants, “see[ing] the smiles on their faces, learning how much the services mean to them, and hearing some of their stories.” It’s also been amazing to work with the organization’s staff, she added.

On the flip side, the most challenging aspect of the role, she said, has to be navigating the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“COVID still continues to be a challenge for everybody, not just our organization, but we work with an at-risk population,” she said. “And so, needing to make sure that we’re keeping all of our clients safe, but also keeping our staff safe at the same time. COVID continues to be a struggle for those that can’t leave their homes, or fear leaving their homes for the possibility of contracting the illness.”

So, what’s Martin’s COVID

game plan? Continue working with the Chatham County Public Health Department, follow their recommendations and monitor COVID-19 trends in the area to ensure every decision they make protects the older adults they serve.

If local numbers once again reach a concerning level, she said they would consider reinstating a mask requirement within their senior centers. For now, however, masks are optional.

But COVID’s not the only challenge Martin sees in the organization’s future; another is a continued need for volunteers, especially as Chatham’s population ages and more and more older adults seek the council’s services. With demographic change, however, also comes growth opportunities — such as serving those they haven’t been able to successfully reach, including the county’s Spanish-speaking older adults.

“I think it’s important that we continue to provide services to people of all different backgrounds,” Martin said. “And so, I would definitely say that, you know, that’s in our future, ways that we can also collaborate with other organizations to be able to provide those services as well.”

She knows she’s got big shoes to fill — and “nobody,” she said, “can ever replace Dennis or the work that he did here” — but she plans to do her best to build off of the “strong foundation” and organization Streets left behind.

“It’s hard to say, in the long term, what I hope to accomplish, and our population and the needs of the community are always going to be changing, so I’m ready for whatever challenges may be thrown this way,” Martin said. “But at the end of the day, I hope to provide the best possible services to the older adults of our community, and of course following in line with our mission, just help them to remain independent and remain safely in their homes for as long as they can possibly do so.”

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

POLICE REPORTS

FROM CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
 On May 21, Jason Salto Garcia, 22, of 2870 Old US Highway 421 N, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Vincent Iorio for resisting a public officer. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in

Pittsboro on June 7.
 On May 21, Charles Ronald Hart Aschenauer, 27, of 2219 Daley Road, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for possession of a Schedule I controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is

scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 6.
 On May 22, Darwin Espino Ordonez, 42, of 1405 Lystra Road, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for driving while impaired. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham

County District Court in Pittsboro on June 15.
 On May 22, Samuel Alan Baggett, 30, of 309 Rabbit Run, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in

Lee County District Court in Sanford on June 15.
 On May 23, Africa Michell Mason, 25, of 80 B Bell Circle, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Anthony Norton for failure to appear. She was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on June 13.

On May 23, Rashawn French, 26, of 192 Breezewood Road, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Vincent Iorio for failure to comply with judgement. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 7.

'NOBODY SHOULD BE OUTED AGAINST THEIR WILL'

LGBTQ+ students express concern over 'Parents' Bill of Rights'

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
 News + Record Staff

more access to knowledge about school safety and threats to schools.

they fostered a queer community and became comfortable in their own identity. Vigus is a member of Northwood's Pride Club, which advocates and educates students about LGBTQ+ issues.

son is not controversial, nor should it ever be."

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappa-

port@chathamncr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.

PITTSBORO — For Northwood senior Aiden Vigus, last week was exhausting. Finals are around the corner, but that's not top of mind for them.

Some LGBTQ+ advocacy groups said this bill has the potential to increase suicide and homelessness among queer students, which already see exceptionally high figures in both categories. According to a national survey by the Trevor Project, an LGBTQ+ student advocacy group and crisis hotline, 45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered suicide in 2021, and 14% attempted suicide. The survey also found that 60% of LGBTQ youth wanted mental health care but didn't get it in the past year. Among that group, 48% said they didn't get care because they feared discussing mental health concerns, while 45% cited concerns with obtaining parent or caregiver permission.

Oliver Ewy, the club's co-president and a junior at Northwood, echoed Vigus' sentiments.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappa-

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First, there was the horrific news Tuesday of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, which pushed Vigus to organize a walkout, where more than 100 students protested against gun violence. Then, later that day, there was the introduction from North Carolina Republican lawmakers of House Bill 755, known as the "Parent's Bill of Rights."

"The consequences of outing students to parents without consent is just plain wrong," Vigus said. "It's just unsafe for a lot of kids around here if their parents were to get hold of information about their orientation."

"I wish I could have a little bit more faith in our state government's ability to protect LGBTQ students and people," Ewy said. "This has the potential to cause harm because not teaching young impressionable kids that it's OK to be queer has a real impact on how they'll view others as they get older."

Ewy said as a gay student, he believes education is a huge part of normalizing and respecting the queer experience.

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY NBOTB

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY NBOTB

"I was pretty disgusted when I heard about it," Vigus said. "It's exhausting because it feels like there's something new every time."

