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CLASS of 2022: Story, photos, PAGE B6-7

Mamam News + Record

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THE SHOOTING OF MARK ANTHONY DIAZ Retired N.C. Highway Patrol supervisor says trooper followed proper procedure during traffic stop

BY BEN RAPPAPORT News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — A retired N.C. Highway Patrol supervisor who analyzed the dashcam



video for the News + Record of a traffic stop resulting in a Staley man's death has described the actions

Rodney Cook

of Chatham County Trooper Rodney Cook during the incident as "textbook.'

Footage from the May 30 seatbelt violation stop that ultimately ended in the shooting of 21-year-old Mark Anthony

Diaz was released by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol on Tuesday. The video shows Diaz stepping out of the car and brandishing a handgun before being shot by Cook.

Tim Bolduc, a 41-year law enforcement veteran, helped supervise Cook's training when Cook - who's based in Chatham County — was starting out as a trooper with the NCHP.

'He did everything correctly'

Cook's actions, Bolduc said, were in compliance with N.C.'s "deadly force" statutes and were justified, given that Diaz brandished a gun after being stopped for a seatbelt violation



N.C. Dept. of Public Safety

A screenshot of dashcam footage from North Carolina Highway Patrol of the traffic stop and fatal shooting of Mark Anthony Diaz by Trooper Rodney Cook on May 30.

that afternoon on Harmony Drive, near Solo Drive in Siler City.

"The deadly force statutes say if you're in fear of your life then you're licensed to use

your weapon," Bolduc said. "He complied, in my opinion, with the North Carolina general statutes and the training I've been taught.'

The North Carolina deadly force statute — Article 20, Chapter 15A-401, Subsection d says an officer is justified in using deadly force on another person for one of three reasons:

• To defend himself or a third person from what he reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force

• To effect an arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person who he reasonably believes is attempting to escape

See SHOOTING, page A3

'MY FOUR AND MORE' Siler City mother's blog earns her a steady income

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON News + Record Staff

SILER CITY - From inside her Siler City home, blogger Amy Smith has accidentally achieved every entrepreneur's dream: build a thriving business around her passion.

The product? A lifestyle blog called "My Four and More." Housed at myfourandmore.com, Smith's blog offers seven different categories of content primarily for homemakers, parents and other kindred spirits seeking tips for the home, gift guides, travel recommendations, product reviews, and a whole lot of life advice — including finances, adoption, parenting and mental health. "I didn't start it as a business," Smith, 40, told the News + Record. "I started it just as sharing my thoughts and then it kind of turned into a full-blown business." Launched in late 2016, My Four and More originally began as a passion project and platform for Smith to share her own experiences navigating infertility, adoption and fostering, and lift up other women facing similar situations. After discovering they couldn't have children, Smith and her husband, Josh (the assistant pastor





Courtesy of VinFast

VinFast's VF8, the smaller of the two SUVs it plans to manufacture at its facility in Chatham County.

VinFast speeds toward July start

EV manufacturer hopes to have

Submitted photo

Siler City resident Amy Smith manages two blogs: myfourandmore.com, a lifestyle blog, and homeremodeltips. com, centered on ideas for the home. Launched in late 2016, My Four and More originally began as a passion project and platform for Smith to share her own experiences navigating infertility, adoption and fostering, and lift up other women facing similar situations.

at Community Baptist Church in Siler City), eventually adopted three children — sons Ryan and Cameron, and daughter Camila and even fostered other children

for a few years in Siler City before a bad experience prompted them to stop.

See BLOG, page A9

public event in September **BY BILL HORNER III**

News + Record Staff

VinFast, the Vietnamese automaker planning a \$4 billion electric vehicle manufacturing facility at Chatham's Triangle Innovation Point, hopes to begin moving dirt at its 1,977acre site on or around July 1.

First, though, the company must acquire all that land.

'We're still waiting for them to finalize that," Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said. "They're getting close."

Any delays, according to LaMontagne, could be attributed to determining exactly

See VINFAST, page A7

MARY JOHN LITTLE RESCH | 1939 - 2022 Resch, who owned Chatham papers with late husband, dies at 82

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — Mary John Little Resch, the widow of Alan Resch, the former Chatham News and Chatham Record publisher, died Saturday after a brief battle with abdominal cancer.

She was 82. Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church in Siler City.

Mrs. Resch, a native of Edgecomb County, moved

when he joined the family business in 1962; the newspapers had been in the family since 1939. For many decades, she wrote an immensely pop-



Marv John Little Resch

cooking column, providing recipes and stories about the recipes for the newspaper's readers.

After Alan

'SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES' Churches host vigil, urge action against gun violence

BY BEN RAPPAPORT News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — More than two weeks after the trag-

ic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, two Chatham County churches hosted a prayer vigil gathering for the community last Thursday.

The "Swords into Plowshares" service, hosted by Chapel in the Pines and The Local Church and held at the former's sanctuary, was a powerful reminder of the need for healing in the wake

See VIGIL, page A13



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Music Minister Sarah McCormack on viola and musicians Joanna Szeto and Leah Benn played piano and sang. They performed solo and led the congregation in singing throughout the vigil.

with her husband to Siler City See **RESCH**, page A3

IN THE **KNOW**

Northwood grad Proctor finds home at Florida's IMG Academy. PAGE B1



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA The Chatham County **Board of Commission-**

ers will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at the historic courthouse in Pittsboro.

• The Siler City Board of **Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 20, in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library in Siler City. The meeting will also be available via Zoom.

OTHER

• The Siler City Lions Club will hold a Red Cross blood drive, Saturday, June 25, at Loves **Creek Baptist Church** from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. • Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge #143 has its Stated Communication on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (June 21), with supper at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30. All Master Masons are welcome. 185 Bonlee/Bennett Road., Bonlee

 Chatham Community **Library** is offering free classes on Internet Basics in June. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found by clicking on class titles below or by visiting www. chathamcountync.gov/ ComputerClasses. - Inter-

net Basics, Part 2: June 22, Wednesday, 3 p.m. Build on the concepts learned in Part 1. Work with browser tabs, bookmark favorite websites, view and delete browsing history, download files, find driving directions, and more. Participants should have prior basic internet experience. Chatham Community Library will host a virtual film screening of "All We've Got" (2019).

This virtual program is free and open to the public. Thursday, June 16 - Thursday, June 23. Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning Thursday, June 16, by visiting: https://www.wmm.com/ virtual-screening-room/ all-weve-got-watch-pagechatham-communitylibrary. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window. Residents may also visit the libraries' website www. chathamlibraries.org. or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for more information on this and other events and programs. • The Goldston Public Library announces the return of its Book Club for Adults, 18 and up.

Meetings will be held in the E.M. Harris Jr. Conference Room at the Library. For complete information, call the library at 919-898-4522 or email juana.gomez@chathamlibraries.org. The library is located at 9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Road, Goldston.

 Chatham Community Library announces the return of the Chess Club and Clinic, Saturdays through July 9, from 1 to 3 p.m., meeting in the Lakritz Storytime Room, for teens and adults, 12 and up.

ONGOING

• Siler City's City Hall is currently under renovation. The 1st and 2nd floors are closed to the public. The Planning and **Community Development** Department is located in the basement and can be accessed through the far left door facing E. 3rd St. Parking available at the 100 block of E. 3rd St. The Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 21 at 4 p.m. The public is invited. If interested, contact Wendy Tomblin in advance at 919-799-4012 for access information .. • The Silk Hope Ru-

ritans host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of each month. Next on the schedule is June 16 at the Silk Hope Community Center.

 Horton High School **Alumni Association** Scholarship Committee is

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.

accepting applications for 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.

How did you LAND here? HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY **NEAR YOU LATELY? 83 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE**

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) 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres) and Road (57.28

PAST 12 MONTHS! 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 Hovt 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)

Medical Marjuana bill stalls in N.C. House

The state senate passed a bipartisan bill legalizing medical marijuana, but it has hit a roadblock in the N.C. House. **Republican House** Speaker Tim Moore said he opposed Senate Bill 711 shortly after the cannabis legislation overwhelmingly passed the N.C. Senate. He also said the bill would not be taken up before the House's short legislative



NEWS BRIEFS

session ends at the end of June.

""I want to see where our folks are on it. I really do," Moore told WRAL. "That one has just kind of been thrown down, and I don't see an appetite to take that up in the shorter session. As far as the long session, I won't say one way or the

time frame for a vote on SB 711 is unknown and is unlikely to take place this year.

Siler City Board of Commissioners Are Accepting Letters of Interest for the At-Large **Commissioner Vacancy**

The Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners are accepting letters of interest from the public to serve as a member of the Siler City Board of Commissioners representing the At-Large District. Interested parties must be registered and eligible to vote in the city limits (all the highlighted areas on the map below) in order to be considered.

other." The General Assembly did pass a bill permanently legalizing hemp products earlier this month with overwhelming bipartisan support. A

-CN+R staff reports

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) 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) 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres) 4931 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres) 208 Stonewall Road (3.810 Acres)

Town of Siler City Commissioner Districts



Letters of interest and any supporting information about qualifications and experience should be submitted no later than 2:00pm on Friday, July 8, 2022.

SUBMIT LETTERS TO:

Jenifer Johnson Town Clerk Town of Siler City PO Box 769

Siler City, NC 27344 jjohnson@silercity.org

For questions, please contact Jenifer Johnson at 919-742-4731 or jjohnson@silercity.org

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)

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

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 CON

(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://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Jem2ej-wtuY



NEW TOPIC: Where Can You Hunt in Pittsboro NC?

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



CAROLINA PROPERTIES

919-542-0523

Email your questions to eric@ericandrewsrealtor.com For RWCP Property Management Call Jennifer 919-545-9405 RWCP is hiring Sales Agents. Call 919-545-9911



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RESCH

Continued from page A1

Resch's death in 2016, Mrs. Resch assumed ownership and control of the newspapers before selling them in 2018 to Chatham Media Group LLC, which continues to own and operate the Chatham News + Record today.

Bob Wachs, the newspaper's former managing editor who spent 25 years at the newspapers over the course of several stints, said Mrs. Resch would quietly make visits to the newspaper's office and was always a welcome presence.

"Mary John often would just show up at the paper without us realizing she was there at first," Wachs recalled. "She was quiet, sort of the calm of the chaos that sometimes went on in production, especially during peak times. But she was always pleasant, usually asking not only how were things going for the paper but how were other things in our lives."

Wachs added that describing Mrs. Resch as a "great cook" was "like saying it gets dark on a cloudy night." "Alan would often cook for Tuesday lunch for the staff, and it was good, but Mary John's sweets were never turned away," he said. "Those were good days.'

Mrs. Resch continued to write her cooking column for a few months after selling the newspaper. News + Record Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III said when she finally gave it up, "we got so many complaints — readers really, really loved her writing and her recipes."

In addition to her roles at the newspaper, Mrs. Resch was an active leader at First United Methodist Church of Siler City, in the local United Way effort and many other organizations, including the Siler City Garden Club, the Chatham Country Library Board, Girl Scouts of America troop leader, and as a tutor in Chatham County Schools.

She was known as an expert gardener, voracious reader, and accomplished needleworker.

She is survived by her daughters, Mary Alice Lloyd of Williamsburg, Virginia, and and Margaret Morgan of Belleair, Florida.

Morgan said her mother was raised as an only child to parents who were late in life when she arrived.

"My grandfather was in his late 50s and my grandmother was in her late 30s," she said. "Mom grew up with adults during and after WWII. She learned to be independent and comfortable alone — both features that served her well throughout her life.

'Our mother was a rock," Morgan said. " She did everything in moderation without the ups and downs that afflicted the rest of the world. She seemed to never change (or age) and rarely ruffled. And those traits were always comforting to those of us privileged to know and be around her."

Mrs. Resch's daughters described their mother as "usually the smartest person in the room — but she didn't feel the need to let you know. She was certainly the smartest person we ever met. She was the family memory bank she never forgot anything.'

"Our mother never spoke ill of anyone," Lloyd said. "When she interacted with

people who were unaccepting or judgmental of others, my mom would comment that perhaps god put those people here to teach us acceptance and tolerance.

'Our mother was generous, not in a grand showy way, but in quiet ways. When making donations, she would give to the general fund because in her words 'someone has to pay for the toilet paper."

Lloyd said that although her motehr was born and raised in eastern North Carolina — the land of vinegar-based barbeque, collard greens, and biscuits — Mrs. Resch enjoyed testing all kinds of cuisines and recipes.

"She was always on the hunt for something good and when she found it, she shared it with the rest of us in the cooking column she published with our dad," she said. "Mom could cause a run on ingredients in the local stores just by printing a recipe like when she printed 'The Recipe,' which was a cake box based bar that had crumbled heath bars. We are not kidding when we say that the town sold out of heath bars."

At the end of her life, when

given a terrible diagnosis of stage IV abdominal cancer, her daughters said Mrs. Resch's response was she "felt fortunate because there were so many people that had it worse.

"We were privileged to get to spend the last seven weeks with our mother in Siler City," Morgan said. "We were fortunate to have that time with her. And we were reminded of what makes a small town so special. Every one we encountered shared a story about mom's grace and local contributions. The letters and notes were so comforting. She will be missed.'

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at First United Methodist Church in Siler City, with visitation one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the First United Methodist Church of Siler City, Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy in Siler City or Liberty HomeCare and Hospice Services.

Her full obituary can be found on page A8.

SHOOTING

Continued from page A1

by means of a deadly weapon, or who by his conduct or any other means indicates that he presents an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to others unless apprehended without delay

 To prevent the escape of a person from custody imposed upon him as a result of conviction for a felony

"I wish people would understand that when you brandish a gun, that's what law enforcement is trained to do,' said Bolduc, who worked many years as a patrolman and supervisor in Lee County, as well as in the governor's office. "We go by standards of state law and deadly force stat utes. There are only certain situations where we are trained to use deadly force. When we shoot, it's because deadly force is being authorized."

Troopers in the state patrol are not trained to fire "warning shots" rather, in situations where their own lives are threatened, they are trained to kill. Diaz is the seventh person to be shot by regional law enforcement this year and the sixth to die. The other fatal shootings involved Raleigh police, Durham police, Durham County sheriff's deputy and Duke campus police. "From the start of the stop until the end of the shooting, he [Cook] did everything correctly," Bolduc said. "The subject [Diaz] clearly got out of the vehicle with a gun and at that point, Cook is compliant with state law, as far as I'm concerned.

This was like a training video we would use to reinforce the proper way to do it.' Cook has been a

member of the State Highway Patrol for 16 years and has been placed on administrative duty pending an internal investigation, which is routine in trooper-involved shootings.

What the video shows

The dashcam video shows Cook spotting a white pickup truck with the driver and passenger without seatbelts on U.S. Hwy. 64. Cook then makes a U-turn to pursue the pickup truck before signaling for them to pull over. Diaz pulled over on Harmony Drive, near Solo Drive.

Trooper Cook identifies himself to Diaz and the passenger and asks why they were not wearing seatbelts. He then asks for identification; Diaz responds that he doesn't have any with him. In the audio of the video, Cook is heard asking Diaz to step out of the vehicle and suspects there is marijuana.

As Diaz begins to open

weapon, striking Diaz.

Emergency Medical Services is contacted via Cook's radio, and Cook begins emergency medical procedures, including CPR, once Diaz is deemed no longer a threat. Diaz was transported by emergency medical personnel but died from his injuries later that day.

Cook was not injured in the incident.

'He did what he had to do'

During his years on the force, Bolduc, who now lives in Vass, said he was involved in two shootings. He said the scenarios differed significantly from Cook's and neither caused casualties.

Bolduc said Cook was justified in firing first because he believes there was substantial reason to fear for his life.

"He was professional and level-headed," Bolduc said. "I don't see any problem with the video and on a one-to-10 scale, I think Rodney gets a 10. To me, there's nothing unsafe about the way Rodney performed it. He gave the person every opportunity."

despite the preparedness, Bolduc said he acknowledges that it's a difficult time for Cook because the incident resulted in the loss of life

"I know it's a tough time," Bolduc said. "As time goes by I hope that he can honestly say, 'I did what I was supposed to do."

Bolduc said procedures for the patrol mean Cook will likely be placed on administrative duty until the district attorney's office concludes the investigation. He said he believes it is unlikely the district attorney will determine there is enough evidence to charge Cook. The Highway Patrol internal affairs division will also conduct its own investigation.

"It's important to have people that love and support you through this time," Bolduc said. "People say, 'Well, he did what he had to do,' but it's not that simple because now somebody's life has been taken."

'He would do anything for anybody'

Eddie Fields is one of the people who will help and times when he gave senior citizens rides to work when their cars broke down.

"I know his character, and his character is to help people," Fields said. "He would never be looking to cause anyone any trouble. He would help you."

Jackie Johnson is a friend of Cook's father, Rocky. He said he's also known Cook since Cook was a child.

"He's always been a fine young man," Johnson said. "He's a topnotch officer and does the things the right way."

Johnson is a Vietnam veteran; he said those military experiences have made him a good judge of character. That's how he says he knows Cook is a man of "good roots."

The News + Record spoke to Johnson prior to the release of the dashcam footage by the State Highway Patrol.

"Whatever the circumstances are, I feel confident that Rodney Cook did the right thing," Johnson said. "He's a serious-minded person. He wouldn't do anything in his job unless it was right. He follows a strict

He's not yet spoken to the Cook family because he believes they need privacy during this time.

After the News + Record posted the dashcam footage on its Facebook, commenters expressed mixed feelings, but the majority shared Fields' support for trooper Cook.

"It's very clear the officer's actions were justified in this situation," Raven Teague commented on the post. "Unfortunate all around."

"(Cook) is good Trooper," Ryan Giguere commented. "Met him on a handful of occasions. My heart goes out to him."

Some close to Diaz said they felt Cook handled the situation poorly. Diaz's best friend, Tyler Paige, told WTVD-11 in Raleigh that he believed Cook deserved to be fired

"Mark wasn't aggressive and cared about others," Paige told WTVD-11 "If they truly think it's justified, then so be it. I know I'm ready to fight this in court."

The Diaz family viewed the footage before it was made public. Mark's older brother, Moises said he was unaware his brother was a gun owner and believed he was a non-violent person, according to a published story in the Raleigh News & Observer. "I think he just got scared," Moises Diaz said in the story. "If my brother did point the gun at (the trooper) with bad intentions, then at least they could have disarmed him or tried their best to, like, detain him, but then again, it was in the heat of the moment."

the door, he brandishes a pistol. The two engage in an altercation where Cook attempts to disarm Diaz. After failing to block the pistol, Cook retreats behind the truck in an effort to get to his patrol car.

As Cook runs toward his patrol car, Diaz points the gun out the window, while the passenger later identified as a minor by investigators — opens his door and runs away. Diaz then steps out of the car with the pistol in his hand. Cook fires his

In training, Bolduc said officers run through a plethora of scenarios using simulators and videos that force officers to make split-second decisions. He said the training teaches officers to use a firearm safely in situations that call for instantaneous decision-making. The goal of training, according to Bolduc, is to make the decision-making of an on-duty officer second nature.

He said Cook's mental preparedness helped ensure officer safety in this situation. Still,

support trooper Cook through this time. Fields is Cook's cousin-in-law; he said he's known Cook since he was a child, and has always viewed him as a good-natured person.

"He is one good guy," Fields said. "He would do anything for anybody, and he's a family man.'

Fields said on multiple occasions Cook has visited his aunts and uncles while they were sick, taken his nieces and nephews hunting and delivered gifts to children in need. Others who know Cook told the News + Record of Cook's time as a children's softball coach, volunteering at the UNC Cancer Hospital

coae.

Fields said after watching the video, he believes Cook did exactly what he was supposed to do.

"He has a stronger character than you normally find in a man in today's society," Fields said.

Fields said when he first saw the video it broke his heart because he believes Cook would never take a life without reason.

"I'm sure he's had a lot of sleepless nights," Fields said. "It's a sad time for him and his family.'

Fields said Cook is the type of officer who's in the profession to help people, not hurt them.

Bill Horner III contributed reporting.

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

Teachers, get your applications in for a **Bright Ideas education grant!**

Central Electric is awarding up to \$15,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to local educators in K-12 classrooms for the 2022-2023 school year.

The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 16, but don't wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa[°] gift cards. For more information or to submit an application, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Meet Caren Osborne



Rotary

Club of Pittsboro

- Recent migrant to North Carolina from Connecticut to be near her daughter and 3 grandchildren - CEO of her company, Caren's Organizing Solutions, specializing in home and office decluttering and organizing

- Mother to fur babies Sadie (hound dog mix) and Dorie (a sweet gray and white kittie)

- Enjoys gardening, needlecrafts, traveling, mountain views and relaxing at the beach

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VIEWPOINTS Check your programming defaults. (And while you're at it, your faults.)

Software upgrades are a nuisance. They're foisted on us



that are. BILL HORNER III at least Publisher + Editor

on occasion, unwanted — and sometimes ingratiatingly confusing and complex.

Essential? Yes. Upgrades are designed to de-bug and enhance the tools we use to make our lives easier, but if you've survived through enough of them, you've experienced the hassle they can also bring.