As it stands, HB 755 has passed through the House and the Senate Healthcare Committee. It now awaits the Senate Rules Committee before coming to a floor vote by the full Senate. The bill currently has 12 sponsors, all Republicans.

Sophomore Ray Brock is also a member of the club. Brock identifies as transgender and said the bill is worrisome because school is often one of the only places queer students feel safe to come out.

"Nobody should be outed against their will," Brock said. "It's important to teach kids about queer issues so they learn how to respect others of all identities, regardless of age."



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

HB 755 would ban teaching about gender or sexuality in kindergarten through 3rd grade and could force school employees to "out" LGBTQ+ students to their parents. The bill would also require that if students in any grade tell teachers or counselors about issues related to their gender or sexuality — or about anything else related to their "mental, emotional or physical health or well-being" — then school employees would be prohibited from keeping that a secret if the parents asked.

Senate Republicans have defended the changes as being pro-parent, and not anti-gay. "It has no place in the K-3 curriculum," said Sen. Deanna Ballard of Watauga County, the bill's lead sponsor.

When Brock first came out as transgender, he said his parents frequently called him slurs and unnecessarily punished him. He said they often prevented him from going out with friends because they believed he would engage in "ungodly activities." He also said on more than one occasion he's had things thrown at him in public for being out with a significant other. But the place where he did feel safe was at school because he had a community that respected him for who he was.

CHATHAM CO. FAIRGROUNDS 191 FAIRGROUNDS RD PITTSBORO NC

LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, BLACK BUSINESS EXPO, KID'S CORNER AND MORE!!

LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, BLACK BUSINESS EXPO, KID'S CORNER AND MORE!!

"When I was younger, I had an unsupportive parent," Vigus, who identifies as non-binary, said. "The fact this bill allows for the disclosure of counseling notes of students with regards to orientation is scary to me."

"(Parents) are worried about things that they have seen and things that are happening in the public schools, and this is an effort by legislators to address those issues. Nothing more. Nothing less," Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, said Tuesday.

"I was really afraid to come out until I realized that the people here were really accepting," Brock said. "Having a community helps most people. Just a couple of people can help somebody show their actual self."

Chatham COA Events & Announcements June 6th through June 10th

Chatham COA Events & Announcements June 6th through June 10th

Chatham COA Events & Announcements June 6th through June 10th

Vigus said living in the Bible Belt means for them and many of their peers, home is not a safe place to express queer identities.

"Parents have a right to know those things. You're talking about minor children and their parents."

Brock and Ewy both said teachers were some of the first people they came out to.

Monday, June 6

- [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)
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC)

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Elder Abuse Prevention Month - How To Protect Yourself](#), by Rodney Dietrich at 10:00 AM (WCSC)
- [Walking at CCCC with COA](#) at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot)

Queer advocacy organizations like Equality NC have also opposed the bill and compared it to Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law.

If the bill does pass the Senate, it faces its most important opponent — Gov. Roy Cooper — who's said he'd veto the bill if it ever got to his desk.

"Having teachers I could turn to helped me affirm my identity," Ewy said. "It made me feel safe in the school because I knew this teacher would help me figure out how to navigate difficult situations."

Tuesday, June 7

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Elder Abuse Prevention Month - How To Protect Yourself](#), by Rodney Dietrich at 10:00 AM (WCSC)
- [Walking at CCCC with COA](#) at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot)

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Elder Abuse Prevention Month - How To Protect Yourself](#), by Rodney Dietrich at 10:00 AM (WCSC)
- [Walking at CCCC with COA](#) at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot)

"This bill specifically attacks LGBTQ+ students and families, bans accurate curriculum and puts a target on our already overburdened and under-resourced teachers," Equality NC said in a statement Tuesday. "North Carolina GOP leaders are choosing to target the most vulnerable students in our classrooms rather than protect our children."

"The last thing our state needs is another Republican political ploy like the bathroom bill, which hurt our people and cost us jobs," Cooper said in a statement last Wednesday. "Let's keep the 'Don't Say Gay' culture wars out of North Carolina classrooms."

"I've always thought of teachers as protectors," Brock said. "I know my teachers will protect me, then I can feel safe being out and vulnerable."

Wednesday, June 8

- [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)

- [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)

Representative for N.C. House Dist. 54 Robert Reives II also expressed concern over the bill. He said it creates unnecessary controversy.

Republicans do not have the necessary votes to override Cooper's veto.

Equality NC said stories like Brock's and Ewy's are proof this bill would harm students and teachers because it would damage the personal relationships they are able to build with one another. If HB 755 became law, teachers could face lawsuits if they violate provisions requiring them to report students to parents.

Thursday, June 9

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (Chatham Community Church Parking Lot)
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC)

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (Chatham Community Church Parking Lot)
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC)

"I am concerned that we are villainizing educators and creating another culture war — as we did with HB2 — around our classrooms, where there is none," Reives said in a statement to the News + Record. "Anyone who has watched the news over the past few weeks can see that there are far more pressing issues for public schools, the safety of our children in classrooms being the first."