I'd been putting off one particular upgrade for some time on my email program of choice — Microsoft Outlook in part because I'm stubborn. I've been using Outlook as my primary email program for more than 20 years. In comput-

er and software terms, that's about five lifetimes. The "new" Outlook, which Microsoft allows you to take for a test spin, didn't appeal to me visually. So I quickly switched back after giving it a couple of brief tries.

Depending on the programs you use on your computer or phone, and your operating system, you can sometimes postpone or even indefinitely delay upgrades. But Outlook tends to be buggy and the "old" program (which I used) lacked some cool tools the "new" Outlook, which was awful-looking, offered.

I like the functionality and the way Outlook email integrates other elements within the program but I'm in the minority here. Most people I know use Gmail; Google's email program incorporates all of that software behemoth's tools - many of which I use and has about 1.5 billion users, nearly four times the number of Outlook aficionados like me.

Outlook is buggy (did I mention that?) and probably more susceptible to viruses, but I'm loathe to sell my soul to Google by switching. Which doesn't make a lot of sense, given that, as an Apple fan, I've pretty much sold my soul to Apple. Except for Apple's mail program, which is, in fact, rotten.

So, not long ago, I made a commitment to the new Outlook — and, as these things tend to go, my leap of faith mostly paid off. Within a day or so I'd grown accustomed to the new look. And I made ample use of the new bells and whistles, one of which allows you to "pin" critical messages to the top of your inbox. I get about 500 email messages a day, so that's helpful when your response time lags.

But there was one thing I hated about the new Outlook: when hitting "reply" to a message, the reply email didn't automatically open up in a separate window.

That little inconvenience baffled me. Because I am an

inveterate multi-tasker and have a short attention span, I realized that many replies I intended to send ended up stuck in a "drafts" folder. I'd hit "reply," then in the middle of responding, jump to another task; if I clicked elsewhere in Outlook, then the unfinished "reply" would automatically end up as a draft and disappear - promptly forgotten. I discovered this little bug after chiding one too many people for not responding to messages I'd sent, only to find out (after they swore they'd not gotten a message) the replies were actually was still drafts - and thus never sent.

I lived with this for a few months, habitually checking my drafts folders every day for stray replies. Then it finally dawned on me: this may not be a bug, but a preference.

So I went to Outlook, clicked on "Preferences," and looked hard. And there it was: a careful examination revealed a box — unchecked, unselect-

ed — with the option, "Open new messages and replies in a separate window.'

I checked it, went to my email program, clicked on a message and hit "reply." Sure enough, it opened a new reply window. Voila.

As for the mystery of why this wasn't the new Outlook's "default" setting, I have no idea.

But what I'm really scratching my head about is why I waited so dang long to explore that question more fully. My right-brain tendencies - my own personal default settings subvert logic and analytical thinking. When I slowed down to use my imagination and think about this "bug" intuitively, a solution came to me in about 17 seconds.

It makes me wonder what other unchecked boxes I have out there.

And it reminds me: sometimes the easiest "debug" is just taking a breath and asking yourself the right questions.

A sermon of tears

On June 9, at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, nine different readers stepped to the



lectern and took turns reciting each of the 65 mass shootings in this country since November 2018. After each tragedy was named, the reader added, "Give to the departed eternal rest." The congregation then re-

ANDREW **TAYLOR-**TROUTMAN Hope Matters

I doubt I will ever forget this experience. I knew it would be an emo-

tional evening. I have three young children in a local elementary school and preschool, and the vigil was prompted by the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

shine upon them.'

Weeping occurs at the pain of loss and the injustice of death. Tears of grief,

I had already cried several times in the previous weeks while watching news coverage, reading



sadness and anger. I imagine we all weep, for to live is to suffer loss.

an eyewitness report of a doctor and researching the lives of the two teachers killed in

the classroom, Eva Mireles and Irma Garcia.

But that evening as mass shootings were remembered, one after the other, I cried in a different kind of way. I wept.

When I was a child, about the age of the victims of the recent school shooting, I memorized Bible verses in Sunday School. The easiest one to remember was John 11:35 — "Jesus wept." Only two words!

As an adult, this Bible verse has moved from my head to my heart. Jesus wept at the death of his friend, Lazarus. Weeping occurs at the pain of loss and the injustice of death. Tears of grief, sadness and anger. I imagine we all weep, for to live is to suffer loss.

But such grief is generally reserved for private times, either alone or with our closest family and friends. At least, that is true for me. In public, I bite my lip and swallow the lump in my throat. I think there are occasions when this is justified. After all, it's hard for the service to move forward if the preacher is crying a puddle on the floor, right?

Or, do the tears preach for themselves? When Jesus wept, the onlookers did not respond with criticism. They didn't tell him to pull himself together! "See how he loved him!" (John 11:36.) Jesus spoke a lot of words, yet those tears gave voice to how he felt. We say a picture is worth a thousand words. Perhaps the same is true for weeping

At the vigil, I sat near my colleagues and fellow worship planners, the Rev. Larry Neal of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church and the Rev. Brent Levy of The Local Church. At the start of the litany of mass shootings, I tried to keep it together.

But looking at my dear friends, I saw their tears. Something shifted inside me. And I let the floodgates open.

Toward the end of the service, I offered a few words from the pulpit. I hope they were helpful.

What I know is that, when the service was over, a worshipper from another congregation approached me at the door. She reached out and held my hand between hers.

"Pastor, I saw your tears — that was the best sermon.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church.

Voices from the past can take many forms

Technology and I aren't the best of friends. It's not that I really de-

spise it. I just don't



BOB WACHS

Movin' Around

understand most of it and am not very good at using what I do sort of understand.

There is some tech I don't understand, however. that I am grateful for, especially that which a cardiac

surgeon used a few years back to give me a new lease on life. Bottom line here is I don't need to understand, just so long as the doc does.

However, a good deal of that attitude of mine, I confess, is because at times I'm a cynic about the whole business. For instance, when trying to make a call on my mobile phone, for which I pay a significant sum each month, I realize all over again that our little family lives in the Bermuda Triangle of communications service — that place where calls go to die. And, often, even if there is a connection, much of the conversation sounds like: "Hello crackle loof erk will you glabber and then frammin?"

Lest you think I've got it out only for phones, let me add I have trouble with most of the rest of the products of that world. For instance, I still cannot program a VCR — and here's the reality of that situation:

no one uses those anymore. We don't mainstream and livestream and any other stream and yes, I know, it's my fault and problem for being a dinosaur in the world of jets.

But here's my issue: we have on the bookcases of our den enough VHS tapes and DVDs to furnish a medium-sized video library. DVDs, I'm told, are themselves going the way of the buffalo but I've got some great ones — the complete catalog of "Hill Street Blues" and most of the "NYPD Blue" series, back when it was OK to support the police. There are also collections of Looney Tunes cartoons (the real ones), John Wayne movies and a truckload of history offerings. And I really don't want to give them up, just yet anyway.

For a time, I had a gizmo that would play both VHS and DVD but, alas, it went the way of all flesh and is now relegated to the electronics junkpile. Fortunately, my son in law, who does understand and do technology, has found for me a DVD player — which should be arriving any moment and which, he tells me, I can install myself. We'll see.

Another real concern about my video collection has come to light since I looked at the calendar the other day and saw June 19 marked as "Father's Day." It's been 30 years since I last spoke with my father, whom we all called "Pa" as a nod to his first grandchild, who coined that phrase when she spoke of, to and

about him.

On many a VHS cassette sitting on the shelf — unable to be viewed - are recordings of "Pa." To this day, I still remember much of the wisdom he shared with my two brothers and me — for instance, as I've shared before, "You can't have your cake and eat it, too" and "Keep it between the ditches."

My next mission is to send my son-in-law out on a search and rescue mission to find a VHS player or a combo product, even if he has to order it online (again something) don't know how to do) from Amazon. Even to this day, I'm surprised a river in Brazil sells so many products.

So, while I can remember what Pa said, I'm having trouble remembering how he said it. I'm pretty sure I'd recognize his voice if I could hear it again. It's just that I *can't*. I'd like to.

If you still have yours, don't wait until Father's Day Sunday to speak and listen.

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 on your mind?

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

To submit a letter: Mail it to the News + Record at P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344; or email to bhorner3@chathamnr.com; or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

VIEWPOINTS

How can we prepare for the coming job shifts?

The focus in the labor market over the past year has been on the labor

shortage. Not

who left their

the COVID-19

turned as the

economy has

all workers

jobs during

recession

improved.

have re-



MIKE WALDEN You Decide

tion has left many businesses short of help.

One of the reasons for the shortage is that many workers have moved on to other jobs that pay better. So, there's not only a labor shortage, but also a labor reallocation.

Economists agree the reallocation of workers will continue in the future, and likely at a faster pace. The reason is the fast development of new technology impacting how work tasks are accomplished.

The big questions are: how will this technology change the labor market, what kinds of jobs will expand and what kinds will shrink, and does North Carolina have the training programs ready to facilitate the shift in jobs?

Technology has been changing the labor market for decades. The technology of tractors and harvesters took the place of thousands of farmers who moved to the city to work in factories a century ago. Later, new automation in factories pushed many workers to the service sector after World War II.

Today, technology is rapidly expanding. Any task that is done over and over, in the same way, can be accomplished by a machine. But the scope of what machines can do is growing. "Artificial intelligence" which is based on replicating human decision-making — is allowing machines to do tasks never before contemplated, like driving, cleaning and reading data and charts.

Futurists expect the emerging technologies will replace many jobs in hospitality and leisure, manufacturing, sales and even personal services. At the same time, there will be growth in jobs in sectors like information technology, the sciences — particularly engineering, computers and life sciences — as well as health care and financial and business services. In summary, there will be a greater need for workers who think and solve problems and less need for workers who perform repetitive and physical tasks.

I call this coming change in jobs the "great job shift," and I and many other economists think it will be a big feature of our economy in upcoming decades. Workers entering the labor force will obviously want to be aware of both increasing jobs and decreasing jobs. Perhaps more importantly, we want to make sure there are retraining programs ready for those existing workers who need to change occupations.

North Carolina has highly respected public universities and community colleges that are ready to help train new workers and retrain existing workers for future occupations. However, existing workers who are older and have families to support don't have two to four years to learn new skills.

Therefore, North Carolina also needs educational programs available to rapidly re-skill existing workers, programs that take months to finish rather than years. The state also needs an expansion of apprenticeship programs, where an individual learns new skills on the job. Recently, North Carolina expanded funding for apprenticeships.

Sometimes workers who lose jobs can find new jobs in other regions of the state, but they don't have the funds to relocate. The state could consider establishing a "relocation fund" for workers who have found jobs in other regions but who have financial constraints on making the move.

Through its NCWorks Centers, North Carolina has served as a clearinghouse for businesses seeking workers and individuals needing jobs. The state may want to consider expanding the use of this information in two ways. One would be to actively suggest matches between businesses and workers. The second would be to use the information on the kinds of jobs workers lost and the types of jobs that need filling to inform educational institutions of skills in demand.

Unfortunately, sometimes job shifts occur on a large

scale, as when an entire company shuts down. Such large-scale closures can be devastating to local communities. North Carolina could think about establishing a "rapid work response unit" to assist displaced workers and communities when large business closures occur. The unit would have two responsibilities making sure short-term assistance for necessities quickly reaches impacted households and helping put displaced workers on the path to re-skilling and re-employment.

Economies constantly change over time as new inventions and innovations occur. In most cases, these changes improve our lives, but there can be problems for some workers in changing from outdated jobs to new jobs. These changes will continue in the future, but probably at a faster pace. Do we have systems and programs in place so everyone benefits and no one is left behind? You decide.

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

on gun violence, hold elected officials accountable

Growing up in a rural part of Florida, my brothers and I were able to protect our chickens with sim-



DENNIS

STREETS

ply a single-shot .22 rifle. I guess we had better aim than those who say they need a weapon of war (the AR-15) to kill possums, raccoons, and other small animals. I hear elected officials talk

gibberish in trying to argue that the Second Amendment should guarantee the right to any style gun for any person. They deny the value of background checks

Guest Columnist and red flag laws. They think it's reasonable to have age-restrictions for the sale of clgarettes and alcohol or the rental of a car-- but not for the purchase of weapons of war so powerful their victims can only be identified through DNA testing. As important as funding for mental health services is, many of these same politicians have cut funding for such health care. They also ignore the fact that persons around the world also experience mental illness, but we in the United States are largely unique in our gun violence. According to a recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, we in the United States join Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Guatemala in accounting for more than half of the world's deaths from firearms.



LETTERS

In 2020 alone, more than 45,000 Americans died from firearms — a 43% increase from 2010.

There have already been at least 246 mass shootings in the U.S. this year, including 27 in schools. For those excited about records, we are on track to break last year's most violent year when we had 682 mass shootings.

Where is the common sense? Where is the common decency? Why can't we be a civil society?

The courageous Ukrainian soldiers need weapons of war to defend their children and communities — not a person who kills our school children, those attending faith services, or elderly going grocery shopping.

I have to believe we are better than this — I pray we are — as recent polls suggest. Americans are showing overwhelming support for common sense gun laws. Isn't it about time our elected officials show some leadership? Otherwise — to be crude they will continue to have blood on their hands: the blood of the children of Columbine, Sandy Hook, Parkland, Uvalde and so many others. And if we don't hold them accountable for their inaction, we too will have blood on our hands.

Dennis W. Streets is the retired executive director of the Chatham County Council on Aging.

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Emotionally charged Uvalde coverage differs from reality

TO THE EDITOR:

The lead article for the June 2-8 edition of the News + Record ("Residents gather to mourn Uvalde victims, demand change") does not fall on deaf ears with me. I have three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way. I certainly would not want to see three or four sets of empty shoes either.

But more needs to be said than just the contents of the article. It was clearly written to touch emotions ("act on their anger"), etc., but clear thought needs to be given, less we be stampeded like dumb animals into giving up our right to self-defense.

To quote Jason Riley from The Wall Street Journal: "Most gun-related deaths — 54% in 2020 — are suicides. Mass shooting casualties are less than 1% of all gun deaths, and there have been 13 mass school shootings since 1966. These data points are cold comfort to those mourning the shooting victims in Uvalde, but they ought to inform any public policy response under consideration."

To quote further, "... proponents of additional gun laws ignore that shootings continue to plague places such as Chicago, which already has some of the country's most severe gun restrictions. How passing more gun regulations, or taking guns away from the law-abiding, will deter criminals is a question they can't answer."

Ask any "man on the street," and the emotionally charged saturation coverage given to mass shootings would have him convinced quite differently from reality.

Perhaps we should be having 54 times the vigils for the suicides?

It certainly seems that there is more behind the vigils and reporting than just concern for the victims and families.

Let us be thinking (AND caring) humans. Not fear-driven cattle.

James Andrews Siler City

Editor's note: Riley cited a study from Criminologists for Scientific American, which defines a "mass school shooting" as an event which results in at least four deaths. A study by the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security lists more than 2,000 school shootings since 1970, and more than 950 since the Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012.

If you're feeling the heat, then vote

TO THE EDITOR:

Feeling the heat? Most Americans (70%) feel that climate change affects their local community and that our government is doing too little. We must act now to avoid losing our planet as we know it.

In the past, the earth experienced fluctuations in temperature and climate. However, we are witnessing the first time that human activity is responsible for marked global warming over the past 175 years (since the Industrial Revolution) through burning fossil fuels for our energy needs resulting in heat-trapping atmospheric emissions. This accumulative "free" pollution is a market failure of using fossil fuel energy with carbon dioxide (CO2) remaining in the atmosphere for 300 to 1,000 years. Keeping "business as usual," we risk tripling our CO2 in 75 years raising temperatures even higher with irreversible chain reaction feedback loops, such as melting polar ice (trading white "Albedo"

reflectivity for dark ocean solar heat absorption), deforestation (flipping forests from helpful carbon sinks to harmful sources), melting permafrost (containing twice the atmosphere's CO2 potentially adding another 150 billion tons) and warming atmosphere (increased heat-trapping water vapor altering jet stream and extreme weather patterns).

Exercise your political will! Please vote for a livable world! Our children and grandchildren's lives depend on it!

Minta Phillips Julian

Thankful for another birthday, another year

TO THE EDITOR:

As I woke, my first thought was to put that loudmouth rooster in a crock pot and have him for lunch. My second thought was about that day being my birthday and that loudmouth rooster being a fitting meal for a birthday celebration.

Then my thoughts took a nosedive into reality. The date of my birth and the current date flooded my mind and I quickly subtracted one from the other with the answer being in the 80s.

My years began with a much larger number of family members, most of whom have been with God for a while now. During my years, I have met a wide circle of friends and acquaintances with an extremely vast range of personalities, most of whom have been with God for a while now.

Thinking of how fast my years have passed and how lucky I am, I take time to thank God. Thank you, God, for all my years and for this beautiful day. And if you don't mind, please bless that loudmouth rooster who woke me to another day.

Carol Gene Good Conover

VIEWPOINTS We should do more for entrepreneurs

When it comes to fostering new businesses, North Carolina is doing

better than

average -

but not as

well as we

That's a

fair reading

of the latest

of Entrepre-

Indicators

neurship

could be.



JOHN HOOD John Locke Foundation

report from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Its composite index ranked North Carolina 15th in the nation last year in entrepreneurial activity. Among our neighboring states, only Georgia fared better.

Examining the measures that make up the index, however, reveals more of a mixed bag. North Carolina is below average in the share of residents who started new businesses and the share of those who did so by choice rather than by necessity (after suddenly losing one's job, for example). On the other hand, we're above average in

the share of new businesses that survived their first year and the number of jobs they created.

Making our economy hospitable to entrepreneurs is a cause in which we all have more than a rooting interest. While you often hear the claim that small businesses create most net new jobs, that's not quite right. It is young businesses, not necessarily small ones, that play a disproportionate role in driving investment, innovation, and employment gains in healthy economies.

Of course, the vast majority of those young companies began small. Predicting which firms will stay that way and which will enjoy explosive growth is an art many economic actors aspire to master. More power to them. As a journalist and policy wonk, however, I've never shared their aspiration. I just want to make sure our state is a preferred location for entrepreneurs, lenders, and investors to make the attempt.

So do leaders of the General Assembly. Over the past decade, state lawmakers have enacted a series of tax and regulatory reforms designed to promote entrepreneurship in North Carolina by reducing its costs, increasing its returns, and removing any uncertainties caused by government.

Progressives argue vociferously that tax and regulatory policies have little effect on business decisions. They're mistaken about that — and their arguments have failed to persuade even Democratic officials such as Gov. Roy Cooper, who concede that government-imposed costs shape economic outcomes. The real partisan divide is about scope and structure. Cooper and his allies believe in awarding tax breaks selectively, to companies already well-established and large enough to merit their attention, while GOP leaders in the legislature believe it's wiser to cast a broader net that includes firms of all ages and sizes.

Regarding the relationship between taxes and business formation, the latest evidence I've seen was published earlier this month in the journal Small Business Economics. Examining business start-up rates along state borders — a common research design that serves to control for non-policy influences on economic growth — the authors found that jurisdictions with higher tax rates tended to have lower rates of entrepreneurship. Property taxes had the biggest effect, but other taxes depressed business starts, as well.

"Fledgling firms with low sales and income would not pay taxes on personal or corporate income or on sales, but they would still have to pay property tax," the authors wrote. "Hence, the property tax should have the greatest salience for entrepreneurs."

This latest paper follows earlier research that produced similar conclusions. A 2013 study in the Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, for example, found that state tax cuts promoted more business starts. Other studies show that lower regulatory burdens correlate with higher rates of self-employment, income growth, and sustained business growth.

As for government services, North Carolina policymakers shouldn't be distracted by the trendy or exotic. Empirical evidence demonstrates that bread-and-butter functions well-maintained highways, effective schools, robust protections for intellectual property, and fair, efficient courts for adjudicating disputes - foster the creation and growth of businesses. Many other services, including some programs specifically to nurture entrepreneurship, don't seem to have a measurable effect.

North Carolina is a popular place to start a business. Among southern states, however, Florida, Georgia, and Texas are even more popular. Will we let that stand?

John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, Mountain Folk and Forest Folk, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).

College reunions take us back in time

Preparing for this month's 60th reunion of my Davidson College class, I thought about a talk I gave in 1997 to my father's class's 65th reunion.



When those men first arrived at college in the fall of 1928, they brought everything they needed in a suitcase or small trunk. The Great Depression began the next year, but these men came from the South, which was just about as poor before the stock market crash of 1929 as afterwards.