Regardless of the outcome, to students like Vigus, that the bill has been proposed is alarming. They said they believe it's an attempt to dehumanize and ostracize queer students.

"This whole bill gets people arguing about something that shouldn't be controversial in the first place," Brock said. "My right to exist and go to school as a queer per-

Friday, June 10

- [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)

- [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/

- 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

Woods Charter students organize a walkout in support of reproductive rights

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — As the clock struck 1:45 p.m., a sea of students dressed in pink marched down the stairs of Woods Charter School, through the cafeteria, past the principal's office and outside to the field behind the school.

A total of 114 students from the middle and high school staged a walkout in the middle of class on Tuesday, May 17, in support of reproductive rights, following the leaked draft opinion showing the U.S. Supreme Court may move to overturn Roe v. Wade — a bedrock reproductive rights case.

Woods Charter saw a majority of its high schoolers walk out for the cause despite threats of punishment, including lunch detention and even possible suspension. Enrollment at the Chapel Hill-based public charter school is about 180.

The students gathered in a circle on the field as organizers spoke about the importance of reproductive rights.

"You cannot prevent abortions, just safe ones," said junior Maddie Sparrow in her speech to fellow students. "We cannot return to the dark ages of reproductive history, and that is why Roe v. Wade

must be upheld. We will not stand for valuing the life of an unborn fetus over a living human being."

The whole event took a little more than 20 minutes. Student organizers said they believed it was minimally disruptive, but successful.

"A lot of us were feeling really anxious after that decision was leaked," junior Nina Carroll said. "But walking out there and seeing the support really did help calm me down."

Carroll, Sparrow and Emma Hobbs, and Jana Thompson organized the walkout. Each help lead the school's Girls Learn International club (GLI), which empowers and educates middle and high school students to advocate for human rights, equality and universal education in the U.S. and around the world.

"I think it was really important for us to have this event that showed solidarity," Hobbs told the News + Record. "A lot of people were questioning 'Why are doing this? It's not going to make an actual change,' but for us, it's about showing support."

Hobbs said the idea to stage the walkout came during a weekly club meeting for GLI. Once the school heard about the plans, however, the student leaders received some

pushback. Sparrow said the administration didn't support the walkout because it disrupted class time and could lead to pro-life counter protests.

"We were called into the office the day of the walkout and given a spiel on why we shouldn't do this," Sparrow said.

According to the student organizers, the school said it could not support the walkout because it was a political issue. The principal of the school could not be reached for comment by the News + Record at the time of publication.

Initially, the four students decided to cancel the walkout after learning of possible punishment, but eventually, agreed they were unphased by the potential consequences.

So far, at the time of publication, no Woods Charter School students have been punished by the school for participating in the walkout.

Organizers alleged on the day of the walkout that High School Director Adrienne Berg attempted to dissuade them from participating in the walkout given the student leaders' positions as part of a female education club.

The students said Berg asked if it was "ironic" for them to walk out of class

because GLI advocates for women's continued education.

"There's a direct correlation between teen pregnancy and education, so this is something that directly impacts our education," Hobbs said. "So I don't really think it's ironic that we are walking out of class."

They also said Berg repeatedly asked to change the time of the walkout to during lunch or after school.

"The point of a walkout is to be a disruption and get everyone's attention," Hobbs said. "We weren't going to just do this when it was convenient for our administration."

Berg, when contacted by the News + Record, declined to comment.

Research from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign shows teenagers who become pregnant are 27% more likely to drop out of school and 50% more likely to fail their classes and need to repeat grades. The research also shows teenagers reporting a pregnancy lose, on average, the equivalent of 1.8 years of education.

"We knew the school couldn't openly support us," Thompson said. "We didn't want to involve them in our planning, which became a bit of a roadblock for us."

Yet, while the organizers

said they understood the school could not openly support missing class time, they did not expect the backlash and criticism they received from Berg.

"The whole conversation I just felt this harshness," Carroll said. "It felt like the director was trying to discredit or disprove what we were trying to do and tell us we weren't doing anything by doing this."

Other schools in the area staged similar walkouts in support of reproductive rights, including Culbreth Middle School, Carrboro High School, Chapel Hill High School and more.

The organizers at Woods Charter said this was about showing people in the school and surrounding community that young people care about reproductive rights and are willing to fight for them.

"As young people, it's really important that we band together and show our support for this cause," Thompson said. "This is our future. Ultimately, this is the reality we are stepping into, and we need to make it clear what our stance is."

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

A new Cold War recipe: Take China's overconfidence, add our misperceptions, then dip it in a batter of 'strategic ambiguity'

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO
Special to the News + Record

Editor's note: This is the first part of a two-part exchange on U.S.-China relations.

Journalism professor Buck Ryan in Kentucky and English lecturer Lei Jiao in Wuhan, China, pursue cross-cultural understanding through current events—this time President Biden's head-turning comments about Taiwan on his first trip to Asia.