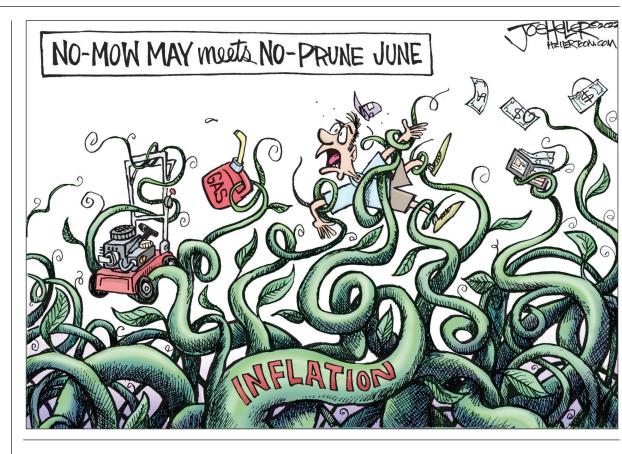
D.G. MARTIN One on One

There were automobiles in 1928, but they were not so reliable as now. Not every family owned one. Even if

they did, the idea that mother and father could leave the farm or the family business for two or three days to transport a child to college would not have occurred to many families.

In 1928, most people traveled distances by train — as they had done since the middle of the 19th century, when the construction and operation of a passenger train system first made long distance travel convenient. By 1928, trains were safe, reasonably comfortable, and much enjoyed and appreciated.

So, when I asked them who rode the train to college that late summer day in 1928, almost every hand shot up Along with their upraised hands, I could see memories pushing out from their faces and their suddenly clear, bright eves. I could tell. Each of them remembered every detail of that break-away-from-home trip. I wanted to stop my speech and listen to each story to every recollection of packing the trunks and what was in them, how they got to the train stations in their hometowns, who brought them there, how they said good-bye, what they wore, where they changed trains, whom they met, what they talked about, what they ate, how much money they had in their pockets, how they got from the depot to the college ... and on and on. Then something struck me — something about the connectiveness of time when we let it sweep us backwards: That late summer train ride in 1928 was closer in time to the end of the Civil War in 1865 than 1997 was to 1928. Sometime during 1928, when these men were freshmen, another college class could have marked its 65th reunion. It would have been the class of 1863. Perhaps a few of them survived the Civil War and the hard times that followed. Perhaps some of that few made their way back to campus — and remembered back in time to the day in the fall of 1859 when they came by wagon or by the newly available railroads to enter college. There is something else about my father's class that could connect us back to the middle of the 19th century. Those freshmen of 1928 would have been more comfortable going to college in the 1860s than if they had been suddenly thrust forward to the college life of today. What was in one of their trunks in 1928 was very much like the contents of trunk of a young person riding the train to college in the 1860s — and so much different from all the possessions brought to college by today's students. I looked out across the faces of the men 65 years out of college. All were more than 85 years old. Memories rose with their uplifted hands and brought back every detail of that train ride to college and were too quickly gone — all gone. Most of their classmates had already finished their time on this earth, including their friend, my father, whose illness, early onset Alzheimer's, took away forever my chance to hear the story of his train ride from home to college — and all the other things he would have told me if only he could have been there with them celebrating their 65th reunion.



GUEST COLUMN | BOB PHILLIPS, COMMON CAUSE

It's time to end

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

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

gerrymandering for good in N.C. by passing the Fair Maps Act

Squeezed between the spring's primary vote and the upcoming fall election, North Carolina lawmakers have returned to Raleigh for the 2022 legislative session.

One of the best things legislators could do to strengthen our state this year would be to end the decades-long cycle of gerrymandering by passing the Fair Maps Act (House Bill 437).

A quick primer: North Carolina's congressional and legislative voting maps are intended to be redrawn once a decade to account for population shifts shown by the latest U.S. census. That's called redistricting. But time and again, politicians in the legislature have abused the redistricting process. They've manipulated districts to unfairly favor their own party, depriving voters of a choice and voice in our elections. That's gerrymandering.

Over the years, North Carolina has seen both Republican and Democratic legislators commit gerrymandering. We the people have suffered as politicians impose district boundaries that split neighborhoods, silence voters and especially hurt communities of color. It's a sad fact that North Carolina has earned the misfortune of being known as the most gerrymandered state in America.

Fortunately, we've made important progress in the effort to stop gerrymandering.

Earlier this year, we at Common Cause and our fellow plaintiffs won a historic legal victory as the N.C. Supreme Court struck down the legislature's extreme gerrymanders. For the first time ever, our state's highest court ruled that partisan gerrymandering violates the North Carolina Constitution. As a result of that landmark case, North Carolinians will be voting in much fairer districts this election. And the decision sets a crucial precedent for future rounds of redistricting.

But there's still more work to do.

Now we must enact lasting reform. We need to permanently take redistricting power out of the hands of partisan politicians and entrust it with an impartial citizens' commission to draw fair voting maps moving forward, with robust community input and complete transparency — totally free from gerrymandering. That's what the Fair Maps Act would accomplish.

Creating a citizens' redistricting commission is common sense, and it's had bipartisan support. Both President Ronald Reagan and President Barack Obama championed the idea when they were in office.

Of the 170 current members of the N.C. General Assembly, nearly 100 have at some point sponsored or voted for bills that would have established a nonpartisan redistricting process. Even the legislature's two top Republican leaders — House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger each sponsored legislation similar to the Fair Maps Act when their party was in the minority 12 years ago, although they now appear to be against that reform.

So why hasn't reform yet passed? The answer is self-serving political interests undermining the people's will.

When a party is out of power and on the receiving end of gerrymandering, they can see clearly that change is needed. But when they're in control of the legislature and doing the map-cheating themselves, politicians suddenly seem unable to resist the temptation of gerrymandering and they oppose the same sensible cures they once clamored for.

So long as politicians are crafting the districts from which they're elected, they'll likely continue to test the limits of how much gerrymandering they can get away with — no matter how much it harms the people of our state.

We at Common Cause have been working to stop gerrymandering for decades because our state's voting districts don't belong to politicians, they belong to the people. And we'll continue this fight until North Carolina finally has a redistricting process that puts people above politics.

Lawmakers of both parties must reject gerrymandering, respect our Constitution and recognize that North Carolinians deserve a better, nonpartisan way to draw our districts. It's time to pass the Fair Maps Act.

Bob Phillips is executive director of Common Cause NC, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy.

Chatham County's incentives package for VinFast is valued at \$400 million. Here's how it might be paid out.

BY BILL HORNER III News + Record Staff

Big industries are lured to a site and a location, in part, by big incentives packages financial incentives paid out by state and municipal governments to companies over a specified period of time. Incentives are typically conditional and tied to a company's investment (based on value of total capital investment) in a project and the jobs it creates, among other things

The total value of the projected incentives offered to VinFast has been pegged at around \$1.2 billion. That includes a state incentives package worth between \$766 and \$854 million over 32 years and still currently being finalized at the state level and in the N.C. General Assembly. Of that amount, about \$450 million

will be spent on infrastructure – including roads, water and sewer — at and near the site at **Triangle Innovation Point near** Moncure.

Chatham County will add \$400 million in incentives, based on parameters such as the number of jobs created, benefits offered employees, wage level compared to county and state averages, number of Chatham residents hired and environmental impact.

The county's 3,700-word incentives agreement is currently in draft form. When finalized - county officials say that



taxes owed; those payments decrease, based on the county's current incentives proposal. from 90% of that calculated property taxes in years 1-4 to 50% in years 16-20.

The incentives agreement also provides LABIG payments – payments in lieu of providing land to VinFast — also based on calculated incremental taxes. They'll be valued at 5% in years 1-4 and increase to 45% by years 16-20 — meaning, essentially, that if it meets all the requirements in the county's policy, VinFast will get grant payments equivalent to 95% of its ad valorem tax bill for a 20-year period beginning in 2024.

"While 5% does not sound like a lot, it adds up to real money going into county coffers when it's a multibillion-dollar project," said Karen Howard, the chairperson of county commission board. "VinFast has committed to a level of investment and job creation aligning with Chatham County's vision of what is truly transformational. Not only will this investment create well-paying jobs directly, but it will also attract additional industries and investments to our community including manufacturers, retail, and other businesses. Therefore, Chatham County residents will experience the lasting benefits of improved access to jobs, goods and services, and desired amenities'

the subject of a public hearing and then be subject to a vote by county commissioners.

could happen soon — it'll be

VinFast could get up to \$316.1 million in reimbursement from the state if hiring goals are met, based on the state's Transformative Job **Development and Investment** Grant program; local and state officials have emphasized how critical the JDIG program was in helping to lure VinFast to North Carolina.

In Chatham, VinFast's incentives agreement, as written maintain" a certain employ-

now, calls for BIG (Business Investment Grant) and LABIG (Land Acquisition Business Investment Grant) payments. They're tied to certain conditions: investment of at least \$4 billion in real property, buildings, machinery and equipment, plus the creation of at least 7,500 jobs (FTEs, or full-time equivalents) at an average wage "exceeding or equal to that of the median average wage for Chatham County."

VinFast announced its intention to create a \$4 billion electric vehicle manufacturing facility

VinFast must "create and

ment level — starting with at least 1,997 jobs by the end of 2024, then maintaining at least 6,000 jobs by 2027 and beyond, and paying an "aggregate average wage" of at least \$46,000. The anticipated BIG payments calculated based on "incremental taxes," or ad valorem (or property) taxes based on valuation of VinFast's investment — can be reduced on a pro rata share based on the actual number of jobs created by the end of each calendar year. BIG payments are grants based on a percentage of incremental

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

VINFAST

Continued from page A1

which parcels at the TIP site VinFast intends to utilize.

"They're adding two small parcels to the overall tract," he said. "And they just need a little bit

Describe your

Chatham County

The Galloway Ridge

GALLOWAY

RIDGE

AT FEARRINGTON

give-back program:

more room, and they're trying to line those up. I think if they don't get those properties finalized, they'll just redesign the layout."

And when the land acquisition is completed and the incentives plans are finalized (see sidebar story), LaMontagne an-

ticipates things will move mind us, 'fast' is in their rapidly.

in Chatham County at this March 29 gathering in Raleigh.

"The way I see this going is that we're at the initial stages of getting some of these details lined up, and then once those are all completed, it's going to be 'pedal to the floor," he said. "As they continue to rename."

When VinFast gets ready, he said, things move very quickly.

"And that was evident in the selection as well,' LaMontagne said, referring to the breakneck process culminating in Chatham's TIP site being selected back in late March — which resulted in local and state staff cramming "about four months worth of work' into three weeks.

"And so they're very fast — once they decide, they just move," he said. "And I love that, but it's also intense."

LaMontagne said most of VinFast's activity now is centered on working with state government agencies on issues like permitting and erosion control. The company has engaged in introductory meetings with an array of departments in preparation for groundbreaking and will, in short order, begin more regular meetings on the local level as construction looms — particularly in regard to water and sewer infrastructure. VinFast hopes to have an official groundbreaking event for the public on Sept. 22. Michael Smith, the president of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation, said his office has maintained a close relationship with VinFast and state leadership in the 80 or so days since the announcement, which was the largest economic project to date in state history. "We've certainly been a part of a number of discussions in different ways," he said. "And we're certainly continuing to maintain a close relationship with state leadership as it relates to where the project is, and we're ready to go.' The county's partners at the state level — including the N.C. Dept. of Commerce and the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality, and "a large group of different stakeholders" — have been "outstanding," according to Smith. "Things are moving exactly as we would want them to," he said. Supply chain issues have impacted construction projects

everywhere, but Smith said VinFast was "well aware" of those challenges and has been mitigating potential issues and taking steps to meet its production targets — including having VinFast's premium SUV models rolling off the assembly line by the summer of 2024.

"That's the plan," Smith said. "That's why everybody's moving as fast as they are.'

Meanwhile, activity at the county's other megasite, the Chatham Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) site in Siler City, continues. Neither Smith nor LaMontagne would speculate on the timing of any announcement, but anticipation on all

fronts is high.

CAM site's co-owner] is such a great partner on that."

So many large industrial sites in the southeast have been acquired by large manufacturers in the last few years, he said, making any site within proximity to Greensboro and the Triangle "premium."

Meanwhile, the EDC office is considering bringing a project consultant to help with the VinFast project — something he said would be "another huge positive for the project and for our office.'

Smith's workload has been such that one of Chatham's county commissioners recently inquired whether he'd caught up on sleep lately.



Charitable Fund was established in 2006 to serve the citizens of Chatham County. Galloway Ridge residents help their Chatham County neighbors in need through the GRCCCF. Chatham County not-for-profits, schools, and governmental agency projects apply for community grants. We aim to fund projects in various locations within this large, rural county. In 2021 the committee granted 19 awards totaling \$100,000.

As a community in Chatham County, it's essential to support and help those surrounding us improve the quality of life for our neighbors.

What have been some results of your program?

As a community in Chatham County, it's essential to support and help those surrounding us improve the quality of life for our neighbors.

"With the help of the GRCCCF, 163 youth were provided with afterschool homework help to improve their academic standing." Hispanic Liasion

"Thanks to the GRCCCF, we were able to assist six students who were in emergency situations with assistance. The students were then able to persist on their educational pathways." - Central Carolina Community College Foundation

"Thanks to the GRCCCF, we were able to hire a bilingual aide to assist in our preschool." - The Learning Trail

What's unique about your program?

Any non-profit (501(c)(3)) that serves in Chatham County is illegible to apply for funding. The funding is available for any particular type of service. We can help support human services, environmental causes, the arts, and more with this flexibility!

Residents of Galloway Ridge lead the fund. As a community, we donate annually through a funding drive and select recipients through our Chatham County Community Fund Committee. The residents of Galloway Ridge also enjoy giving back through volunteerism as well. We have participated in Habitat for Humanity builds and host members of the Boys and Girls Club for activities.

It has introduced us to several amazing organizations and brought awareness to our community's unique challenges.

How can our readers support you and your program?

Anyone can donate to the fund. However, we encourage readers to share this opportunity with any organizations that fit. The application window opens in the fall each year.

For more info: Connect through gallowayridge.com or call 919.328.2657

GIVE BACK: BUSINESSES GIVING BACK TO CHATHAM Chatham News + Record

T m just noping really soon," LaMontagne said. "We're getting a lot of activity. Of course, I think the announcement of VinFast is just showing everybody that this region of the state — and particularly Chatham County, with two megasites — is primed for this type of development. So we're seeing a lot of attention."

At a recent joint meeting of his commissioners and Pittsboro's town board, he remarked that Chatham already has, in VinFast, the largest economic development project the state of North Carolina has ever seen.

"We can break our old record," LaMontagne said. "Wouldn't that be wonderful? I mean, we're getting a lot of big, big companies, and a lot of really good companies [looking at the CAM site]. So I'm hoping that something will happen really soon."

Smith is mostly mum on specifics about discussions regarding the CAM site and the possibility of other automotive-related companies coming here, other than to say: "We're certainly continuing to have discussions with other large projects that are in the industry.²

"We have a lot of interest, a lot of strong activity, the CAM site," he said, adding that "that's where all of our time has been spent" in the last month or so.

"At this stage, we continue to talk to various, several very large operations. And we're grateful that Tim [Booras, the

'I just said, 'I'll sleep in another year, when all this is behind us," he said.

That's if there's time even then: a recent report in Triangle Business Journal said the arrival of VinFast and the Toyota battery plant coming to the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite — North Carolina's lone automotive projects — might just be the first in a string of automotive-related projects coming to the Tar Heel state. TBJ quoted Christopher Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, as saying that automotive is now a "leading sector of activity for us."

As of earlier this month, Chung's office had a pipeline of more than 250 potential projects — including 42 in the automotive sector — that would create 80,000 new jobs.

That doesn't include the 7,500 positions VinFast plans to fill at its plant, where production is expected to start in July 2024 with 150,000 vehicles per year. According to the Dept. of Commerce, vehicles to be produced at the site include the VinFast VF 9, a seven-passenger all-electric SUV, and the VinFast VF 8, a five-passenger, all-electric mid-size SUV. Ultimately, VinFast hopes to produce between 200,000 and 250,000 vehicles per year at the site.

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

OBITUARIES

COLBY BEANE



November 9, 2009 ~ June 4, 2022 Colby Beane passed away Saturday, June 4, 2022.

He was born on November 9th, 2009, to parents Lindsey and Perry Beane. Colby was a loving brother and son whose sole concern was making others happy, especially his little sister. He loved Pokemon, Battlebots, lacrosse and was always up for a pun or dad joke (good or bad). Everyone who knew him knew the power of his hugs, which he gave out

to any and everyone he could. Colby was a sweet and gentle soul who touched the lives of all that met him during his much too short time on earth.

Colby is survived by his parents, Perry and Lindsey; siblings, Sam and Aiden; grandmother, Camela Crutchfield and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins who love him very much.

A Celebration of Life will be held to honor Colby on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at the Greensboro Children's Museum from 6 to 8 p.m. If you have one, please feel free to honor Colby by wearing your funniest t-shirt or bring a great pun or dad joke to add to his memorial joke book.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations to a Pediatric Cancer Foundations that provides vital research and support for pediatric patients.

BARBARA MARTIN ANDREWS JONES



Barbara Martin Andrews Jones, 88, of Pittsboro, passed away Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home. A memorial service was held Saturday, June11, 2022, at 3 p.m., at

November 5, 1933 ~ June 7, 2022

Pittsboro Baptist Church, with Peter McDonald officiating. Visitation was held at 2 p.m.

Barbara was born in Pittsboro on November 5, 1933, to George Henry Andrews and Beatrice Rowe Martin.

She graduated from Pittsboro High School in 1951, received her BA from Meredith College in 1955, and her Master's in Education from East Carolina University in 1963. While she lived in multiple cities and states throughout her career, Barbara retired as librarian after 24 years in the Atlanta public school system. She returned to Pittsboro immediately after her retirement in 1992.

Barbara had a smile that truly lit up every room. She never aspired to be the center of attention, always instead wanting to ensure everyone around her was having a good time. Among friends and family, she was cherished for both her wit and her wisdom. As with every good English major, you could count on Barbara to explain the correct usage of "lay" and "lie" as many times as required. Despite her perpetually positive outlook, Barbara had weathered many storms, handling each with class, grace, and courage. Part of every good-bye was the phrase "Do right," just a gentle reminder.

Barbara is survived by her daughter Ashley Rabbitt (Ken), her granddaughter Martin Atwell (Kyle), her grandson Mitch Rabbitt (Kathryn), and beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Eleanor Jane Wilmot, and her brother George H. Andrews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Pittsboro Baptist Church, P.O. Box 696, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312, or UNC Chapel Hill, 123 Franklin Street, Suite 510, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516 (please designate account number 343961 for the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice House).

MARY JOHN LITTLE RESCH



Mary John Little Resch, 82, of Siler City, died at home surrounded by family on Saturday, June 11, 2022, following a brief battle with abdominal cancer.

A native of Edgecombe County, she was born and raised in Pinetops, N.C. She was the only child of the late John H. and Sadie B. Little.

Following her graduation from Duke University, she married Alan D. Resch, and they had two daughters. Briefly living in both Raleigh

and Columbia, S.C., the couple moved to Siler City in 1962 when her husband joined the family newspaper, The Chatham News and Record. Together, the family oversaw the day-to-day operations of the newspaper for nearly 70 years. During four of those decades, Mrs. Resch and her husband produced a popular weekly culinary column entitled "Good Grief It's Supper Time Again" featuring favorite recipes and the stories behind them. Following her husband's death in 2016, Mrs. Resch became owner and publisher of the newspapers.

A devoted member of First United Methodist Church of Siler City, Mrs. Resch served as president of the Pastor-Parish Relations committee, was a teacher and member of the Joyner-Brewer Sunday school class, a lay reader, and served on numerous church administrative boards.

As an engaged community leader, she was recognized by the United Way for outstanding service in 1995 following her role as president of Chatham County's annual fundraising campaign. She was a long-time member and former president of the Siler City Garden Club, a member of the Chatham Country Library Board, a Girl Scouts of America troop leader, and a volunteer reading tutor for Chatham County Schools.

Mrs. Resch was acknowledged as one of Siler City's finest cooks with an impressive cookbook library and recipe collection. Her kitchen was stocked with an array of pots, pans, utensils, small appliances, and gadgets. At Christmas, she and her husband would gift neighbors with homemade Brunswick stew and peanut brittle.

An avid reader of most genres, she always had a book at hand. She loved classical music and was a gifted pianist, traveling to New York City as a youth for competitions and was the recipient of numerous awards. She was a member of the National Fraternity of Student Musicians. She shared her musical gifts by teaching piano to neighborhood children.

Her garden was a 60-year-project with a remarkable display of perennials and annuals. Her hydrangeas were her pride and joy, admired by many neighbors, including the woodland deer which she constantly battled. She regularly fed the birds — especially the hummingbirds.

Mrs. Resch excelled at many forms of needlework. She was an accomplished knitter and produced beautiful needlepoint including the treasured kneelers at First United Methodist Church, many prayer shawls, stockings and cross-stitch ornaments.

Mrs. Resch was preceded in death by her husband of nearly 55 years. She is survived by her daughters, Mary Alice (Steve) Lloyd of Williamsburg, Virginia, and Margaret (Jonathan) Morgan of Belleair, Florida, and grandchildren Caroline Lloyd, Jackson Lloyd, Sarah Ellis Morgan and Harper Morgan.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, at First United Methodist Church, 1101 W. Raleigh Street, Siler City, N.C. Visitation will be at the church one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the First United Methodist Church of Siler City; Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy, 127 E. Raleigh St, Siler City, NC 27344; Liberty HomeCare and Hospice Services, 401 E. 3rd St., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

PEARL LEE BARBEE

February 5, 1923 ~ June 2, 2022

Pearl Lee Barbee, 99, passed away on June 2, 2022, at Rex Hospital in Raleigh.