BUCK: Lei, my friend, I need to talk our relationship. Beginning today, I am taking an entirely new approach to our exchanges.

LEI: And that is?

BUCK: "Strategic ambiguity." It means, Lei Jiao, that I'm going to start telling you exactly what I think — clearly and unequivocally.

LEI: Oh, LOL. It looks like you're inspired by President Biden's latest comments in Toyko — that kind of strategic ambiguity.

BUCK: Yes, he said flatly that the U.S. would intervene militarily if China invaded Taiwan because "that's the commitment we made."

LEI: President Biden sure has a way of setting the hair on fire for our diplomats, not to mention all the netizen pundits smoking the Internet these days. You better watch out.

BUCK: Why's that?

LEI: When China's Foreign Ministry spokesman plays the red song card, you are in big trouble.

BUCK: Huh?

LEI: Yes, in his response to President Biden's comments on Taiwan, the spokesman quoted from a song in a 1956 propaganda film about China's victory on the Korean War battlefield.

BUCK: What are the lyrics?

LEI: "For our friends, we have fine wine. For jackals or wolves, we welcome with shotguns."

BUCK: Egads. If it makes any difference, our diplomats jumped out of their seats, too.

LEI: I know, it's that pesky 1979 Taiwan Rela-



Illustration by Ruby Wang

Twenty-two years after President Nixon cracked the ice of the Cold War with his historic visit to China in 1972, he confided to New York Times columnist William Safire: 'Maybe we created a Frankenstein.'

tions Act thing. It doesn't require the U.S. to step in militarily to defend Taiwan, only provide the resources for the island to defend itself.

BUCK: It's tricky.

LEI: It has been tricky ever since Henry Kissinger relied on "constructive ambiguity" in the 1972 Shanghai Communique.

BUCK: What did that say?
LEI: "The United States acknowledges that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a province of China."

BUCK: So, we acknowledge that's true, but any formula for unification remains, let's say, ambiguous.

LEI: I guess so. You know China called out the State Department for changing the U.S.-Taiwan relations fact sheet, right?
BUCK: When was that?

LEI: May 5th.

BUCK: What changed?

LEI: It deleted the Shanghai Communique's phrasing about Taiwan being part of China and removed a statement saying the U.S. does not support Taiwan independence.

BUCK: Oh boy. What does it say now?

LEI: That the "one China" policy is guided by the Taiwan Relations Act, the three U.S.-China Joint Communiques and the Six Assurances. Buck, I'm not assured.

BUCK: That Shanghai Communique was signed on President Nixon's last evening of his historic visit to China in 1972. Nixon would resign two years later.

LEI: Right, so we're talking about a tale of two presidents here.

BUCK: Say what?

LEI: Nixon gets a lot of credit, and deservedly so,

for breaking the ice of the Cold War. But it really was President Jimmy Carter, working with our leader, Deng Xiaoping, who opened the Era of Engagement between the U.S. and China in 1979.

BUCK: I see, the same year as the Taiwan Relations Act.

LEI: Right. The Era of Engagement, among other things, allowed for people-to-people exchanges to dispel misconceptions so we could see each other more clearly. It ran roughly for 37 years.

BUCK: You mean until the Era of Confrontation.

LEI: Well you might say that about President Trump's election in 2016, but more politely it's called the Era of Competition.

BUCK: That's not to say that cracks in the relationship weren't revealed as early as 1994.

LEI: Oh?

BUCK: That's when Nixon told the New York Times columnist William Safire, "Maybe we created a Frankenstein." How would you size up the last half century?

LEI: I think it's less like Frankenstein and more like the Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

BUCK: What do you mean?

LEI: We've lived through some freaky moments, but a lot of good came out of the Era of Engagement, not just for the world, but for me personally—and you, too, right?

BUCK: You bet.

LEI: I'm worried now that Taiwan is the fuse to spark a new Cold War—or maybe a hot one.

BUCK: Why do you say that?

LEI: All this saber-rattling, combined with China's overconfidence and America's misperceptions, is sending us down a slippery slope to create a no-win conflict that will be damaging to everyone.

BUCK: Interesting, because that's something I heard in a lecture the other day by a Chinese professor, Yawei Liu, regarding the 50th anniversary of Nixon's trip to China.

LEI: Who's that?

BUCK: Liu was born in China in 1960, studied at American graduate schools, became a U.S. citizen, and is now director of the China program for The Carter Center in Atlanta.

LEI: So the Chinese guy works with the man who helped him achieve his American dream during the Era of Engagement.

BUCK: Right. Professor Liu launched his U.S.-China Perception Monitor websites, in English and Chinese, in 2014.

LEI: What does his crystal ball reveal?

BUCK: He's very concerned about a "clash of perceptions."

LEI: Tell me more.

BUCK: Well, he says there's an overwhelming feeling in China that if anything bad in the world happens the U.S. is behind the scenes, pulling the sinister strings.

LEI: I get that.

BUCK: And he says China is wildly overconfident about how the rest of the world views its status on the global scene.

LEI: Uh-huh.

BUCK: And China is totally convinced — by the pandemic's death toll, Black Lives Matter protests, the January 6th attack on the Capitol, inflation ...

LEI: Are you asking me whether Chinese people believe the West is evil and it's only a matter of time until China becomes the dominant player in the world?

BUCK: Yes.

LEI: Remember, we're talking about 1.4 billion people here. If you get my mother and father in the same room, you're going to come up with three different opinions.

BUCK: Ha! What do you think?

LEI: My guess is Chinese people are probably as overconfident about China's future role in the world as Americans are overly paranoid about the threat.

BUCK: Professor Liu says the Biden Administration's answer is to adopt a "Trump-plus" policy.

LEI: What's that?

BUCK: Well, the same confrontation but this time rallying our allies.

LEI: Who do you think won the great trade war between the U.S. and China launched by President Trump?

BUCK: Who?

LEI: Vietnam, if you believe the Wall Street Journal's analysis. Both the U.S. and China ended up as losers in more than one way.

BUCK: I see. Professor Liu harkened back to President Biden taking a Trump-like stance at the beginning of his administration?

LEI: How?

BUCK: With this quote, Biden said: "China has an overall goal ... to become the leading country in the world, the wealthiest country in the world, and the most powerful country in the world. That's not going to happen on my watch because the United States is going to continue to grow."

BUCK: So what's China's reaction to that?

LEI: Hold my beer.

BUCK: You're killing me, Lei.

LEI: Sorry, Buck, I thought you would appreciate my strategic ambiguity.

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THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

Cruise has the right stuff in a soaring Top Gun: Maverick

Late in the film adaptation of "No Country for Old Men," aging Sheriff Ed Tom Bell visits his wheelchair-bound ex-lawman uncle, who laments the lost promise of old age, the absence of the tranquility that he presumed the creator would bestow upon Ed Tom in his twilight years.



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

"What you got ain't nothin' new," Ellis retorts. "This country is hard on people. You can't stop what's coming. It ain't all waiting on you. That's vanity."

A similar scene plays out during "Top Gun: Maverick," when a middle-aged Pete "Maverick" Mitchell (Tom Cruise) visits his former wingman, "Iceman" Kazansky (Val Kilmer). The cocky frenemies from 1986's original "Top Gun" forged an icon-clad friendship in the decades hence, but they have led divergent lives. The renowned Maverick nonetheless remained moored as a captain because he still spends too much time getting dressed down by superior officers. Meanwhile, Iceman rose to the rank of Admiral Kazansky — but like Kilmer, cancer has left Iceman barely able to talk.

The contrast between Cruise, still supping on some fountain of youth, and the frail Kilmer is stark and, for any child of the 1980s, weaned on both actors' movie stardom. "Top Gun: Maverick" dusts off the basic playbook of the original blockbuster, but this sequel is steeped in the inevitability of mortality. Maverick is now the oldest guy in the bar. His latest love interest Penny (Jennifer Connelly, with Kelly McGillis nowhere in sight) is a single mom and admiral's daughter offhandedly namechecked in the original film. After Penny invites Maverick over to canoodle, Maverick leaps from her upstairs bedroom to avoid getting caught by her preteen daughter. Unlike its forerunner, which was firmly focused on restless youth, "Top Gun: Maverick" reminds us that life goes on after the final credits.

Cruise, as Maverick Mitchell, has spent the decades following the demise of both his best friend and fellow pilot, "Goose" Bradshaw, and Goose's wife watching over and attempting to steer their scion, "Rooster" (Miles Teller), away from

TOP GUN: MAVERICK

GRADE: B +

DIRECTOR: Joseph Kosinski

STARRING: Tom Cruise, Miles Teller, Jennifer Connelly, Glen Powell, Jon Hamm and Val Kilmer

MPAA RATING: PG-13

RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 11 min.

following in his father's missteps. Destiny eventually arrives, and Maverick is called upon to train young Rooster.

Rooster embarks on a dangerous mission that involves traversing a narrow trench dotted with weapons turrets before eschewing his instruments and eyeballing a missile strike into a small exhaust port, destroying a uranium enrichment facility. Maverick must choose to sacrifice himself to save his young apprentice. Oh, there's also a young, skilled pilot-cum-scoundrel who later arrives just in time to save the day.

Rooster is one in a squadron of new hotshot recruits Maverick must hone for their secret operation in an otherwise predictable plot. Unlike Viper in "Top Gun," who showed his pupils how to become an ace aviator, Maverick seems pathologically compelled to show everyone that he's still an ace aviator. Whereas the now-dated flying sequences in the original "Top Gun" were stitched together thanks to careful editing, three-plus decades of improved technology have resulted in the most immersive, exhilarating aerial filmmaking perhaps since 1930 audiences laid eyes on Howard Hughes's "Hell's Angels." Director Joseph Kosinski puts both the actors and the viewers inside the cockpit, with real planes.