Funeral services were held at Unity Powerhouse Holiness Church with Pastor Cedric Lee officiating on Friday, June 10, 2022, with burial following in the church cemetery.

Barbee was the daughter of Monroe and Suella Barbee, who preceded her in death, along with sisters, Grace, Mary, Edith, and one daughter, Margaret Moses. She attended the Wake County Public School System.

Survivors include one son, Danny Barbee of the home; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

LINDA SUE ROBERSON

July 17, 1951 ~ June 7, 2022 Linda Sue Roberson, 70, of Pittsboro, passed away on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Linda was the daughter of Everette Pete and Louise Owens Roberson, who preceded her in death. She retired from Allied Fibers, later working for the PTA Thrift Store in Pittsboro.

She is survived by her daughter, Casey Pickard of Goldston; brothers, James E. Roberson of Pittsboro, David Roberson of New Hill; two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Smith & Buckner Funeral Home to help with final expenses.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Roberson family.

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

REBECCA ANNE PHILLIPS

Rebecca Anne Brown Phillips, 85, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at her home.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Poplar Springs U.M.C. with Rev. Fallon Melvin and Rev. Garland Smith officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born in Lee County, daughter of the late Paul James Brown Sr. and Hazel Wicker Brown. Anne was a member of Poplar Springs U.M.C., where she played piano and organ. She retired from U.U.U.U. as an Administrative Assistant in the Continuing Education Department. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Eugene Phillips. Surviving are her sons, Roger Eugene Phillips Jr. of Burlington, Richard "Rick" Paul Phillips of Bear Creek; brother, Jimmy Brown of Sanford; sisters, Peggy Gaster of Sanford, and Martha Rasmussen of New Bern; five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Poplar Springs U.M.C. Choir.



November 1, 1939 ~ June 8, 2022 James Lee McDiarmid passed away June 8, 2022, at Hospice House in Pittsboro.

James was born on November 1, 1939, in Storm Lake, Iowa, the son of Ted and Catherine McDiarmid. Jim grew up in that small Northwestern Iowa town built around a lake enjoying its recreational opportunities: fishing, ice fishing, swimming, lifeguarding, and duck hunting. He graduated from Storm

Lake High School in 1957. A week after graduation, he enlisted in the Marines serving as a radio operator and rifle coach in Southeast Asia.

After the military he came home to earn a Bachelor's degree from Buena Vista College, than a Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska. He returned to Beuna Vista College to teach and direct its public relations and fundraising. Subsequently, he worked at Cottey College and Fontbonne University in Missouri. His career in public relations and fundraising continued at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A sabbatical leave from the University of Minnesota provided a year of study in Scotland, a medical center in Seattle and at California State University.

He retired in 1997 and moved to North Carolina where his three children lived. In semi-retirement, he contracted as a teacher with the Navy and taught for five years, mostly aboard aircraft carriers in various parts of the world. In later years, he enjoyed writing stories about family, friends, his life experiences and reflecting on the 22 marathons he's run. He took up longbow archery and competed in local Senior Games. Jim was an avid reader, always carrying a book of biography, politics, or John le Carre spy novels. Due to his many lifetime moves his hometown classmates were particularly important to and gave opportunity for letter writing or phone calls while he took breaks with Buddy, his favorite dog.

Survivors inclufe his three children: Matthew McDiarmid (Kimmel), of Pittsboro; Stephanie Lilly (Ronnie) of Pittsboro; Ian Cage, Hendersonville, N.C.; grandchildren, Madison and Catherine McDiarmid, Travis and Hunter Lilly; great-grandchildren, Aiden and Gavin Baker, and former wife, Marolyn McDiarmid.

Celebration of Life services will be announced.

ASHLEIGH DENISE JACKSON

June 6, 1998 ~ May 28, 2022 Ashleigh Denise Jackson, 23, of Sanford passed away Saturday, May 28, 2022. The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Works for Christ Christian Center with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

SHIRLEY KELLY WILSON

October 5, 1936 ~ June 12, 2022

Shirley Kelly Wilson of Cedar Point, N.C., died June 12, 2022, at home. She was born October 5,1936, in Siler City, N.C., the daughter of Clinnie D. & Etta Cole Kelly, both deceased. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Wallace Wilson; her daughter, Kelly Spainhour; her sister, Elma Kelly Smith; three brothers, Cecil, Harland, and Leonard Kelly; nephews, Cecil Kelly Jr.; and great nephew, John Brown.

Survivors include a son, James M. Talley Jr. and wife Lori; daughter, Tracy T. Barnes and husband Roy; grandchildren, Trey Talley (Peggy) and Dare Talley; great grandchildren, Hunter, Silas, and Wendy; son-in-law, Mack Spainhour; as well as several very dear nieces and nephews.

A family memorial will be held at a later date at the Coastal Carolina Veteran's Cemetery in Jacksonville, N.C., where she will be buried with her husband, Wallace.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Chatham County Council on Aging, 112 Village Lake Rd., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Family and friends are welcome to submit online condolences at www.mundenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements by Munden Funeral Home & Crematory in Morehead City, N.C.

CINDY TRUITT

May 14, 1949 ~ June 9, 2022 Cindy Truitt, 73, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, June 9, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

A funeral service was held in the chapel at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home at 2 p.m. with Eddie Johnson officiating. Burial followed in Buffalo Cemetery.

She was the daughter of James D. and Jean Santos Ashley, who preceded her in death. Cindy co-owned a cleaning business.

Survivors include her husband of 44 years, Larry; daughters, Mandy and Jamie Hicks, both of Bath; one granddaughter; siblings, Susan Strusa of Portsmouth, Virginia, Nancy Johnson of Hampton, Virginia, and David Ashley of Portsmouth.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

HAYWOOD BERNARD SNIPES

January 9, 1964 ~ June 7, 2022

Haywood Bernard Snipes, 58, of Cameron passed away on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at his home.

The funeral was held Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

JEAN LEE CAMERON JONES

Jean Lee Cameron Jones, 72, of Cameron passed away on Friday, June 3, 2022, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

See OBITUARIES, page A12





Join the Chatham **County Council on** Aging, Chatham Health **Alliance and Vaya** Health for a

CHATHAM COMMUNITY RESOURCE HUB

Saturday, June 25 • 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. **Western Chatham Senior Center** 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City

Come out for free food, demonstrations from Chatham County **Cooperative Extension and** schedule your COVID-19

BLOG

Continued from page A1

"We would get questions after questions," she said. "I just felt like I was kind of repeating myself quite a bit, and I realized how many people out there are kind of in our same shoes of not being able to have children and trying to seek out options and different stuff. So when I started the blog, it was kind of a way to be able to compound all of our experiences."

Such experiences, Smith added, also included severe depression.

"So the combination of that, with the adoption, there were just so many conversations we were having that I was able to put it all kind of in writing to where I can say, 'Hey, you could also go read it on there," she said. "And it just gave a way to be able to kind of direct people — not that I don't talk to them still, but you know, to be able to be a little bit more exposed with helping people."

At first, her blog's readership primarily consisted of friends and family. Over time, though, Smith and her readers began sharing her posts on social media, which drew more and more readers Eventually, a combination of social media sharing and quality content led her posts to achieve top Google rankings, which in turn brought even more readers.

But readers weren't the only ones catching on. Companies, including Best Buy and Jabra, began noticing her blog, too.

"It kind of turned into companies reaching out to me and asking me if I would sponsor their content — you know, different products or travel, different places, wanting us to feature them for travel features," Smith said. "And so it kind of turned into more of just like a full-blown lifestyle blog where I do a little bit of everything on it.'

Based on traffic data from the last three months, My Four and More sees 21,600 unique views a month on average, plus about 212,400 monthly reads, meaning each visitor reads about 10 articles throughout a month on average. Her social media following spans thousands, too: On Facebook, "My Four and More" has over 2,500 followers. There are nearly 34,000 on Twitter, about 5,200 on Pinterest, and 14,000 on Instagram. "Of course, some of those are, you know, Facebook, Twitter — it may be the same person following me on all four social media," she said, adding with a laugh, "but hopefully they're seeing it on one of them at least. Most, if not all, traffic her blog receives is organic, meaning most find her site on their own via search engines. When it comes to driving more traffic via complicated Search Engine Optimization techniques and social media strategies based on each platform's algorithm, she said she's still a novice. "I don't know how people are finding me," Smith said. "I don't know how — you know, I don't know all of that. I'm not very good with the back end. I did set up my new website completely, I was able to do it completely by myself, but there's still kinks in it that I'm working out ... I'm learning every day and I hope to continue to learn more and more to be even more successful, but something is working. I don't know exactly what it is.' As a result, blogging is no longer just Smith's hobby; it's become a full-time job, but one she absolutely loves, espe-



A screenshot of the home page of Amy Smith's blog, My Four and More.

cially since she's her own boss.

"It may be that I work at 8 in the morning, or it may be that I work at midnight," she said, smiling. "I mean, it just depends on what we have going on, but it makes it flexible to where I can still be completely involved with my kids, and if we have anything going on at the church, or if my daughter has basketball camp this week — being able to just leave at any point and do what I need to do, and then I can get my work done later in the

day." It's a lot of work: she aims to research, write, and publish three to five posts a day. Sometimes, she'll also review and publish sponsored posts for an editorial fee - something, she added, which has skyrocketed within the past three weeks especially, though she's not quite sure why. Last Thursday, for instance, she'd already received over five such posts before 9 a.m. that morning.

Things have been so successful, in fact, that she recently launched a second blog, homeremodeltips.com, focused on ideas for the home. Besides publishing three to five posts on My Four and More, she's begun writing at least three posts a day to build up readership for Home Remodel Tips. "I was getting a lot more emails regarding home-type posts, like remodeling or decor, stuff like that," she said. "And my blog, I do a lot of that on there with the myfourandmore.com, but it was getting to where there's so many posts for that, that I thought, 'Why not start a new one that's more specific just to the home?' So I started one." Yet, despite all the work she puts into it, Smith doesn't see My Four and More as a one-woman show; rather, she sees it appropriately — as a family endeavor. Josh helps with some of the writing, and when she's set to publish travel features, most destinations will provide tickets and lodging for her entire family. "So I look at it as even though I'm doing the writing and I'm doing the emails and all that, it's kind of our family's thing because if they didn't want to have any pictures or if I couldn't share their stories or whatever, it would kind of take away from the blog," she said, laughing. "So, I look at it as kind of a combined effort." For her, such blog-inspired family trips count as one of the most rewarding parts of it all — though, she added, having the flexibility to work from home is "probably number one." Thanks to My Four and

More's success, Disney, Legoland, SeaWorld and Carowinds have all paid her family's way to their attractions in exchange for travel features and reviews.

"It's just a way for us to be able to really bond as a family while still being able to share our fun with everybody else," she said. Beyond family fun and

flexibility, My Four and More also provides her a meaningful way to make a difference in people's lives

"My husband's the speaker of our family,' Smith said. "I am not the speaker. I get nervous when I try to talk to people unless if it's just one-on-one to chat type of deal, but [My Four and More] kind of gives me a way to feel like I have a purpose for going through some of the stuff that we've gone through, with the depression and then with the infertility. It kind of makes it worth it to have gone through that stuff and be able to share my experience to hopefully help somebody else."

The most rewarding reader messages she's received, for instance, come from families struggling to have children but had hesitated to adopt or foster children until they read her posts about her journeys with both. In another instance, a company contacted her about promoting a product on her website, which they'd only found because the company representative had been struggling with depression. "It wound up turning into probably 20 emails back and forth, not even about the product anymore," she said. "It was just about, 'This is what I'm going through. I see you went through this, I really appreciate your insight on this. Do you have any other tips?' It was just neat to see the difference that I had been able to help this person directly because of the blog. That's probably the biggest response that I feel like was the most rewarding to me." And for those thinking about following in her footsteps, Smith's got a small piece of advice: Just write from the heart. "You have to find your passion because I honestly feel like the success from my blog came from me speaking from my heart, content that was personal and not to push the business side of it. If it's going to happen, it's going to happen," she said. "I think that's the biggest key — just writing what you're passionate about and focusing on that before anything else."

vaccination appointments!







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

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learnaboutland.com - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

OFFICE SPACE RENT

BEAUTY SALON FOR RENT. prime established location. Call Butch Hudson, 919-545-1795. Jn16- Au4,8tp

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

RENTAL HOME

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 2 full baths - Double Wide Mobile Home in Siler City area. (919) 545-4437. Jn16.tfnc

RENTAL APARTMENTS

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

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry. elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo., no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

FOR SALE

YARD SALE, Saturday, June 18, 8 to 12 noon, Multi-Family - Den, Dining, Bedroom sets, 4 bar stools, Multiple lawn chairs, lounges, patio table, patio umbrella, new canopy, microwave, portable AC, dorm refrigerator, trains, train table, tovs. bookcases. dishware. cookware, gas and charcoal grills, ice cream freezers, cool-ers, lots of Tupperware. 4493 NC 49N, Liberty, 336-622-2936, 919 742-3729. Jn16,1tp

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

CLEARANCE SALE at the COVE: Indoor/outdoor

Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also avail-able. Au26,tfnc

AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfnc

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF SILER CITY - DETEC-TIVE -- Performs intermediate protective service work, enforces laws: investigates criminal activity; ensures safety of public; interviews and/or interrogates victims, witnesses, and/or suspects; gathers evidence; prepares reports; testifies in court; maintains files and records; promotes community policing; serves all members of the public with dignity and respect. -- Required Education and Experi-ence Qualifications; Graduation from a community college with an associate degree in criminal justice or related field and considerable experience in law enforcement, or an equiva-lent combination of education and experience. - Current certification through a Train-ing and Standards program (transfers from other agencies or out-of-state must meet NC Training and Standards' criteria for a Police Department). Extensive training in areas related specifically to Investi gations. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license or ability to obtain.-- Preferred Education and Experience Qualification: Possession of Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications upon hire. Completion of Basic Narcotics Investigation, Crime Scene Investigation, and Interview and Interrogation training upon hire. One year of experience in an Investigations unit. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. -- Additional Employment Re-quirements - Must obtain Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications within 12 months of hire and maintain certifications at all times with-out a lapse during the course ioyment. Must complete Basic Narcotics Investigation, Crime Scene Investigation, and Interview and Interrogation training within 18 months of hire. - Anticipated Hiring Salary \$47,254 - \$61,430 depending on qualifications. -- **POLICE PROPERTY AND EV-IDENCE SPECIALIST (SWORN)** Administers all aspects of the department's property function to include clerical and technical work in the pres-ervation and safeguarding of evidence in the possession of the Police Department; serves all members of the public with dignity and respect. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications; High school diploma or high school equivalency. Completion of Basic Law Enforcement Training with current certification (transfers from other agencies or out-of-state must meet NC Training and Standards criteria for a Police Department). Posses-sion of a valid North Carolina driver's license or ability to obtain. -- Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Knowledge of investigations. Experience with property and evidence storage, destruction, and disposal and proper documentation of same. Possession of Certified Property and Evidence Specialist (CPES) certification upon hire. Possession of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) certification upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Additional Employment Requirements: Possession of Certified Property and Evidence Specialist (CPES) certification within 18 months of hire. Possession of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) certification within 18 months of hire. All required certifications and licensures must be main-

tained with no lapse during the course of employment. - Anticipated Hiring Salary \$42,861 – \$55,719 depending on qualifications. Please refer to our website for full job de-scriptions. -- To Apply - These postings are open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application and resume are required and may be found on our website at www.silercity. org or picked up at City Hall The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. re-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. **EOE.** -- The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mari tal or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100.000 for non-construction contracts -- The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or as-suring a barrier-free location for the proceedings -- This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity. org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma baio petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Jn16,1tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY - PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - Performs complex professional and administrative work planning organizing, and directing a variety of public works activities including, but not limited to building maintenance, equip ment services, water distribution and wastewater collection, and street maintenance and repair. Required Education and Experience Oualifications: Extensive experience working with canital mprov plans and managing workflow. Experience with contract management and administration. Extensive supervisory experience including employee performance evaluations and performance management. Experience with storm water maintenance. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in public administration, business, environmental sciences, engineering, or related field and six years of public works experience; or an equivalent combination of training and experi-ence. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Span ish. - Anticipated Hiring Salary: \$73,307 - \$95,299. - Please refer to our website for a full job description. To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application and resume is required for consideration. The application may be found on our website at www.silercity. org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. - The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mari tal or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section

3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrange-ments to ensure that disabled persons are provided neces sary accommodations, Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free loca-tion for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity. org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Jn16,1tc

HELP NEEDED. Landscape Maintenence worker. Must have Drivers License, be experienced with outdoor equipment. Be reliable and willing to work 40 hour week from 8 to 5. Starting pay \$15.00 hour based on previous experience. Shop is located in Carthage. Contact Jack at 910-690-1550. Jn9,16,2tp

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

LEGALS

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. Vandeveer, 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. Vandeveer, Attorney of Record 101 Conner Drive, Suite 402 Chapel Hill, NC, 27514 Mv26.Jn2.Jn9.Jn16.4tc

This the 26th day of May, 2022. Thomas Gene Fowler, Jr., Executor 462 Hollyglen Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312 M26,Jn2,Jn9,Jn16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** 22 E 46

All persons having claims against VIRGINIA CLARA BELANGER, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 26th day of May, 2022. Jeffrey L. Belanger, Executor 563 Eastern Ave. Augusta, Me. 04330

M26, Jn2, Jn9, Jn16, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** 22 E 221

All persons having claims against **BRYAN JOHNSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of June, 2022. Hunter Johnson, Administrator 149 Pleasant Cross Rd Asheboro, NC 27203 Jn2, Jn9, Jn16, J23, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 299

All persons having claims against BETTY K. BALDWIN. deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of June, 2022. Garry E. Wilkie, Executor 568 John Horton Rd Apex, NC 27523

Jn2, Jn9, Jn16, J23, 4tp

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Central Piedmont Community Action, Inc. (CPCA) is opening HVAC, Electrical TOT and Plumbing contractors in Anson, Chatham, Orange, and Richmond counties. Bids will be received May 15. 2022, through June 15, 2022, at 5:30pm. RFP will also be available on our website through Sep 15, 2022 at 5:30pm. If you are interested in becoming a contractor for Central Piedmont Community Action in any of our counties, please contact Doug Dixon at (919) 742-2277 ext. 105 M-TH 7am to 4:30pm or via email at dougd@ cpcanc.org.

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION Line ad deadline

Tuesday — Noon **Display ad deadline** Monday - 5 p.m.

Rates and payment

Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.

Blind ads

No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.

Errors

In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

227 Old Lystra Road Chapel Hill, NC 27517 Jn2.Jn9.Jn16.J23.4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Ad-ministrator of the Estate of CHANDRAKANT SHIVABHAI PATEL 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 3rd day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 31st day of May, 2022. Asmitaben Chandrakant Patel, Administrator

The Estate of Chandrakant Shivabhai Patel 567 Covered Bridge

Trail Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517

MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806

PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312 (919) 542-5605

Jn2, Jn9, Jn16, Jn23, 4tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY LEGISLA-

TIVE HEARING NOTICE The Board of Commissioners will conduct a legislative hear-

rain or shine! Last minute items for Father's Day, Christmas items, antiques, collectibles, jewelry, coins, glassware, dishes, house wares, home decor, pirate ship and related items for sale, 1990 Mercedes for sale and much much more! All items marked down! Everything must go! Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18, 7am-3pm, both days. Address: 9270 Siler City-Glendon Road, Bear Creek, NC 27207. Contact Diane @ 919-799-0541. Look for signs!!!!! Jn16,1tp

AUCTIONEERS

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

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HAR-RIS at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liq-uidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www. JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, J6,tfnc

SERVICES

CASH PAID FOR JUNK CARS and pickups. Call 336-581-3423, My12-Jn30,8tp

RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS, Alice Cox, Cox's Distributing - Rainbow - Cell: 919-548-4314, Sales, Services,

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 155 All persons having claims against WILLIAM ROBERT MEEHAN II, 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.

Jn2, Jn9, Jn16, 3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 295 All persons having claims against MOLLY C. SANDERS de-ceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of June, 2022.

Keath Castelloe Low, Executor

ing on June 20, 2022 at 6:30

pm in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. Legislative hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests: Hardik Raval/ Raval Realty LLC proposes to rezone 99.73 acres from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Residential-3-Condi-tional (R-3-C). The proposed use is major subdivision (preliminary plat) that includes 147 single family residential lots (detached) and 67 multifamily townhome lots. The subject property is identified as 893 & 909 Harold Andrews Road. and parcel # 13728 & 13732.

The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the items are invited to attend the legislative hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item. The Planning Board will meet on June 13 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to





Visit <u>www.chathamcountync.gov</u> and click Jobs.

Chatham Monument Co. has an opening for a monument installer. Work involves working in Siler City and surrounding area installing monuments as part of a 3-person team.

Apply in Person, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 227 N. 2nd Ave. Siler City, NC 27344

the Board of Commissioners. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100.000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include. but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity. org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Sec-ond Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Jn9,Jn16,2tc

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

Under and by virtue of a Power

tain Deed of Trust executed by Dennis B. Gilmore to William R.

Echols, Trustee(s), which was

dated September 30, 2011 and

recorded on October 3, 2011 in

Book 1584 at Page 1110, Cha-

tham County Registry, North

Default having been made of

the note thereby secured by

the said Deed of Trust and the

undersigned, Trustee Services

of Carolina, LLC, having been

substituted as Trustee in said

Deed of Trust, and the holder

fault having directed that the

Deed of Trust be foreclosed,

the undersigned Substitute

Trustee will offer for sale at

the courthouse door of the

property is located, or the

county courthouse where the

usual and customary location

at the county courthouse for

21, 2022 at 01:00 PM, and will

sell to the highest bidder for

cash the following described

property situated in Chatham

County, North Carolina, to wit:

TRACT ONE: BEGINNING at an

Mrs. Lillie C. Markham Drive in

an old road in Robert Phillips

iron stake on South side of

conducting the sale on June

of the note evidencing said de-

of Sale contained in that cer-

NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY

SALE

22 SP 56

Carolina

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180+/-ACRES TIMBERLAND attorneys can help! Win or Pay AUCTION Nash County, Prime Timberland with Mini-Farm Opportunities, Mature Timber with Cruise-Reports, Immediate Income. Offered Ave Scranton PA 18503] Divided, Online Bidding JUNE 16-thru-JUNE 28 WWW. HouseAuctionCompany. com NCAL#7435and#7889

Construction-Truck-Farm Auction Tue, June 28th 8AM meekinsauction.com See Lumberton, NC NCLN 858 10% buyers premium w/ 4k cap

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White-Glove Service from America's Top Movers. Fully insured and bonded. Let us take the stress out of your out of state move. FREE QUOTES! Call: 855-821-2782

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Quote – Call now before the next power outage: 1-844- dorranceinfo.com/nc 938-0700

Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest 252-729-1162 lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - \$500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-585-1815

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line and running thence with Lillie C. Markham line South 89 degrees East with said Markham line 200 feet to iron stake, said Markham corner; thence with said Markham line North 2 degrees 30 minutes West 200 feet to iron stake in Billy Joe Phillins line thence with his line North 89 degrees West 200 feet to iron stake center line old road his corner; thence with Robert Phillips line, South 2 degrees, 30 minutes East 200 feet to the beginning station, and containing ninety one hundredths (0.91) of an acre, according to survey made October, 1968, by R. H. Hancock, Surveyor. TRACT TWO: ADJOINING the lands of Billy Joe Phillips, Tony Tucker and Myrtle Potts and BEGINNING at a point on the east side of SR 1006, same being Billy Joe Phillips corner and running South 80 degrees East 229 feet to an iron stake in Tony Tucker's line; thence with Tucker's line South 2 degrees East 200 feet to an iron stake in the Northern line of Markham's drive; thence North 89 degrees West crossing to the South side of Markham's drive 234 feet to an iron stake in the East side of SR 1006; thence with the eastern line of said road North 1 degree 30 minutes East 220 feet to the **BEGINNING containing 1.11** acres, more or less. Save and except any releases, deeds of release or prior

conveyances of record. Said property is commonly known as 8853 Siler City Glen don Rd. Bear Creek. NC 27207. A Certified Check ONLY (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are imme diately due and owing. THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORDING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED.

Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS WHERE IS." There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any hysical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, any unpaid land transfer taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release, and any other encumbrances or excep tions of record. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are Dennis B. Gilmore. An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the

default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination [NCGS § 45-21.16A(b)(2)]. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Trustee Services of Carolina,

LLC Substitute Trustee Brock & Scott, PLLC Attorneys for Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC 5431 Oleander Drive Suite 200 Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (910) 392-4988 FAX: (910) 392-8587 File No.: 22-05365-FC01 Jn9,Jn16,2tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE A public hearing will be held the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 9 Hillsboro Street.

Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chatham countync.gov by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. In order to allow adequate time for everyone to provide comments during the meeting. the Board of Commissioners limit speakers to two (2) minutes and Planning Board

limits speakers to three (3) minutes. Speakers may not yield any portion of their allotted time to others, and you are encouraged to provide written comments.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below: Legislative Request: 1. A legislative public hearing for a request by the Chatham County Board of Commission ers for a legislative General Use rezoning on Parcel 5368 being 66.5 acres located off the Moncure Flatwoods Rd. a portion of Parcel 85332 being approximately 200 acres locat ed at 1315 Moncure Pittsboro Rd, and a portion of Parcel 5601 being approximately 47 acres located off Christian Chapel Church Rd, totaling approximately 313.5 acres from R-1 Residential and Conditional Use Heavy Industrial to Industrial Heavy, Cape Fear Township.

Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or the Boar

sions. Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

Jn9,Jn16,2tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having gualified as Executor of the Estate of CLARENCE L. DURHAM, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment. This, the 9th of June, 2022. Anthony Edward Mann, Execu-

tor of the Estate of Clarence L. Durham 470 Andrews Store Road Pittsboro, NC 27312 Chad Wesley Riggsbee, Attorney at Law 288 East St., Suite 2004 P.O. Box 147 Pittsboro, NC 27312

Jn9,Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 70

All persons having claims against **RONNY SIZEMORE** de-ceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of June, 2022. Belinda Riddle Sizemore, **Administrator** 11173 Siler City Glendon Rd. Bear Creek, NC 27207 Jn9,Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-311 **NORTH CAROLINA**

CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Richard E. Kauff, having qualified Executor of the PATRICIA ANN HAMES KAUFF. deceased. late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recov ery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of June, 2022. Richard E. Kauff, Executor c/o Marie H. Hopper Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jn9,Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-307 **NORTH CAROLINA**

CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Steven J.

Spence, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of GISELA M. SPENCE, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of September. 2022. or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of June, 2022. Steven J. Spence, Executor c/o Marie H. Hopper Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312

Jn9,Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 754

All persons having claims against WILBUR ARNOLD RIVES, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment

This the 9th day of June, 2022. Sandra Rives Roscoe, Executor 8708 NC HWY 902 Pittsboro, NC 27312

Jn9,Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 294

All persons having claims against **MILDRED M. GRIZ-**ZARD, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of Septem-ber, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate

payment. This the 9th day of June, 2022. Sue Grizzard, Executrix 111 Walton Place Fayetteville, NC 28305

Jn9,Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 302

All persons having claims against WALTER BICKETT EUBANKS, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Caro lina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 9th day of June, 2022. James William Eubanks, Administrator

> 980 Eubanks Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jn9,Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,4tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of TERRY **R. THALAM**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to John G. Kelso, Esq., Van Winkle, Buck, Wall,

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6208-0721

Starnes and Davis, P.A., Attornevs-at-Law. 11 North Market Street, Asheville, NC 28801, on or before the 16th day of September, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. Patricia A. Thalman, Executor Estate of Terry R. Thalman John G. Kelso, Esq., Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes and Davis, P.A., Attorneys-at-Law 11 North Market Street Asheville, NC 28801 Jn16, Jn23, Jn30, Jy7, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS **NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 325

All persons having claims against **LEONARD HOYLE** BECKWITH, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate

payment. This the 16th day of June, 2022. Daniel Kevin Beckwith

139 Black Horse Run Bear Creek, NC 27207

Jn16, Jn23, Jn30, Jy7, 4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE The Chatham County Board of Health will hold a public hear ing on Monday, June 27, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the Dun-lap Building in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 80 East Street. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input. both written and oral, on the proposed changes to the existing rules governing Chatham County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. The proposed changes include: Reducing the blood lead action

level from 4.0ug/dL to 1.0ug/dL Updating the blood lead level follow up schedule to align with NCDHHS requirements The proposed changes if approved will take effect July 1. 2022.

Additional information and the proposed rule changes are available on the County web site at www.chathamcountvnc. gov/environmentalhealth and at the Chatham County Public Health Department Environmental Health Division office, as well as the County Clerk's Office.

Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Health.

Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or writ-ten comments received or the Board's discussions.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Public Health Department at 919-545-8310 or write to P.O. Box 130, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call 919-545-8391 prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHATHAM COUNTY ABC The Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 has been submitted to the Chatham County ABC Board. A copy of the proposed Budget is available for public inspec-tion in the office of the general manager of the Chatham County ABC Board at 10435 US 64 HWY E, Apex NC 27523, and may be reviewed by the public during normal working hours. Interested citizens are invited to make comments orally at a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 11:30 a.m., at the Chatham County ABC office located at 10435 US 64 HWY E, Apex, NC 27523. Written comments may be submitted prior to that date and should be addressed to the Chatham County ABC Board at 10435 US 64 HWY E, Apex, NC 27523. Matthew Williams General Manager

Chatham County ABC Jn16,1tc

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICA-TIONS

Triangle J Council of Governments invites qualified consultants to submit proposals for the Brooks Creek Stream Restoration and Culvert Replacement Project. Materials for the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) can be found here: https://www.tjcog.org/get-involved/requests-proposals. 1. Project Site: Unincorporate ed Chatham County, North Carolina. The site provides ingress and egress to the Saralyn Homeowners Association (Saralyn HOA) community. 2. Project Scope: The project will provide tremendous environmental and safety impacts by replacing a 50-year-old metal culvert at the Saralyn Road crossing with a bot-tomless culvert. Additionally, the project will include a full stream channel restoration to Brooks Creek with riparian enhancements to restore the stream channel and riparian

corridor. 3. Anticipated Project Budget: \$525.00.

4. Project Schedule: Deadline for project completion, 11/30/2023 and deadline for warranty inspection, 12/12/2023.

5. Criteria to be considered for selection and the weighting of the qualifications criteria. Pass/Fail – Compliant State-ment of Qualifications (SOQ) Transmittal Letter, Financial Information, Ability to Provide Bonds SOQ Transmittal AND Proposer and Design-Build Team Safety Program and Safety Performance Proposer Experience with Similar Size and Scope Projects - 15%

Key Staff Qualifications - 15% Project Approach – 25% Innovation and Cost Control 25%

Proposed Schedule for Completing Tasks Identified - 15% Location of the Firm – 5% 6. Triangle J takes affirmative steps to solicit price quotes from M/WBE vendors and suppliers as provided under 2 C.F.R. § 200.321.

7. This site is the only ingress and egress into the Saralyn HOA community, design-builder must be able to adequately divert traffic for safe ingress/ egress. 8. Each design-builder shall submit in its response to the request for qualifications an explanation of its project team selection, which shall consist of either of the following: a. A list of the licensed contractors, licensed subcontractors, and licensed design professionals whom the design-builder proposes to use for the project's design and construction. b. An outline of the strategy

the design-builder plans to use for open contractor and subcontractor selection based upon the provisions of Article 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. Jn16,1tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO

The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom and at Chatham County Agriculture Center to consider the following items: 1. SUP-2022-01, Proposed Special Use Permit: Applicant and property owner Iglesia Bautista Misionera Roca Fuerte are requesting a Special Use Permit for a cemetery. The property comprised of one parcel (68571), located within the Pittsboro Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, at 1365 NC 902 HWY, and the proposed cemetery is approximately one (1) acre of the total approximate 11.61 acres in size. The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interest ed parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, on the Planning Department page under "Current Planning" at https:// nc-pittsboro.civicplus.com/. and are available for inspection through e-mail. Please give reasonable notice to the Pittsboro Planning Department at (919) 533-2034 if accommodations for individuals with disabilities or impairments are required. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software, and in person. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www. pittsboronc.gov. Please sign up with the Town Manager, Chris Kennedy by 4:00 p.m on June 27, 2022 if you wish to participate. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Manager, Chris Kennedy, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at ckennedy@

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on

June 27, 2022.

Jn16, Jn23, 2tc

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 7th day of June, 2022, as Executor of the ESTATE OF LEON JOEL LASTER, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of Sep-tember, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 16th day of June, 2022. RAYMOND JAMES TRUST N.A.,

EXECUTOR ESTATE OF LEON JOEL LASTER c/o Stephen C. Rhudy, Attorney Walker Lambe, PLLC Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717

Jn16, Jn23, Jn30, Jy7, 4tc

NOTICE OF RUNOFF ELECTION TOWN OF CARY – AT-LARGE-SEAT **CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH**

CAROLINA The Runoff election for the At-Large Seat for the Town of Cary will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Polls will be open from 6:30

a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Two polling places will be open, East Williams Precinct, and New Hope Precinct. Only voters who live in the munici-pal boundaries of the Town of Cary who reside in Chatham County in either one of these precincts are eligible to vote in this election.

One-stop early voting will be held at the following location from Thursday, July 7, 2022, to Saturday, July 23, 2022: County Board of Elections office, 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm (Last Saturday Only - July 23, 2022).

Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters who have requested them beginning June 24, 2022. A voter can fill out an absentee ballot request at votebymail.ncsbe.gov, or by filling out a request form provided by the county board of elections office. The request must be received through the website or by the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections by 5 p.m. July 19, 2022.

In the runoff election, voters will select one candidate from the following Contests on the ballot: Cary Town Council At-Large.

The voter registration deadline for this election is 5 p.m. Friday, July 1, 2022. Eligible individuals who are not registered by that deadline may register and vote at any early voting site during the early voting period. New registrants will be required to provide documentation of their residence.

Questions? Call the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections Office at 919-545-8500 or send an email to elections@chatham-

countync.gov. Laura Heise, Chair CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,3tc

PUBLIC NOTICE SEWER MOR-ATORIUM

Siler City WWTP Siler City Wastewater Treat-ment Plant (WWTP) in Chatham County cannot accept the discharge of additional waste to the Siler City WWTP effective June 21, 2022, due to noncompliance with the terms of NPDES Permit NC0026441. Therefore, Siler City WWTP is hereby placed on a sewer moratorium at its wastewater treatment plant effective June 21. 2022.

On the basis of thorough staff review and application of Article 21 of Chapter 143, General Statutes of North Carolina, Public Law 92-500 and other lawful standards and regulations, the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission has determined

that Siler City WWTP is unable to adequately collect and treat waste tributary to its wastewater treatment facility. North Carolina General Statute 143-215.67(a) directs that no person subject to the provision of NCGS 143-215.1, 143-215.108 or 143-214.109 shall cause or allow the discharge of any wastes to a waste-disposal system in excess of the capacity of the disposal system or of any wastes which the waste-disposal system cannot adequately treat. The moratorium on additional sewer connections will remain in effect until Siler City WWTP has rectified the current noncompliant condition of the facility and has obtained permission from the North Carolina **Environmental Management** Commission suspending the moratorium. Permits and other information may be inspected during normal office hours at the Division of Water Resources, Central Files, Archdale Building, 512 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, telephone (919) 807-6306 Copies of information on file are available via our online

document repository, or upon request and payment of the costs of reproduction. Questions regarding the status of the sewer moratorium should be directed to Chris McCorquodale, Siler City Pub-lic Works and Utilities Director, at 919-742-4733. Jn16,1tc

PUBLIC NOTICE SEWER MOR-ATORIUM

Siler City WWTP La planta de tratamiento de aguas (WWTP) de Siler City en el condado de Chatham no puede aceptar la descarga desechos adicionales a la WWTP de Siler City a partir del 21 de Junio de 2022, debido al incumplimiento de los términos del permiso NPDES NC0026441. Por lo tanto, la WWTP de Siler City se puso en una moratoria de alcantarillado en la planta de tratamiento de aguas a partir del 21 de

junio de 2022. Sobre la base de la revisión del personal y la aplicación del Artículo 21 del Capítulo 143, los Estatutos Generales de Carolina del Norte, la Ley Pública 92-500 y otras normas y reglamentos legales, la Comisión de Gestión Ambiental de Carolina del Norte ha determinado que la WWTP de Siler City no puede recolectar y tratar los desechos tributarios a su planta de tratamiento de aguas residuales. El Estatuto General de Caro-lina del Norte 143-215.67(a) establece que ninguna persona sujeta a la disposición de NCGS 143-215.1, 143-215.108 o 143-214.109 debe causar o permitir la descarga de desechos a un sistema de eliminación de desechos en exceso del capacidad del sistema de eliminación o de cualquier desecho que el sistema de eliminación de desechos no pueda tratar adecuadamente. La moratoria sobre conexiones de alcantarillado adicionales permanecerá vigente hasta que la WWTP de Siler City haya rectificado la condición actual de incumplimiento de la instalación y haya obtenido el permiso de la Comisión de Gestión Ambiental de Carolina del Norte para suspender la moratoria.

Los permisos y otra información se pueden inspeccio-

nar durante el horario normal de oficina en la División de Recursos Hídricos, Archivos Centrales, Edificio: Archdale, 512 North Salisbury Street. Raleigh, Carolina del Norte, teléfono (919) 807-6306. Las copias de la información archivada están disponibles a través de nuestro repositorio de documentos en línea. o previa solicitud y pago de los costos de reproducción. Las preguntas sobre el estado de la moratoria del alcantarillado deben dirigirse a Chris McCorquodale, Director de Servicios y Obras Públicas de Siler City, al 919-742-4733. Jn16,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against WILLIAM WELFORD BECK, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 16th day of June, 2022. Doris D. Beck, Administrator 398 Glosson Road

Siler City, NC 27344 Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,Jy7,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, having qual-ified on the 8th day of June 2022 as Executrix of the Estate of LARRY MARLIN MOSER, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of September 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 16th day of June, 2022. Tammy Moser Havener, Executrix of the Estate of Larry Marlin Moser

c/o Julia G. Henry, Esquire Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707

Jn16, Jn23, Jn30, Jy7, 4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY Having gualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of ANN DAVIS, late of 550 Hoot Owl Lane, Siler City, NC (Chatham County), the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the address given below, on or before the 16th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. Jason R. Jones, Administrator CTA of the Estate of Ann Davis (22-E-310; Chatham County, NC) c/o Jason R. Jones 200 Towne Village Dr

Cary, NC 27513

Jn16,Jn23,Jn30,Jy7,4tp

OBITUARIES

Jn16,1tc

Continued from page A8

JOHNNIE MAE (WOMBLE) PEOPLES

November 12, 1929 ~ June 12, 2022

Mrs. Johnnie Mae Womble Peoples, 92, of Charlotte, passed away on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at her home.

Services are being provided by Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

HOYT ARLO 'TEET' SCOTT

Mr. Hoyt Arlo "Teet" Scott, 91, of Bear Creek, passed away Monday, June 13, 2022, at FirstHealth Hospice in Pinehurst.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at Tyson's Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Bob Wachs officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

"Teet" was the son of the late Lonnie Scott and Nellie Dixon Scott. He worked as a painting contractor and started More Heat Manufacturing, before he and his wife founded Southern Supreme Fruitcake & More. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by eight brothers and four sisters.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Berta Lou Scott of the home, four children; Belinda Scott Jordan, Ricky Scott, Sandy Scott Brown and Randy Scott, all of Bear Creek; one brother, Robert Cecil "Bob" Scott of Bennett; one sister, Dixie Holt of Siler City; eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

The family requests in lieu of flowers that donations be made to Tyson's Creek Baptist Church, 10891 Siler City-Glendon Road, Bear Creek, N.C. 27207 or to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374.

Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebradychapel.com.

LARRY ODELL HALL JR.

February 16, 1976 ~ June 9, 2022 Larry Odell Hall Jr., 46, passed away Thursday, June 9, 2022, at his home in Bennett.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at **Pine Mountain Friends Church** with Reverend Edwin Moore officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Larry was the son of Larry Hall Sr. and the late Geraldine Barnes Hall. He worked for Hall's Insulation. Larry is survived by sons: Christian Hall, Dalton Hall; daughter: Elizabeth Murray; father: Larry Hall, Sr.; two grandchildren; sisters: Wendy Hall, Tammy Cruz, Stephanie Barnes; and brother, Scotty Hall.

Memorials may be made to Pine Mountain Friends Church, 268 Phillips Road, Bennett, N.C. 27208

Condolences may be made to pinesfunerals.com.

DENNIS JAY EDWARDS

September 4, 1960 ~ June 11, 2022 Dennis Jay Edwards, 61, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Duke Hospital.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 4 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church cemetery with Rev. George Walton presiding.

He was the son of Lora "Arthelia" Tillman Edwards and the late Charles L. Edwards Sr. He worked as a machinist making car parts. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his brother Robbie Edwards.

Surviving relatives include his mother Arthelia T. Edwards, sister Sherry Holder & Ronnie of Olivia; brother Chuck Edwards of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome. com



Submitted photo

Siler City Lions Club

Past District Governor Karl Ernst inducted new members to the Siler City Lions Club on May 24. The new members are (second from left) Wendy Castillo Mejia with her sponsor Vice President Jay Palmer (left) and Marlene Soto-Gallardo (second from right) and her sponsor Morgan Fadely (right).