Cruise launched his Hollywood career with "Top Gun," but it wasn't until his 50s that he became almost exclusively an action star and, largely through his partnership with filmmaker Christopher McQuarrie, revitalized and reframed the genre. "Top Gun: Maverick" continues that movement. For all its recycled youthful exuberance, "Top Gun: Maverick" also reinforces that life ain't waiting on us, that we can't stop what's coming. Thankfully, Maverick — and Cruise — ain't done just yet.



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APPLICATION PROCESS

ACROSS	1 Big trucks	62 Primer for a wall, e.g.	115 Writer Calvino	3 Pertaining to an opening of the larynx	52 Slippery road condition	95 Ugly foe of Popeye
5 "Serial" podcast host	70 Outdoor enclosure for a tabby	117 Ethiopia's — Selassie	4 Former jet to JFK	54 "The Hunger Games" escort	96 Neverending	97 Not deserting
10 Brothers Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan	72 Abundant	118 Ovid's lang.	5 Mix, as batter	55 Blueprint data, in brief	98 Frightful flies	100 Like always
15 Like GI garb, often	73 Cow sound	119 Tubers often candied	6 Desi of Desilu Studios	56 From Dublin or Cork	102 "Ode — Grecian Urn"	103 Costa — Sol
19 Woeful things	74 Despot Amin	120 Engine speed meas.	7 Sleazy paper	57 Jason's wife, in myth	104 Use as a skating surface	105 Mount — College (Elaine Chao's alma mater)
20 Bingham of "Baywatch"	75 It's often played during a massage	121 By way of	8 King topper	58 "Ta-tal," in Tours	106 12-year-old kid, say	108 Set in place
21 Slobber	78 "Let us spray," e.g.	123 Tattooist's supply	9 Furry feet in back	60 Central Florida city	109 Gave the nod	111 — City (Ohio town named for William Henry Harrison's moniker)
22 Nivea rival	79 Recognize	124 Otherwise	10 Biblical utopia	61 Crayon stuff	112 Like sheep	114 Theatricalize
23 Outfit	80 Central Asia's — Sea	126 What eight answers in this puzzle might say if they could talk?	11 Shirt part	63 Less of a lie	113 Move, to a Realtor	116 Like sheep
26 Lassies	81 Honking birds	131 Increase, with "up"	12 Clemente of baseball	64 Louvre Pyramid architect	117 1972 Eric Clapton hit	118 Move, to a Realtor
27 All upset, with "up"	82 Old Jewish ascetic	132 Internet sales	13 Oompah band genre	65 Adjectives modify them	77 Chinese menu letters	119 Slightly excessive
28 "... flaw — feature?"	84 Snootiness	133 Increase, with "up"	14 Shirt part	66 Message-leavers' cues	78 Aussie girl	120 Big name in civ. rights
29 Actor Knotts	87 Cur's warning	134 Villain in "The Avengers"	15 Tooth on a gearwheel	68 Astronomer Tycho — brand	79 Fierce female feline	121 Like sheep
30 Wrung (out)	89 Snake's warning	135 609-homer Sammy	16 A Gulf state	69 Mattress brand	80 San Luis —	122 Tattooist's supplies
32 Deli classic	90 Not bogus	136 AC— (big name in auto parts)	17 Patrolter around a food court	70 Fierce female feline	81 San Luis —	123 Spying setup
33 Bother a lot	91 Small plateau	137 Promotes heavily	18 Bivalve mollusks	71 Fierce female feline	82 San Luis —	124 Big name in civ. rights
35 Frank of rock	93 Give relief to	138 Leg joint	24 Sweltering summer day	72 Fierce female feline	83 Aussie girl	
38 Outward display of courage	96 Choir female		25 Ivory, e.g.	73 Fierce female feline	84 Aussie girl	
40 Attachable with a click	99 Responses to massages		31 Lion's hideout	74 Fierce female feline	85 Newlywed man	
42 Hits, as a fly	101 Something revealed by a scale		34 Fast glance	75 Fierce female feline	86 "Got it, man" miser	
44 Fill with love	107 Fly without a co-pilot, e.g.		36 Burnt residue	76 1972 Eric Clapton hit	87 San Luis —	
45 "The X Factor," e.g.	110 Like a famed Vatican chapel		37 Gp. once led by Arafat	77 Chinese menu letters	88 San Luis —	
47 Congeal	112 Roll around in mud or dust		38 Raft wood	78 Chinese menu letters	89 San Luis —	
49 Short sleeps	113 Mascara, e.g.		39 Soda brand	79 Chinese menu letters	90 San Luis —	
50 Diane once of NPR			41 Ulmost	80 San Luis —	91 San Luis —	
51 Gentlemen			43 Dickens' miser	81 San Luis —	92 San Luis —	
53 Breathe			46 Opposite of lge.	82 San Luis —	93 San Luis —	
56 Apple option			48 Three, to Fifi	83 Aussie girl	94 San Luis —	
59 Cow sound				84 Aussie girl	95 San Luis —	