Contributed photo

Chatham Chatham Leadership

Chamber leadership graduates include, front row, from left: Joselyn Villasenor, Chatham Literacy; Sasha Duncan, NationBuilder; Teresa Farrell, Fidelity Bank; Krystal Handle, Chatham County Homeless Shelter; Kris Marino, Carolina Tiger Rescue; Meredith Katibah, CORA; Chela Tu, Bold Commercial Real Estate; Phillip Pappas, Small Business Center, Central Carolina Community College. Back row, from left: Roderick Parker, Chatham Habitat for Humanity; Eric Wolak, Chatham Hospital UNC Health Care; Malinda Marsh, NCWorks and Central Carolina Community College; Cheryl Littleton, retiree; and Cindy Poindexter, Chamber staff). Superimposed pictures: Zac West, Sanford Contractors; Kimberly Hutter, Galloway Ridge.

Pittsboro commissioners say they'll pursue litigation against PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane polluters

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Town commissioners on Monday unanimously voted to investigate and pursue litigation against industries or others responsible for repeated discharges of PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane — two families of compounds which have been deemed likely human carcinogens — into the Haw River, Pittsboro's source of drinking water.

The board met at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, where they approved two legal service agreements with Sher Edling LLP to pursue two litigation cases — one for PFAS polluters and one for 1,4-Dioxane polluters. The town will seek compensation to cover necessary expenses - past, present and future — to treat drinking water it provides for its utility customers for so-called "forever chemicals," which are nearly impossible to remove from water.

According to the background information provided in the legal agreement documents in the agenda packet, commissioners started seeking litigation options last fall, when the town put out a request seeking a legal team willing to take on the two cases against the still unnamed industries.

Commissioners chose to work with Sher Edling LLP, a San Francisco-based firm specializing in environmental-related lawsuits, after a series of interviews and closed sessions. Sher Edling has tackled numerous cases regarding climate change, drinking water quality and pollutants in general.

"Certainly, the public is largely aware of our water quality concerns and us seeking to recoup the expenses and future expenses we are likely to incur with continued advanced treatment measures," Town Manager Chris Kennedy said during Monday's meeting. "The board recently interviewed Sher Edling ... and the

According to the background board felt comfort in working formation provided in the with them."

The legal service agreements would allow for Sher Edling to conduct an investigation, which would reveal who bears responsibility for releasing the chemicals into the Haw upstream from Chatham County. From there, commissioners will look at what options to pursue to attempt to receive compensation for the dumps into the source of Pittsboro's drinking water.

"These won't be quick efforts — they will likely take years to pursue," Kennedy said.

Pittsboro has spent around \$3.5 million to add infrastructure to accommodate for additional treatment to its water supply. According to Kennedy, the town will need at least an additional \$23 to \$25 million to afford the rest of the changes needed to ensure the water is free of PFAS and 1.4-Dioxane. Those fees don't include associated costs necessary to maintain the facilities at the treatment plant once they are installed.

"The town is certainly incurring a significant amount of costs as we move forward to provide our customers with good, reliable water," he said. "I don't want to over-illustrate what we've been working on, and I know the public has been very patient ... we hope that the public is in support of this."

Commissioner Kyle Shipp said it was important for residents to know the legal proceedings to follow would most likely have to take place behind closed doors.

"A lot of this that has happened, happened in closed session, and a lot of it moving forward will happen in closed session," he said. "We won't be able to give all the updates you may want to hear, as we haven't been able to do so far, but we will be working on it and keep you updated as much as we can."

Commissioner John Bonitz, who has been a strong advocate for pursuing litigation against polluters, also said updates on the litigation process would most likely be limited to help protect their case.

"For legal, strategic reasons, we're constrained," he said. "We've been constrained from having conversations about this, but rest assured, the vote I think this board is going to take indicates our concern for this matter and determination to make our residents and taxpayers whole."

Pittsboro was the downstream recipient of three 1,4-Dioxane discharges in the last year, with the most recent one happening in early April. Bonitz said the board has considered pursuing litigation for many months, and he's pleased to finally hold polluters accountable for their discharges into the town's water.

"It's been a long time coming," he said. "I am very eager for this to commence."

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

VIGIL

Continued from page A1

of traumatic incidents. More than 60 people gathered in the church to sing hymns, read scripture and be in the presence of one another during this challenging time.

The service was led by Rev. Andrew Taylor-Troutman, Chapel in the Pines' pastor, and Rev. Brent Levy, pastor of The Local Church. Both said the service was a time for communal lament with a call to action.

"If someone is hungry, feed them," Levy said. "Transfer fear into love." Levy said the night was about turning darkness into light through the power of communal healing.

The service began with offerings of peace through scripture. The most moving portion of the night, though, came when nine community members — including school teachers, clergy and church members participated in a "Litany in the wake of a mass shooting." Song leaders played the hymn "Drive Out the Darkness" while the community leaders read out a list of mass shootings and the number of people killed at each location. From San-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Reverend Brent Levy of the Local Church tells those gathered, 'If someone is hungry, feed them. Transfer fear into love.

dy Hook, to Parkland and all the way up through present-day in Buffalo, Uvalde and Tulsa. "Give to the departed eternal rest," the leader said following each tragedy. "Let light perpetual shine upon them," the congregation said in response.

As the readers traded places, a chorus of voices would sing "drive out the darkness," each time seemingly louder than the previous.

This litany was a solemn reminder of the long-lasting epidemic of gun violence throughout the country. From schools to community centers to grocery stores, there are few institutions untouched by this American horror story. After reading a list of the shootings, participants were encouraged to write prayers for peace on note cards and many were anointed with oil on the backs of their hands. "May our addiction to judgment be released," one prayer read. "May we be freed from our fears; may we dwell simply and with the grace and gratitude in the love of God." Taylor-Troutman and Levy also used the service as a platform to call on the attendees to push for action against gun violence by providing literature from advocacy organizations including Moms Demand Action and the Sojourners organization. "Members need to hear our voices as they craft common sense and popular gun safety protections," the literature from



Staff photo by Kim Hawks Catherine Neal leads the congregation in reading a list of mass shootings at cities across the country. She was one of nine speakers to read a list of recent incidents of mass gun violence in the U.S.

Sojourners read.

Levy said the occasion of prayer was the perfect time to ask for change. He added that he believed God would not want people to live in a society of violence and fear.

"One does not pray in lieu of summoning political courage," Levy said. "But rather in preparation for doing so. Your



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Reverend Andrew Taylor-Troutman prays for peace. Troutman leads Chapel in the Pines, which opened its doors to all church communities to participate in an ecumenical vigil for lament and action after another horrific mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, last month.

rifles, ban high capacity magazines, raise the age to buy a semi-automatic to 21 or require background checks. The bill is considered. by many gun control activist groups, including March for Our Lives, a step in the right direction. The text of the legislation has not been written but is likely to pass given it has the support of 10 Republican senators, meaning it could override a potential filibuster. Prior to the announcement of the potential legislation Sunday, at the service, Levy said he believes enacting positive change on gun violence would be reminding the church what it means to be the church. "We need a radical transformation of us into tools of love," Levy said. "A radical revisioning of what will be in the future. Independence transformed into cooperation, skepticism into curiosity, idolatry into sacrifice for the common good, clenched fists into open palms, fear transformed into love."

New Limits Expand 401(K), Ira Opportunities

You could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. So, to pay for all those years, you'll probably need to take full advantage of your retirement accounts. And in 2022, you may have expanded opportunities to deduct retirement plan contributions on your tax return.

Before looking at what's changed this year, let's review the key benefits of these accounts: • Traditional IRA - You typically contribute pretax (deductible) dollars to a traditional IRA, and your earnings can grow tax-deferred. • Roth IRA - You invest after-tax dollars in a Roth IRA, so your contributions won't lower vour taxable income, but your earnings can grow tax free, provided vou've had your account at least five years and you're 591/2 or older when you begin taking withdrawals. • 401(k) – A401(k) or similar plan (such as a 457(b) for state and local government employees or a 403(b) for employees of public schools or nonprofit groups) is generally funded with pretax dollars and provides tax-deferred earnings. Some employers offer a Roth 401(k), in which employees contribute after tax-dollars and can take tax-free withdrawals if they meet the same age and length-of-ownership requirements as the Roth IRA. So, what's different about these plans in 2022? First, consider the traditional IRA. If you - and your spouse, if you're married - don't have a 401(k) or similar plan, you can always deduct the full amount of your contribution on your tax return, no matter what you earn. But if one or both of you are covered by an employer-sponsored plan, then your deductions could be reduced or eliminated based on your income. Single taxpayers can claim the full deduction if your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is \$68,000 or less

(\$109,000 for married filing jointly), with deductibility decreasing at higher income levels and phasing out entirely at \$78,000 (\$129,000 for married filing jointly). But here's the key point: Compared to 2021, these ranges are \$2,000 higher for single filers and \$4,000 higher for those who are married and filing jointly – which means that this year, you might have more oppor-

that this year, you might have more opportunities to make deductible contributions.

And a similar type of increase applies to Roth IRA eligibility. In 2022, if you're a single filer, you can put in up to \$6,000 (\$7,000 if you are 50 or older) in a Roth IRA if your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is less than \$129,000 - up from \$125,000 in 2021. Allowable contributions are reduced at higher income levels and phased out if your MAGI is \$144,000 or more, up from \$140,000 in 2021. If you're married and file jointly, the respective ranges are \$204,000-\$214,000, up from \$198,000-\$208,000 in 2021. Again, higher ranges may mean more opportunities for you. (Consult your tax advisor to determine your eligibility to contribute to a Roth IRA or make deductible contributions to a traditional IRA.)

And finally, the annual contribution limit for 401(k), 457(b) and 403(b) plans is 20,500 - up \$1,000 from 2021. If you're 50 or older, you can put in an extra \$6,500 this year, for a total of \$27,000.

These changes may not seem monumental, but when you're saving for retirement, any opportunities to invest and potentially reduce taxes, of whatever size, can be valuable. So, review your options to determine how you can help yourself move closer to your retirement goals.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

participation is needed."

On Sunday, a bipartisan group of senators including North Carolina Republicans Thom Tillis and Richard Burr agreed to take some action on gun violence. The potential bill includes "needed mental health resources, improves school safety and support for students, and helps ensure dangerous criminals and those who are adjudicated as mentally ill can't purchase weapons," the senators said in a statement.

The legislation does include a red flag provision, with the government providing "resources to states and tribes to create and administer laws that help ensure deadly weapons are kept out of the hands of individuals whom a court has determined to be a significant danger to themselves or others," according to the statement.

The bill, however, does not ban any guns, including semi-automatic Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

There were several different opportunities for reflections: by writing words of prayer on an index card, lighting a candle in hope or receiving an anointing from gathered clergy.

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JUNE 16 - 22, 2022 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

FOR THE LOVE OF FOOTBALL

Northwood grad Josh Proctor takes next step as IMG Academy's newest tight ends coach

BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

BRADENTON, Florida — For most of his life, Josh Proctor has called the gridiron home.

No matter the state, city or town he's lived in, football has given the the 2005 Northwood High School graduate much-needed consistency, providing him with a constant sense of both security and structure.

Now, as a coach, Proctor uses football to do the same for his student-athletes, giving them a place where they can not only have fun playing the sport he loves, but do so while learning life lessons, building relationships and, most importantly, staying out of trouble.

After all the game's done for him, he says it's the least he can do.

"Football absolutely saved my life as far as keeping me out



of trouble, out of jail and from doing things that I shouldn't be doing," Proctor said. "I feel like I've got so much to pay back the sport of football, so I try to be the coach that I needed when I was that age."

Over the last 15 years, Proctor has coached up and down the East Coast, taking a variety of positions at high schools and colleges in West Virginia, Florida and North Carolina — including his alma mater,



Submitted photo

Cardinal Gibbons' special teams coordinator Josh Proctor (center), raises a fist, signifying fourth down, on the sideline of a Crusaders game during his three-year stint with the program from 2019-21. Proctor was hired to be the tight ends coach at IMG Academy in May.

where he was the varsity running backs coach and assistant wrestling coach for the 2011-12

season. But in late May, Proctor announced that, after a threeyear stint at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh —most notably as the Crusaders' special teams coordinator, part of a larger seven-year career at CGHS — he was taking on arguably his most exciting coaching role yet: he's now the tight ends coach at the illustrious IMG Academy in Bradenton.

"It's another opportunity to learn," Proctor said. "I've coached just about every position on the offensive side and I've been a special teams coordinator for the past seven years, but it's still an opportunity to learn because it's a chance to coach different types of athletes. ... I'm excited to learn different offenses and defenses that we didn't run at Cardinal Gibbons. It's all just so exciting and I can't wait to see where it leads."

For Proctor, the opportunity

See **PROCTOR,** page B3

A DROUGHT NO MORE

Fadely caps off freshman year with national title as Kenyon snaps Emory's 10-year streak

BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

GAMBIER, Ohio — Before she got to Kenyon College, Jennah Fadely hated change.

In fact, it frightened her. But once the Jordan-Matthews swimming legend made the 470-mile move from Siler City to Gambier, Ohio, last summer, she quickly learned how to embrace it, converting that fear into confidence that she'd use to become a fresh-



declared the Division III national champions for the first time since 2009, edging out 10-time defending champion Emory University by 7 points in a thrilling championship duel — Kenyon's 446 points to Emory's 439.

"We're just holding each other up and pushing each other to new heights," Fadely said, explaining how crucial teamwork is to Kenyon's success. "I'm not sure if we knew we were going to win, but we just kind of went out there and went for it. We kept going like we had all year and we kept up our spirits and our energy from day one to our last day of nationals." When Fadely committed to Kenyon, she knew the type of program she was getting herself into: one rich with prestige, history and plenty of championship pedigree. That's why, when asked whether she was surprised the Ladies had won the title in March, her answer was simple: A little, but not really. Winning is just the Kenyon way.

and — perhaps most notably — a 2022 national champion.

"Normally, I'm really afraid of change, but this time, I'm grateful for a lot of change because I really saw myself grow from it," Fadely said not long after the conclusion of her first season as a member of Kenyon's swimming team. "I'm very happy with the outcome, and I'm excited to see what the future holds."

Fadely was part of the Kenyon squad that competed at the NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving National Championships March 16-19 in Indianapolis, racing in three individual and two relay events. She took first place in both of the relays, Submitted photo by A.J. Mast

Kenyon swimmer Jennah Fadely hoists a trophy at the NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving National Championships. Fadely took 1st place in two relay races and 3rd place in two invidual breaststroke races.

including the women's 200yard medley relay, where she and teammates Olivia Smith, Crile Hart and Emmie Mirus set an NCAA record in the process with a time of 1:39.59. She also took third place in both the women's 100-yard breaststroke (1:00.75) and 200yard breaststroke (2:14.57) at nationals.

And by the end of the fourth day, when all of the scores were tallied, Kenyon's women's team was officially

See FADELY, page B2

I've always rooted for the Warriors. You should too.

Maybe this isn't a widely shared take, but I've never disliked the Golden State



VICTOR HENSLEY Sports Editor

Warriors. I never got tired of them when they made five straight NBA Finals appearances from 2015-19, winning three titles in the process.

I felt no animosity toward them when Kevin Durant, arguably the best player

in the world in 2017, left the Oklahoma City Thunder to join the 73-win Warriors, who knocked him out of the postsason the year before, in a controversial move.

Throughout all of the victories, the championships and the parades, I never once got angry at them. In fact, I've pulled for them every step of the way.

It's interesting because, as so many sports fans do, I typically dislike teams that experience consistent success and shove it in our faces. When I was at the lunch table in high school, there wasn't enough time in the day for me to express my disdain for the Tom Brady-led New England Patriots or the LeBron James and Dwyane Wade-led Miami Heat as much as I wanted to. That's partly because the attention they garnered was, at times, unbearable, but also because they were just so daggone good.

Now that I'm an adult, I can admit that.

But the Warriors, despite them being arguably the best NBA dynasty of my lifetime, have always gotten a pass in my mind.

And after they took down the Boston Celtics in Game 5 of this season's NBA Finals on Monday night, I think I've finally figured out why: sports are simply better when Golden State is winning.

When they're on, there may not be a more exciting team in all of professional sports.

Hate 'em or love 'em, the Warriors are absolutely must-watch TV.

Steph Curry, the greatest shooter in

NBA history, is currently having one of the best Finals performances of his career — and, quite possibly, all-time.

Curry, a name engrained in the fabric of North Carolina basketball history, has constantly gotten the short end of the stick when it comes to credit for the Warriors' success.

When they win, people love to credit teammates like Durant, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green, or even — after winning Finals MVP in 2015 — Andre Iguodala. But when they lose, people often chalk it up to Curry not showing up on the big stage.

Aside from Game 5, when Curry scored just 16 points on 32% shooting (0-for-9 from three-point range in his first-ever playoff game without a triple), he's been magnificent throughout these Finals.

Curry's been the leading scorer on his team in four out of five games, including a 43-point, 10-rebound performance in a must-win Game 4 in

See **WARRIORS,** page B2



Photo courtesy of Golden State Warriors

Warriors guard Steph Curry pumps up the crowd at the Chase Center during Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Monday. The Warriors pulled out the win, 104-94, to take a 3-2 series lead over the Celtics.

FADELY

Continued from page B1

Championship pedigree

The James A. Steen Aquatic Center, located on Kenyon's southwest campus, holds 985,000 gallons of water, 25 swimming lanes and, most importantly, 56 — soon to be 58 — national championship banners.

The banners, spaced out evenly, stretch from one end of the main room to the other, spanning the length of both pools and representing Kenyon's illustrious swimming history.

Dating back to 1980, Kenyon has won a total of 58 NCAA Division III swimming and diving national championships, including 34 men's titles, 27 women's titles).

Over the last 42 seasons - excluding 2020 and 2021, which didn't declare a champion during the COVID-19 pandemic -Kenyon has accounted for nearly 73% of all D-III swimming and diving titles, a run that's practically unrivaled in college athletics.

In total, Kenyon's 61 team titles, including 58 in swimming/diving and three in women's tennis, ranks it 4th all-time among NCAA schools (all sports, all divisions), iust behind Stanford (120 titles), UCLA (116) and USC (107). It's the only non-Division I school in the top 10.

Gambier may have a total population of just a little over 2,300 people, and Kenyon's enrollment is just under 1,700, but it undoubtedly packs a major punch in the pool.

When Fadely arrived in Gambier last summer, it didn't take her long to realize Kenyon was special. And much, much different from what she was used to.

At Jordan-Matthews High School, where she swam from 2017-2021, Fadely was the team's premier student-athlete, consistently improving each season until she found herself at the top of the mountain in 2021 taking home the first state championship in program history in the women's 100-yard breaststroke with a record-setting time of 1:02.11 at the NCHSAA 1A/2A Swimming & Diving State Championships in Cary. Fadely's teams at J-M typically consisted of a

Kenyon swimmer Jennah Fadely slices through the water in one of her 5 races during the NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving National Championships in Indianapolis in March.

dozen or so swimmers, many with little to no experience when they started out. Home meets took place at the fairly intimate Randolph-Asheboro YMCA in Asheboro, with most of the "fans" in attendance being other swimmers from teams the Jets are competing against.

But at Kenyon, it's a completely different atmosphere. And at first, it was overwhelming, Fadely said.

"This was the biggest team I've ever swam on, so I was worried about getting along with everyone, fitting in," she admitted. "But when I came up to the (youth swim) camp last year, I met one of my best friends, Maggie (Foight), she swims at Kenyon and she'll be a senior this year. She introduced me to everyone and told me about how the team works. She made me feel really good about coming here. ... I don't think I would've been able to do it without her.'

The Ladies' swimming and diving team had a roster of 38 student-athletes this season, many of which not only supported Fadely throughout her freshman campaign, but pushed her to become even better than she was during her title-winning senior season at J-M.

sessions on most days – she cites the squad's closeness, and its energy. as the prime reason for the Ladies' overwhelming SILCCESS

"It's really emphasized here that our success comes together, that we're one team, we support each other and we don't stop cheering for each other until the race is done," Fadely said. "We're always encouraged to be the loudest team on the deck and that's one of my favorite things because we are very loud and we scream all of the time. ... I really just enjoy cheering everyone on and watching my friends cheer for everyone and have that energy, it gets me pumped up for my races."

Fadely said she gives her coaching staff, including Head Coach Jess Book and Senior Assistant Coach Fernando Rodriguez, all the credit for cultivating a welcoming, team-focused environment that makes her feel like she's a part of a family.

And this season, it all came together for the Ladies - talent, chemistry, energy — to form the program's first title in 13 years, strapping Fadely with her second championship in as many years.

Celebrating in Indy

Ladies were declared the champs.

"There was a lot of screaming, a lot of screaming," Fadely said, chuckling.

Kenyon entered the final day with just 41/2 points separating the top three spots alongside Emory and Denison University. But as the day progressed, the Ladies earned massive wins from the likes of Mirus (first place, 100yard freestyle) and Hart (first place, 200-yard backstroke) — along with Fadely's third-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke — to secure the title.

"It was toward the end of the meet when my friend Emmie (Mirus) won her 100 freestyle and that's when I knew for sure that we had it," Fadely said. "We won by 7 points, which is kind of close, but we were still freaking out. It was a long 10 minutes of us sitting in a room, freaking out and crying and screaming and cheering.²

Once the meet was



Submitted photo by A.J. Mast

over, Kenyon went back

to its hotel room where

the student-athletes spent

more time excitedly remi-

niscing over the previous

every moment — before

back home the next day.

The lack of sleep was

"A lot of my success I

can really contribute to

our team culture and my

teammates and coaches

helped me grow as a per-

think I really could have

done that if God hadn't

put them in my life.'

The grind doesn't

Nearly three months

after the Ladies' takeover

can still be found hanging

While she continues to

out at the Steen Aquatic

spend time working on

her own technique, her

reasoning for staying in

Gambier through June is

to help out at her second

straight youth swim

Center's pool.

of Indianapolis, Fadely

stop

son," Fadely said. "I don't

because they've really

four days — reliving

packing for their trip

surely worth it.

with camp in late June, Fadely will be heading home to Siler City to spend time with her family and, of course, swim. Because the grind never stops — at least not when you're a national champion, eyeing a 2023 repeat.

After Fadely took home the individual state title during her senior season at J-M, she said that, despite all of the progress she'd made, she still felt a bit unsatisfied. refusing to get complacent before heading off to college.

Now, after two individual relay national titles and a team championship to top it off, her satisfaction level is rising.

But she still isn't there. "I don't think I've ever been happier than when I've been here at Kenyon, if I'm being completely honest," Fadely said, "but I do think I have more room to grow. .. All around, I've just been really satisfied with this first year. And I think I can improve again next year and I'm excited to keep pushing my limits to see how far I can go.'

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

Chatham COA **Events & Announcements**

June 20th through June 24th

camp, hosted by Kenyon.

Assisting her coaches and teammates with these camps not only allows her to provide instruction to children or teenagers interested in swimming, thus growing the sport, but also gives her a canvas to create lessons and critiques that she can use for herself in her own training.

"I just really love it, I like being able to work with the kids and help them improve on their strokes," Fadely said, "because, at the same time, it also made me aware of how my body works in the water because I was looking at things and seeing things and was able to point them out."

Once she finishes up

As important as the act of training is for Fadely and her teammates with the team often practicing as early as 5 a.m. so it can fit in two training

On the final day of the Division III national championships, Fadely recalls the moment Kenyon hoisted the trophy on stage once the

WARRIORS

Continued from page B1

Boston. He's had to deal with a spotty Thompson and a nearly nonexistent Green, yet the Warriors still have a 3-2 lead heading into a potential series-clincher on Thursday.

In short, this postseason has shown why Curry is not only one of the greatest basketball players to walk this earth, but why he's also one of the most exhilarating to watch.

However, as special as he's been, Curry doesn't deserve all of the shine.

Warriors Head Coach Steve Kerr — who, as crazy as it sounds, has never lost a playoff series before the Finals in eight seasons as an NBA head coach — has always found a way to get the best out of his role players. And this season's no different.

In Game 5, some of the most electrifying plays came from Andrew Wiggins — who was once thought of as a bust after being drafted No. 1 overall in 2014, but is finally hitting his stride with the Warriors as a legitimate threat — and Jordan Poole, who combined for 40 points, a third-quarter-buzzer-beating heave and a game-sealing poster dunk in the win. Like some sort of coaching magician, Kerr has had no trouble getting players like Wiggins, Poole, Iguodala, Kevon Looney, David West and plenty of others to play well above their potential in big-time moments over the last eight seasons.

And every single time, unless you're a fan of the Warriors' opponent, it's just so fun to watch.

After a fairly boring postseason, with so many games and series consisting of blowout-after-blowout, these Finals have been incredibly refreshing.

That's why I'm cross-

ing my fingers for the Celtics to come out firing in Game 6 on Thursday, taking care of business on their home floor to keep their season alive and force a Game 7 that will decide the 2022 NBA champion.

Because getting to see Golden State play one last time, with the Chase Center rockin' at full force in a winner-takeall barnburner, will be a treat unlike any other.

Let's make it happen, Boston. Don't let me down.

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



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For a printable application, visit: www.chathamsheriff.com

Monday, June 20

<u>COA Office Closed</u> in Recognition of Juneteenth

Tuesday, June 21

- Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:00 AM (at Chatham Community Church at Chatham Mills)
- Strong and Fit w/Olivia at 9:00 AM (at WCSC)

Wednesday, June 22

- Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Exercise Program w/Olivia at 9:00 AM (at Bray Park Pool, Siler City)
- Chair Yoga w/Liz at 9:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)

Thursday, June 23

- 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)
- <u>Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Olivia</u> at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🍟

Friday, June 24

- Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Exercise Program w/Jackie at 9:30 AM (at Pittsboro Swimming Association)
- 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
- S 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

Return of youth football, kickball headline Siler City Parks and Rec's 'relatively normal' summer operations

BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — If you're looking for ways to stay active this summer, Siler City Parks and Recreation has you covered.

After two years of modifications, restrictions and regulations, Siler City Parks and Rec is fully open for business, allowing some programs and athletic leagues to return after a lengthy hiatus.

"The first year of COVID was tough," Jack Clelland, the director of Siler City Parks and Rec, told the News + Record last week. "There were a lot of mandates, a lot of requirements. As far as capacity limit requirements, last year was a lot less strict, which was nice. ... This year, though, we're operating relatively normally. Of course, COVID is still around and it's still an issue, so we do remind folks about that, but as far as restricting our operations, it's not doing that anymore."

Less restrictions means that some of the town's primary athletic facilities are up-andrunning for the public, including Bray Park Aquatic Facility — an outdoor pool open from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. every day with a \$5 admission fee for ages 3 and up and Ernest Ramsey Gym, located at 512 E. Sixth St., which features an indoor walking program and free open gym times for both youth and adults throughout the week.

This is in addition to Siler City's six local parks — equipped with a variety of baseball/softball fields, playgrounds,



Two teams square off as part of Siler City Parks and Rec's flag football season, with games being played at Jordan-Matthews High School.



Submitted photo

Siler City residents enjoy the sun at Bray Park Aquatic Facility in May 2019. The pool is open to the public every day this summer from 12-6 p.m. with a \$5 admission fee.

walking tracks, basketball courts, soccer fields, tennis/pickleball courts and more — and three tracks/greenways, including the Loves Creek Greenway at 623 S. Second Ave., which stretches 1.4 miles in length.

While registration is closed for some of the department's early summer programs, including softball and baseball for 10U and 12U age groups, Siler City Parks and Rec has recently opened online registration for a few athletic leagues beginning in early August, including cheerleading, flag and tackle football and kickball.

Cheerleading is open to both boys and girls aged 5-12 and will follow the same schedule as football with the goal of "providing positive encouragement and spirit for Siler City's youth football teams," according to the department's website.

There are four levels of football available for registration, too, with an 8U, 10U and 12U Jets tackle football team competing alongside Alamance County Parks in a league that's new to Siler



A local athlete takes his shot at getting a hit in Siler City Parks and Rec's youth kickball league last September.

City for the 2022 season. Previously, Siler City Parks and Rec participated in the QUAD County Recreational Football League with teams from Randolph, Orange and Wake Counties, which the department had been partnered with for years.

However, the town's flag football league, hosted only for children aged 5-6, will continue to play in the QUAD County Recreational Football League this season. For the second time ever, Siler City Parks and Rec is bringing back its youth kickball league with the addition of a new 10U age group.

"It's a lot of fun," Clelland said. "That league was developed to kind of give an idea of what we used to play when we were kids. It's an alternative to baseball and football and basketball. It's a lot simpler game that's a lot easier to learn, but it keeps you active and it's really fast-paced. ... It's roll, kick, run — all the things kids need to do during the summer and fall to burn off some energy."

Registration for all of the late summer/early fall leagues, including cheerleading, football and kickball, ends on July 22.

On Sept. 10, Siler City Parks and Rec is partnering with AFE TKD Martial Arts Studio in Siler City, located at 1334 E. 11th St., for "Taekwondo For You," a series of classes for children aged 3-13 that'll offer "a strong foundation in essential character qualities such as courtesy, respect and discipline," according to the website.

The \$50 registration fee will be good for eight Saturday class sessions between Sept. 10 and Oct. 29 and include a uniform. Each class will be taught by Master Antonio Ara, the founder of AFE TKD. The deadline to sign up is Aug. 26.

"Our main goal is to put on quality programs that provide positive experiences for youth and their parents through recreation," Clelland said. "It's an opportunity to get out, be active, make friends and learn something new. ... I think we do a great job of providing those experiences and we want folks to come out and be a part of them with us."

For more info on programs, facilities and registration, visit the Siler City Parks and Rec website at https://www. silercity.org/parks-recreation

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

PROCTOR

Continued from page B1

to coach at one of the country's most prestigious high school athletic programs didn't come overnight. Instead, it stemmed from years of putting in the work, making connections in it because of those stories. My dad played for DuPont, I got to see Randy Moss play, it was just sports. It was something to do, something to keep me out of trouble, and that's why I fell in love with it."

what I love about it. I got into

When it was time for Proctor to go to high school, his family moved from the Carv area to Moncure, allowing him to attend Northwood, where he would eventually become a team captain on the Chargers' football and wrestling teams during his senior season. "Around my sophomore year, we started to turn that table and become successful," Proctor said. "Once I graduated, I thought we'd laid a pretty decent foundation for the guys to build on." Today, Proctor still keeps tabs on the Northwood football and wrestling programs, often checking the Chargers' scores immediately after Cardinal Gib bons' games on Friday nights. 'It's home. I would eventually love to settle down and be home," Proctor said. "Chatham County is home. Northwood's always going to have a special place for me because football, wrestling and those communities were enormous in my upbringing.

instrumental in Proctor being hired by IMG Academy.

Over the next 10 years, Proctor would bounce around between a few different schools, including Cardinal Gibbons from 2014-15 and again from 2016-19, Mater Academy Charter High School in Hialeah Gardens, Florida, from 2015-16 Pond told him there was an assistant coaching vacancy for the Ascenders that needed to be filled — and now, Proctor's done just that.

'Hogwarts for athletes'

IMG Academy isn't your typical private school.

At least, that's not how it

more than its student-athletes succeed. That's one reason why he felt comfortable accepting the position.

"It's basically Hogwarts for student-athletes, it's a dream come true," Proctor said with a laugh, referring to the school for the young wizards of "Harry Potter" fame. "If you're a top-level athlete and you want to play at the next level, you know where you've got to go, just like Harry Potter. If you want to be a magician, you know where you've got to go." While he's never coached tight ends specifically, Proctor said he's excited for the level of versatility the position brings, with him being able to run drills made for both wide receivers and offensive linemen. "As a new tight ends coach, I get to do wide receiver stuff, but then I get to go in and add offensive line work into my weekly practices and schedules," he said. "That's really exciting to me.' The next couple of months for Proctor will consist of helping out with youth camps, meeting his student-athletes and getting ready for the upcoming season with mid-summer practices, all of which he's used to after more than a decade into his coaching career. Even though he's now working at IMG Academy, his mindset and preparation remain the same. After all, at the end of the day, it's football. It's in his blood. "I've tried to do some other things," Proctor said. "I've done construction, I've built cabinets, but I'm good at coaching football. It's what I'm good at and it's what I do. It doesn't feel like I'm working. Last week, my first week in Florida, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. we were outside on the field, coaching kids and doing youth camps, and it didn't feel like work one bit. "It was 90 degrees with 95%humidity," he added, "and I'm getting sunburned, sweating my butt off, but I came back the next day and did the same thing over again.'

the sport and, of course, honing his craft as one of the area's most versatile assistant coaches.

Family ties

Growing up, Proctor knew football was in his blood.

His family hails from south-central West Virginia, near Charleston, where the sport runs deep throughout the region.

Proctor was born in West Virginia, but moved with his mother to Raleigh shortly after his birth. That didn't stop him, though, from getting a glimpse of the athletic greatness pouring out of the area in the 1990s. His parents graduated from rival high schools in Kanawha County — his dad from Du-Pont High School and his mom from East Bank High School which came together to form one of the state's best football rivalries, combining to claim five state titles in the early-tomid '90s

Though the rivalry is now defunct, with the two schools having consolidated in 1999 to form Riverside High School in Belle, Proctor still remembers when he'd visit his family during his Thanksgiving breaks, where he'd get to see the two schools square off.

When he wasn't visiting, his grandfather would call him often to give him updates on area scores, highlights and happenings.

He even got to see Hall-of-Fame wide receiver Randy Moss, a DuPont standout from 1992-95, play when he was a youngster, an experience he'll never forget.

"It was small-town West Virginia, where towns close for games — kind of like Rose Hill or Tarboro, where things shut down just to go to the games — and it was an awesome experience," Proctor said. "Those aspects of football are

Coaching carousel

After graduating from West Virginia University in 2010, Proctor returned to Pittsboro for his first high school coaching job, taking a position as the team's running backs coach. The Chargers suffered from a down year, following a thirdround playoff run in 2010 with a 4-7 rebuilding season in 2011.

His stint with his alma mater didn't last long, however, because in 2012, Proctor opted to return to West Virginia University to work toward his Master's of Science in Athletic Coaching Education.

While in Morgantown for the second time, he got a job at Morgantown High School, where he acted as the Mohigans' running backs coach and head strength and conditioning coach. This is where he'd meet Jeff Pond, Morgantown's offensive coordinator, who'd later become — alongside Pond, who was the team's defensive coordinator at the time — and Louisburg College in 2019. He coached everything from wide receivers to special teams to running backs, getting a feel for just about everywhere on the offensive side of the ball.

But Proctor's most notable stop came, once again, at Cardinal Gibbons from 2019-21, where he was the team's special teams coordinator, among other things, during a stretch of three straight title game appearances for the Crusaders.

After consecutive state championship losses in 2019 and 2020, the Crusaders bounced back with a vengeance this past season, racking up a 15-1 record en route to a dominant win over the Chambers Cougars in the NCHSAA 4A title game, 14-2.

"I still can't believe it. I've got my state championship ring and, every morning, I put it on to remind me of what comes from coaching the kids up and making sure they're in the right places," Proctor said. "We wouldn't win those games if they didn't trust us and what we were doing and that's what happened this year.

"We've built a nice, solid program at Cardinal Gibbons and it was an awesome ride," he continued. "I miss them. I've talked to everybody every day since I've been back, so that's the kind of relationship we had there."

Having finally gotten over the hump with the Crusaders, Proctor said he felt comfortable taking another opportunity if a good one came his way.

Earlier this spring, when he saw there was an opening for a strength and conditioning coaching job at IMG Academy, Proctor reached out to Pond, now the defensive coordinator at IMG, with the thought of applying in mind. But instead, advertises itself.

According to its website, IMG is "the world's most prestigious sports, performance and educational institution," featuring a 600-acre campus that hosts camps and other programs for a variety of sports including basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer, tennis and more. Its campus acts as a training ground for thousands of athletes, including those participating in professional and Olympic sports.

Essentially, it's a nationally recognized boarding school focused primarily on training student-athletes both on the field and in the classroom.

And with that comes wildly competitive sports teams that house unparalleled talent.

Over the past five seasons, IMG Academy's football program has been ranked in the top 10 nationally each year, including a national championship in 2020, when the Ascenders finished with an 8-0 record after clobbering nearly everyone on their schedule.

According to IMG's website, the Academy has sent more than 200 student-athletes to college football programs around the nation, and in the 2022 NFL Draft, the Ascenders had their first-ever top 10 draft pick when Alabama offensive tackle Evan Neal was selected by the Giants at No. 7.

"The student-athletes are the priority," Proctor said of IMG Academy. "We're here to help them get to the next level. (IMG) has athletic trainers and the athletic performance facilities are top-notch, second to none. It's a pretty cool environment."

Proctor said he was impressed with how tight-knit IMG's circle was, with seemingly everyone from the trainers to the coaches to the program directors to the school's administrators wanting to see nothing

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

CHATHAM CHAT | STEVE NEWTON, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Prepping for hurricanes is just part of this department's year-round work

Newton: 'Preparedness is everyone's responsibility, not just government'

Hurricane season, which officially began June 1, could be a busy one. NOAA



(the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is predicting an above-average year for storms. Storm prep is one of the jobs that Chatham County's Emergency Management department handles, so this week we spoke with Steve Newton.

Newton

who's served as its director since 2017. Newton is also the vice chairperson

of the N.C. Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee and serves on the N.C. Domestic Preparedness Readiness Region 6 Emergency Management Subcommittee. He's also been a member of the Harris Nuclear Plant Taskforce for 14 vears.

He holds a master's degree in Emergency Management from Jacksonville State University and has participated in 22 federally declared disasters, including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, building collapse and dam failures.

Let's start with preparations for hurricane season, which began June 1. The NOAA forecast for 2022 calls for another above-average year in terms of storm activity, with between six and 10 storms reaching hurricane strength. What special preparations are you and your staff making for the season, which officially stretches through Nov. 30?

It only takes one storm making its way to Chatham County to be a disaster, so we approach most hurricane seasons the same. We meet with our community partners, confirm our emergency plans, check our generators, facilities and sheltering supplies, and start closely



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Residents of Jeremiah Drive were flooded by water from Jordan Lake for more than 70 days after two N.C. hurricanes in September 2019.

monitoring tropical weather. We also met with the National Weather Service Raleigh, National Hurricane Center, N.C. Dept. of Transportation, broadcast media, and Emergency Managers on June 2 to review current climate conditions, new severe weather reporting tools and formats, and improvements to predicting inland flooding.

How do you advise the rest of us prepare for the potentiality of a hurricane impacting here?

Everyone should take steps now, before the next storm develops, to prepare themselves, their family, pets, and businesses, for a storm resulting in extended power outages, blocked roads, or damage requiring an insurance claim. Make a plan and share it with family members. Build an Emergency Kit for you, your family, and your pets. Stay informed through local media, trusted sources like the National Weather Service, and by registering for weather alerts. Check on your neighbors before

and after a severe weather event or other emergency. Visit readychatham.org or readync.gov for more information on preparing for disasters and to register for weather alerts.

We've experienced our fair share of flooding in Chatham County the last few years, so your department has had lots of practice responding. What particularly have you learned through that to help you respond when the waters rise?

The most important lesson is to stay out of flood water.

In North Carolina, the most lives are lost after hurricanes from inland freshwater flooding. Most of these tend to be from people driving their vehicles into high water or cars being swept away by rapidly rising rivers and streams. Six inches of fast-moving flood water will knock over an adult. Twelve inches of rushing water will carry away most cars.

The COVID pandemic is now more than two years with us. How much of your work and your department's work these days is impacted by COVID, or includes COVID-related tasks?

This February we finally reached the stage where we no longer needed to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other supplies on a daily or weekly basis. Chatham County **Emergency Management still receives** occasional requests from our community partners for a small amount of PPE if their normal shipment is delayed and they are dealing with COVID-19 cases. The risks associated with the ongoing pandemic continue to guide our plans and strategies, especially when considering how to safely shelter evacuees in a congregate setting like a school or

community center.

Much of your work involves training and planning and collaborating with a variety of partners, including state and federal government and private industry. Can you share a few major projects that you've been focusing on?

We are always engaged in a wide range of projects and partnerships. One area of focus over the last few weeks has been with the NC Department of Transportation, fire departments, and EMS, as NCDOT starts planning for future traffic and development in southeastern Chatham County (Moncure).

At the same time, we supported a series of training exercises with the US Army on Jordan Lake along with the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and local swift water rescue teams. We've also continued to meet with local stakeholders to develop and pursue strategies to prevent and respond to opioid overdoses in the community. We've also started to prepare for our next series of FEMA-evaluated nuclear plant exercises.

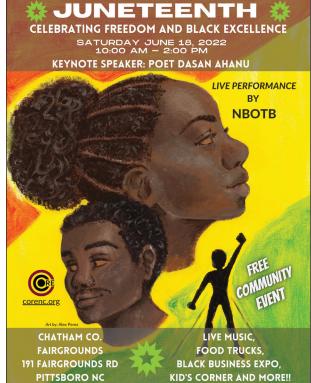
Our largest project at this moment is the construction of the new Emergency Operations and 9-1-1 Center, which we hope to move into next March, a month before our next nuclear plant exercise.

What else do people in Chatham County need to know about the work you do?

Preparedness is everyone's responsibility, not just government. Our whole community must take on the shared responsibility of keeping our communi ty resilient. This includes individuals, businesses, churches, schools, media, government, and others.

THE CN+R Q&A | JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION Chatham's 'Juneteenth' observance features CORE, WEBB Squared events

Two local organizations — CORE (Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity) and WEBB Squared are working together to plan two events in observance and celebration of Juneteenth, which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S. The events take place at the Chatham County Agricultural & Industrial Fair Association in Pittsboro this weekend (Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and



County Agricultural & Industrial Fair Association and was the home of the Chatham County Colored Agricultural Fair, which started in the 1950s. Today, it remains a Black-founded and operated organization. The history of this organization is a beautiful example of what community organizing looks like addressing issues important to the community — providing a safe place for African-American farmers and their families to gather. The fair has evolved to what it is today, remaining a Black-operated organization that hosts the annual Chatham County Fair, an event for all to safely gather and enjoy some friendly competition for the biggest pumpkin and watermelon.

communities and their economies.