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition

R	I	G	S	S	A	R	A	H	E	A	R	P	S	C	A	M	O
I	L	L	S	T	R	A	C	I	D	R	O	O	L	O	L	A	Y
C	L	O	T	H	I	N	G	E	N	S	E	M	B	L	E	G	A
H	E	T	O	R	A	D	O	N	E	K	E	D	F	B	L	T	
E	A	T	A	T	Z	A	P	P	A	B	R	A	V	E	F	A	C
S	N	A	P	O	N	S	L	A	P	S	A	T	E	N	A	M	O
T	A	L	E	N	T	S	H	O	W	C	L	O	T	N	A	P	S
I	M	A	C	L	O	W	C	O	A	T	O	F	P	A	I	N	T
R	E	D	U	B	S	C	A	T	I	O	R	I	F	E	M	O	O
I	D	I	R	E	L	A	X	I	N	G	M	U	S	I	C	P	U
S	E	E	A	R	A	L	G	E	E	S	E	S	E	N	E		
H	A	U	G	H	T	Y	A	I	R	S	G	R	R	H	I	S	
A	L	T	O	A	A	H	S	B	O	D	Y	W	E	I	G	H	T
G	O	S	O	L	O	S	I	S	T	I	N	E	W	A	L	L	O
E	Y	E	M	A	K	E	U	P	I	T	A	L	O	H	A	I	L
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S	O	S	A	D	E	L	C	O	H	Y	P	E	S	K	N	E	E

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D B Z A U (D - DAY) X O W O U
R S M E O E Q O L R B D N R L
J O Y N H F R D C R F R L D A
Y A U W V T S V E Q O O P O N
B J L E R V A H E L K W I H G
F E C B N O C N E L A S Z Y W

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: **Invasion Code-Named Operation** -

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------|--------------|
| Alençon | D-Day | Juno | Sword |
| Bayeux | Évreux | Le Havre | Utah |
| Caen | France | Omaha | World War II |
| Cherbourg | Gold | Rouen | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		6			1	2	
	7		2				8
3				4			5
		1			6		4
	9		7			5	
7				9			2
		3	8				9
6					9	7	
	8			5			1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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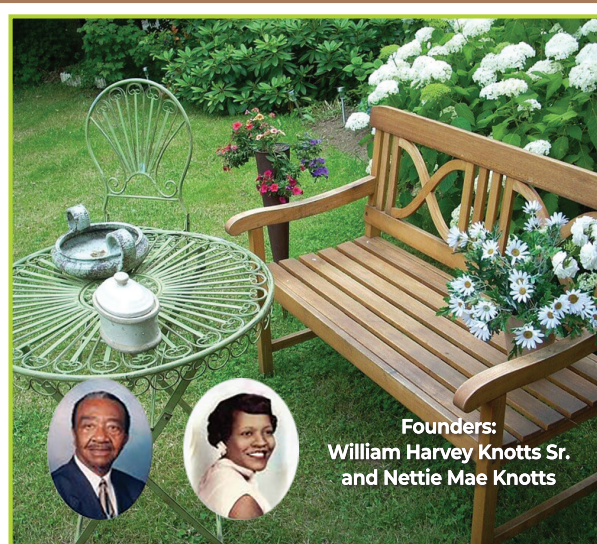
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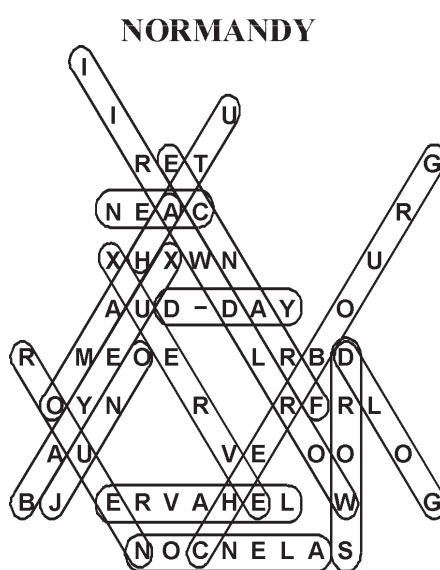
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	5	6	3	8	1	2	7	9
1	7	9	2	6	5	4	8	3
3	2	8	9	4	7	1	6	5
8	3	1	5	2	6	9	4	7
2	9	4	7	1	8	5	3	6
7	6	5	4	9	3	8	1	2
5	1	3	8	7	2	6	9	4
6	4	2	1	3	9	7	5	8
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Take the easy way out?

“Like Chrissie making tartar sauce.”



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Many years ago, our family friend and The Kid’s brother-figure Chef Chrissie arrived from Chicago for a visit. Having, at one time lived in the North Carolina for many years, he misses our beloved Southern cuisine. So when he visits, our meals are a mix of the two of us cooking under his kitchen catechism and delicious examples of local homestyle cooking from various eateries.

On his first night in town, we decided to go to a local fish restaurant and get fried fish with all the fixings. Before we left to pick up dinner, he asked if he could get anything together while we were gone. I asked him to put together some tartar sauce.

When we arrived with the ingredients of a good old Southern fish fry, there was a bowl of gorgeous tartar sauce waiting. One thing about Chrissie: he was not raised by my mother. It was drummed into my head, and eventually The Kid’s head, was that when in our kitchen, “Clean up as you go along.” Everything is washed, wiped, cleaned and put away as you cook. It’s a



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Homemade mayo.

really smart way to work because when you have a finished dish or meal, the kitchen is 90% clean.

But it’s not how our friend — and my culinary sensei — works. He eventually cleans up after himself, but “later.”

“Later” makes me twitchy. I cannot sit down to eat knowing my kitchen is an unholy, disturbing mess. I just can’t.

So, I set about cleaning up as The Kid set the table and set out the food.

There were eggs and oil out, but no jar of Hellmann’s.

So, I asked, what the what?

Turns out, my friend went all cheffy up on it, and made the mayonnaise that was the base of the tartar sauce.

It’s become what I think the kids today call a meme.

Making mayonnaise for the tartar sauce means textbook; it means going all the way with no shortcuts.

It means going all the way.

This week I decided to go all Chrissie on you, Gentle Reader, and make

Homemade mayonnaise

1 cup neutral oil, like grape seed or canola
2 egg yolks
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
Juice of half a lemon
1-2 tablespoons olive oil
Salt and pepper

Whisk or blend yolks, mustard, and lemon juice. Slowly, drop by drop, add the oil while constantly blending or whisking. The mixture should be thoroughly homogenized and get thicker as more air is added.

When all the oil is mixed in, whisk in the olive oil and season. You should taste the salt, but it shouldn’t be salty. Start with a little, taste, and add more as needed.

Place in an airtight container and refrigerate. Use within a couple of days.

Makes about a cup and a half.

homemade mayonnaise by hand.

This brings me to emulsion.

An emulsion is a usually creamy mixture of two liquids that normally don’t mix — like mayonnaise. Or Hollandaise. Or ice cream. And believe it or not, milk is an emulsion.

So, I gathered the tools I’d need: a bowl, a whisk, and a squeeze bottle.

The squeeze bottle gives you the ability to add the oil almost drop by drop, which is crucial to create the initial emulsion.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Potato salad with peas and homemade mayonnaise.

I got to work. I whisked the egg yolks, mustard and lemon juice.

Then drop by drop, I added the oil and whisked like a whisk monkey on six double espressos.

And whisked. And whisked. And whisked.

And stopped and wiped my forehead and shook my aching whisk arm.

Then whisked. And whisked. And whisked.

Then stopped and wiped my brow and

shook my arm. And repeated until I had a bowl of creamy mayo.

Then I whisked in a couple of tablespoons of olive oil and seasoned it.

I called my expensively culinary-trained Kid and crowed about my gorgeous mayo.

And my child said, “I never do it by hand anymore. I use my immersion blender and a taller narrow bowl. Takes a few

minutes and never fails.”

Oh well. So, if you guys have the “guns,” or want to build some guns, do it the ultimate old school way with a whisk.

And if you just want some mayo that comes out right every time and won’t make you reach for a heating pad or ibuprofen, do it the Kid’s way.

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



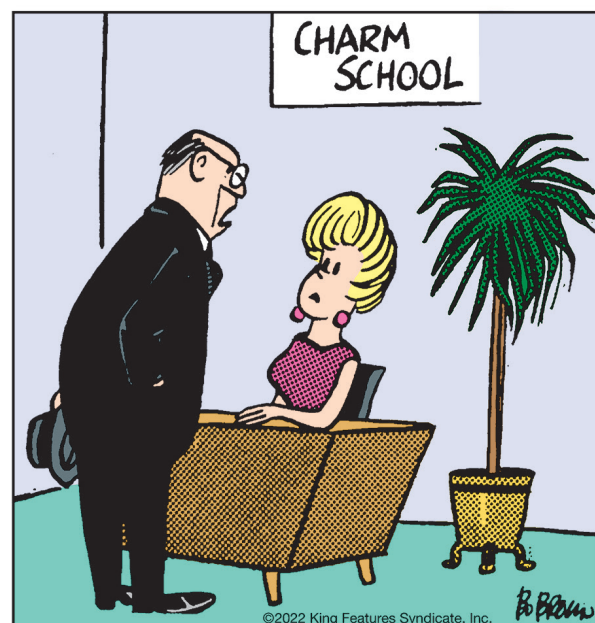
If you are considering a move, we’re here ready to help!
The spring market is here and now is the time to prepare.

Reach out to Weaver Street Realty
when it’s time for a change.

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LAFF - A - DAY



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“I want to see my wife’s attendance record.”