What will take place at the WEBB Squared event?

TERRY: To support our work, we started a social enterprise called WEBB Boutique and Thrift, an online thrift store that sells gently used books, jewelry, unique clothing accessories, and curated books with topics that range around our mission. On Juneteenth, we are having a grand opening pop-up of our boutique where people can come in person to shop with us, meet some of our entrepreneurs, and learn more about our work. In addition, we will have complimentary cold drinks while you shop.

to become community organizers so that we can begin campaigns to address some of our community's issues collectively. To learn more about community organizing, join us at one of our "What is Community Organizing?" information sessions or you can even host us to come talk to your group about community organizing.

We continue to organize parents with children in Chatham County Schools and clergy-per

19)

CORE Executive Director Karinda Roebuck and its Reconciliation Director, Michelle Wright, and Stephanie Terry - CORE's organizing director and the executive director of WEBB Squared — share details about the what's planned.

The "Juneteenth" observance in Chatham County will include special events this Saturday and Sunday, but let's start with an explanation of what Juneteenth is and why it's observed ...

WRIGHT: In 2021, Juneteenth became a nationally recognized holiday, but this day has been a celebration of Black culture and a space to honor Black resilience for many years. Five years ago, we chose to expand our recognition of this day into a community event. CORE pays tribute to the significance of June 19, 1865, when the remaining enslaved families and communities in Galveston, Texas, received news of their freedom from Union soldiers — finally making their freedom undeniable a full two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. On that day, these newly liberated people put on their finest clothes and celebrated with food and fellowship. We could never imagine the feeling of being freed, but we work hard to honor this very important day.

ROEBUCK: As an organization, CORE is dedicated to ensuring that Chatham's Juneteenth is a community-led event where the vision and

planning is led by the Black community. It is an opportunity to remember where we have come from, celebrate where we are, and continue to fight for where we want to be. This day serves as an important reminder that we must be united in the fight for justice and equity, committed to reaching each and every community. CORE believes that liberation is In Our Hands, and we are committed to #Building-StrongerCommunities.

On Saturday, CORE will host "Celebrating Freedom & Black Excellence" at the **Chatham County Fair**grounds, starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. What's on tap for that celebration, and what's your objective for the day?

WRIGHT: This year our celebration has grown to include a variety of events and activities. We have an amazing keynote speaker, Dasan Ahanu, a renowned poet and activist. There will be a host of Black business vendors for the community to engage with, nonprofit tables to share information on local resources, and food!

We're very excited to have performances that include local talent from our churches and dance studio, as well as the participation of Ben L. Smith High School out of Greensboro. The school's drumline and dance team is an amazing new guest. And last but not least, we'll have "New Band on the Block," a band out of the Raleigh area providing us with some of our favorite songs. CORE is also excited to host a kids' area where children can play games, hear storytelling, and leave with books.

Our goal for Juneteenth is to bring together Chatham and surrounding communities to celebrate Black Freedom and Black Excellence. We want this to be an event that offers a beacon of · in love and community a society where being unloved and disregarded can feel more common than empathy and kindness, we hope to offer a space where the fullness of the Black community is seen, heard, and honored.

What's the significance of having Juneteenth at the fairgrounds in Pittsboro?

ROEBUCK: Chatham Fairgrounds is officially called the Chatham

Then on Sunday, WEBB Squared will celebrate Juneteenth with an entrepreneurial-related event. First, remind us of what WEBB Squared is all about...

TERRY: Wealth through Entrepreneurship for Black Business is a statewide nonprofit incubator for Black entrepreneurs living and building their businesses in rural counties in North Carolina.

Business data from the research-based company McKinsey & Company has projected that the Black-White wealth gap in the United States will cost the economy \$1 trillion annually by 2028. Studies also indicate that Black businesses achieving revenue parity with White companies can become critical components in closing the racial wealth gap.

While incubator-accelerators focus on Black Entrepreneurs in urban cities, there are few to none working to support **Black Entrepreneurs** in predominantly rural counties in North Carolina.

WEBB Squared is here to help these entrepreneurs succeed and create profitable Black businesses that will benefit rural

Can you update us about how the entrepreneurs you're working with are coming along?

TERRY: WEBB Squared is in its pilot year. Measurable impacts to date include the following:

 We enrolled 19 Black entrepreneurs across five rural counties in North Carolina

• We helped to raise \$3,000 in micro-investment fundraising for one of our entrepreneurs

 Helped to write grants for two entrepreneurs for over \$10,000

 12 entrepreneurs are writing their business plans

 15 entrepreneurs completed three months of mindset training

 16 entrepreneurs are meeting weekly with business coaches

 16 entrepreneurs are actively working their businesses

What else would you like people to know?

TERRY: CORE has been moving and shaking this past year. We have begun efforts to build a broad-based community organizing organization.

What does that mean? Well, we are seeking to become an organization that hosts community organizing efforts. We want to provide the training for community members

sons in Chatham. In fact, as a member of the Bahai Faith, The Bahais of Chatham County are hosting for faith leaders "A Conference to Build Vibrant Communities: A Spiritually-Based Gathering Putting Faith Into Action to Create Unity in Chatham County" at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 25 at Chapel in the Pines. We are also expanding our educational opportunities to faith-based institutions with our new workshop, Race Equity in Faith, launching this summer. Additionally, we are pleased to be launching our Reconciliation Project this Fall in which we expand our work on healing racial trauma in our communities and will continue with the Chatham Social Justice Exchange, People of Color Caucus, and White Anti-Racism Caucus.

Karinda Roebuck is a midwife by practice and a racial justice advocate by trade. She's co-authoring a race equity and power analysis intended for systemic change. Michelle Wright is a licensed clinical mental health counselor associate, health education professional, farmer, and community advocate. And Stephanie Terry is a community organizer, trainer and entrepreneur who led a campaign to address the achievement gap by getting an equity assessment report with recommendations adopted and incorporated into the district by the Carrboro school board.

Poston says school system has 'an opportunity, a calling' to make students better citizens

Community-wide event planned for August to share how system supports families

CN+R Staff Report

In early March, an 8th grader at a J.S. Waters

School

in Goldston was

subjected

to a mock

"slave auc-

tion" after class. The

incident an-



Chris Poston

gered and frustrated much of the Chatham County community and led to a series of community meetings to address that and other discriminatory behaviors within Chatham County Schools.

Work in response to what happened at J.S. Waters continues within CCS and the community. Last week, for the latest edition of The Chatcast, the podcast of the News + Record and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina, hosts Bill Horner III and Daniel Simmons spoke with Chris Poston, the executive director for excellence and opportunity for Chatham County Schools, about what's happened in the months since the slave auction incident. The conversation has been edited for length and clarity; the full interview can be found on all podcast platforms by searching for "The Chatcast."

Poston is a Chatham County native and a part of the CCS system since 1996, working as an elementary school teacher, assistant principal and principal. He was named the 2015 Wells Fargo Region V Principal of the Year and was selected as Chatham County Schools Principal of the Year in 2015 and 2017.

Did this event surprise you? Or is it something you've seen before?

We know that there are systems and barriers in our society. We also know there are places as a community where we need to become better. So no, I wasn't totally surprised. We want our kids to feel safe at school, be good citizens and be responsible and respectful. Through what has happened, we see we have an opportunity, and a calling to support our students and make them better citizens.

Walk us through some of the more significant policy changes that have been implemented since this incident ...

CCS Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson's leadership has been stellar. And we're thankful that he's leading our community and our schools. We've always had a bullying and harassment policy, as a school district, and Dr. Jackson made sure that policy is clear to our communities, principals and students.

This incident gave us an opportunity to really focus on our equity commitment. When we say equity, we talk about making sure we reduce the predictability of who succeeds in our district. So regardless of your zip code or your level of poverty, our district's commitment is to make sure every student is successful - interrupting those barriers that prevent students from being successful. We also talk about cultivating unique gifts for every student.

We also made sure that there is support. Dr. Jackson approved with the school board a family engagement position we hope to hire soon and also additional excellence and opportunity with me and our team. It's a vision to support this equity commitment in our district.

The education system is responsible for teaching thousands of students. What do you think is important about the behaviors students display when they're in the classroom?

Language is important; language matters. We have to make sure we are teaching kids and adults about stereotypes and persistent, historical context so they can understand why words are inappropriate or hurtful.

We have made a com-



Chris Poston (center) was a guest on the most recent episode of The Chatcast. From left: Daniel Simmons of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina and Chatcast co-host; Nancy Wykle, public information office for Chatham County Schools; Poston; Bill Horner III, publisher and editor of the Chatham News + Record and Chatcast co-host; and podcast producer JC Harper, the band director at Jordan-Matthews High School.

things that we need to address?

What have you seen with the way that students have reacted to this event that's given you optimism and hope?

I do think I'm just having crucial and honest conversations. I feel like this event did give us a moment to pause and really lean in and listen to students to think about how we can allow them to help make the change. We have a lot of focus groups around our district.

Our students have given us feedback about ways they want to get involved in their schools, not just the traditional ways like student council. We want to also make sure that we partner with different organizations in the communities where we can have the opportunity to make sure we're connecting with families and connecting with students. Because this is a community effort. This commitment that the school district has is beyond the walls of the school. It connects to families that connect to community organizations. This is an effort that we're committed to. but we'll need everyone's support.

How do you see reaching the parents and effecting change when it comes to diversity, equity and inclusion?

We want our families to feel connected to our school system; we want parents to feel welcome. In the doors of our schools, we want them to feel as though they can reach out to their child's teacher, their child's principal, that they're a part of the community and that their voice matters in our schools.

In addition to like traditional ways like P.T.A., many of our schools do community and school events.

We have an event planned in August, at the Mosaic in Pittsboro, where we're inviting all families to learn about all the programs we offer in Chatham County Schools and also programs in our community that support families and students. partnership. We also have talked about a student advisory committee or a board — student leaders who think about how they can advocate for change in our community. We want to make sure that not only are we listening to students, but we're giving them the tools to really advocate for change.

Courtesy of Daniel Simmons

What progress have you seen, within the faculty of Chatham County Schools? What conversations have taken place between faculty members, students and vourself?

We have welcomed conversation, for families, staff members and students. We shared a guidebook with teachers on how to respond to biases and stereotypes, and how to have those crucial conversations about race. And we gave our teachers an opportunity to have a discussion using the book. They said it was powerful to see feedback in the comments. It empowers teachers with tools, to better facilitate and handle conversations that are not appropriate.

across our district. So just a small group of teachers coming together, responding to the pain and trauma that some of our teachers felt, that had happened in our community and also giving them a voice. It was a really powerful time, we're going to take those suggestions, and integrate them into the strategic planning process that we're undergoing now.

What about new disciplinary guidelines?

There's been an update to disciplinary consequences for students involved racist, homophobic or xenophobic incidents. This includes comments as well as actions.

Effective March 23, confirmed use of a racial, homophobic or xenophobic epithets, or bullying or harassment that was racial, homophobic or xenophobic and occurred at school or on school grounds, will have the following consequences for students in grades K-5:

• 1st offense will result in a 3-day suspension and required participation in restorative circles upon return

• 2nd offense will result in a 5-day suspension, administrative school reassignment and required participation in restorative circles upon return

• 3rd offense will result in a 10-day suspension, recommendation for long-term suspension and required participation in restorative circles upon return

Disciplinary consequences for students in grades 6-12 who commit confirmed acts of bullying or harassment that include racist, homophobic or xenophobic speech will receive:

• 1st offense: 10-day suspension/required participation in restorative circles upon return

2nd offense: 10-day suspension/administrative school reassignment/ required participation in restorative circles upon return

3rd offense: 10-day
suspension/recommendation for long-term
suspension/required participation in restorative
circles upon return

mitment to make sure we do some consistent training and have a measure of training for our principals and teachers. We also want to support students — making sure they have a voice in how our school is run, and how they can give input. So we ask ourselves, are there things that we're missing? Are there some

Can you talk about some of those conversations that have been held, and what's come out of them that is usable in the school system?

We have a partnership with Renaissance and Dr. Karen Barbee. They have therapists many of our schools use and that's been a really powerful

We also had equity focus groups around our district in April. We had more than 120 teachers sign up and attend all

And what about restorative practices?

All administrators, social workers, counselors, behavior specialist and psychologist were trained prior to 2020. School social workers and behavior specialist received additional training so they could help train school staff. School staff was being trained during the 2019-2020 school year. We will be providing training for new student service staff and administrators in the fall and moving forward with our training model for schools.

What's the overall feeling at J.S. Waters and around Goldston? Do you feel like what you're doing so far is working?

Absolutely. We have a commitment to our students. Our guidance counselors and our school social workers are already planning and putting things in place for next year, to make sure are ready. We are doing training with our principals this summer. We are also doing a book study with them also on a book called "Courageous Conversations About Race." We are making sure we are equipping everyone to do this work.



GRADUATION 2022

THE CLASS OF 2022

Chatham County's high school seniors celebrate the achievement of graduation

Jordan-Matthews, Northwood and Chatham Central hold grad ceremonies

BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

Hundreds of Chatham high school students walked across the graduation stage this weekend to receive their diplomas. It was a culminating celebration for a class that's had to overcome a rollercoaster high school experience — virtual learning, in-class with masks and any of the other myriad ways the pandemic upended the typical educational experience.

Regardless, these students persevered and have finally made it to the end of the long winding road. In the next chapter, they'll go on to the workforce, gap years and universities leaving behind a legacy for the next generation of students in Chatham County.

At the Jordan-Matthews High School graduation in Siler City, graduating seniors shared words of wisdom for future graduates. They said self-care and preserving mental health amid the chaotic times of high school was the most important thing to keep in mind.

"My mental health was a big obstacle," graduate Chloe Pace said. "Do your work, but take it easy and just go one day at a time."

Pace will be attending to Fayetteville Technical Community College in the fall to become a mortician. While each student has different next steps, for one final time last weekend, they were together celebrating the journey they took together to get to this step. J-M graduate Evelin Muñoz Tebalan will be going to UNC-Chapel Hill next fall.

"I think this is a rare class where we all had a common thing to overcome — the pandemic," Muñoz Tebalan said. "It felt like our whole experience was rushed, but I'm glad we get this experience of graduation together."

Beyond J-M, the News + Record captured snapshots of the graduation ceremonies across Chatham County Schools.



Staff photos by Tanner Bubeck

A blue tassel is decorated with a gold 22 on the capo of one of the Jordan-Matthews graduating seniors on Saturday at the Jordan-Matthews High School gymnasium in Siler City.



Distinguished Alumni Cierra McEachem delivers and inspirational speech to the class of 2022 on Friday at Northwood High School in Pittsboro.



Blue graduation caps line the heads of the Jordan-Matthews High School graduating seniors as they await their diplomas on Saturday at the Jordan-Matthews High School gymnasium in Siler City.



The Jordan-Matthews High School graduating class of 2022 applaud each



Northwood High School seniors walk across the football field to their seats

other as they receive their diplomas on Saturday at the Jordan-Matthews High School gymnasium in Siler City. before their graduation ceremony on Friday at Northwood High School in Pittsboro.



Seniors of the Northwood High School graduating class of 2022 throw their caps up in the air in celebration after officially being declared graduates on Friday at Northwood High School in Pittsboro.



Chatham Central High School Senior Ella Gaines gives her expression of gratitude speech to her graduating class on Friday at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford.



Seniors of the Chatham Central High School graduating class of 2022 make their way on stage to their seats before graduation on Friday at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford.



The student speakers of the Chatham Central High School class of 2022 are escorted to their seats before their graduation on Friday at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford.

GRADUATION 2022



Staff photos by Tanner Bubeck

Graduating senior Kaylee Maness sings a solo to the Chatham Central High School Class of 2022 on Friday at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford.



Chatham Central High School students look through the commencement ceremony pamphlets during graduation on Friday at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford.

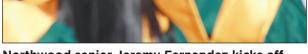


The Chatham Central High School class of 2022 listen as senior Nicholas Jourdan gives his address before being presented their diplomas on Friday at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford.



Chatham Central High School Senior Nicholas Jourdan gives heis senior address, titled 'Challenge', to his graduating class on Friday at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford.





Northwood senior Jeremy Fernandez kicks off the introduction of the class of 2022 graduation ceremony on Friday at Northwood High School in Pittsboro.



Jordan-Matthews senior Wilson Ramos Meza stands in front of the grauduating class of 2022 and delivers his senior address on Saturday at the Jordan-Matthews High School gymnasium in Siler City.



Jordan-Matthews High School seniors walk to their seats before their graduation ceremony on Saturday at the Jordan-Matthews High School gymnasium in Siler City.



Nothwood senior Kennedy Poston reads her final reflection speech to her fellow classmates during graduation on Friday at Northwood High School in Pittsboro.



The Jordan-Matthews High School graduating class of 2022 listen to their fellow classmates give speeches on Saturday at the Jordan-Matthews High School gymnasium in Siler City.



Seniors of the Northwood High School graduating class of 2022 listen as a poem is read to them by senior Amelia Spell on Friday at Northwood High School in Pittsboro.



The Northwood class of 2022 line up behind their seats before their graduation ceremony on Friday at the Northwood High School football field in Pittsboro.

POLICE REPORTS

FROM CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On June 1, Robert Raymond Case, 60, of 216 Coral Avenue, Goldston, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Scott Meulendyke for obstruction of justice. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 6.

On June 1, Edward Keith Gurley, 62, of 216 Coral Avenue, Goldston, was arrested by Corporal Brandal Harrington for three counts of failure to appear. He was issued a \$300 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 15.

On June 1, Malik Dante Crayton, 26, of 1327 Russell Chapel Church Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Corporal Brandal Harrington for two counts of failure to appear. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court on June 29.

On June 1, Charles Raymond Hart Jr., 53, of 8238 Pittsboro Goldston Road, Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Moises Carvajal for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 1, Michael Shane Martin, 49, of 135 Tupelo Circle, Salisbury, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Scott Meulendyke for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 8.

On June 6, Jason Daniel Oliver, 43, of 1985 Pittsboro Goldston Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Devin Smith for probation violation. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on June 29.

On June 8, Claudia Marcela Martinez, 43, of 1206 S. 2nd Avenue, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Vincent Iorio for malicious conduct by a prisoner. She was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 9, Zoie Dasha Mason, 23, of 52 Airport Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for speeding. She was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on June 27.

On June 10, Ramel Antwane Godfrey, 31, of 360 Plaza Drive, Apt. E, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Zackary Gross for larceny by an employee, possession of stolen goods/ property and obtaining property under false pretenses/ swindle/confidence game. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28. On June 10, Mr. Godfrey was also arrested by Deputy Zackary Gross for possession with intent to sell/ deliver marijuana, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 ounce, possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying a concealed gun and driving with license revoked. He was issued a written

promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 10, Joshua Whiteley, 24, of 2200 McLaurin Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy John Beach for child abuse. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on June 15.

On June 10, Madison Dunn, 18, of 5248 Old US 421 S., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for simple assault. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on June 29.

On June 10, Elyjah Edward Coe, 20, of 99 Chatham Drive, Chapel Hill was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for second degree trespassing and communicating threats. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 6.

On June 11, James Brian Schoonover, 61, of 2949 Siler City Glendon Road, Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$400 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 14.

On June 11, Christopher James Smith, 44, of 3064 Rosser Road, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Chris Scales for burglary/breaking and entering and destruction/damage/ vandalism of property. He was issued a secured \$2,500 bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 29.

On June 12, Brandon David Hart, 51, of 20012 Grier, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for three counts of misdemeanor larceny. He was issued a written promise to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on Aug. 4.

On June 12, David Brian Kidd, 40, of 27 Lane Street, Bennett, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was placed of a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

Pittsboro, county commissioners convene for first joint meeting since pandemic

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County and Pittsboro commissioners met jointly last Thursday to talk about Chatham's future, having discussions about the relocation and centralization of county services, the Pittsboro Town Hall project, water and sewer, Parks and Recreation and economic development.

This is the first joint meeting the two entities had held since before the pandemic, according to several commissioners present at the event.

Relocation of County Services and new Pittsboro town hall

Thursday's first agenda item was the county's plan to relocate its services hub to Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro a move which, according to County Manager Dan LaMontagne, would help consolidate county services into one central location and provide additional space for county offices. "We are getting very tight on space there," LaMontagne said. This property is around 250 acres by the landfill and the Chatham County Detention Center. County services' current location at the south end of the traffic circle in downtown Pittsboro is four acres. LaMontagne said the county's 2022-23 budget has allocated funds for various surveys and studies on the property to evaluate its financial feasibil-"If county services are going to be in one central place, we want to see how that could be an asset to you as you're building and moving into your new spaces and whether there are opportunities to collaborate in that space," Chatham County Commissioner Chairperson Karen Howard said. Referencing Pittsboro's new project to build a larger town hall, Howard suggested that Pittsboro use the old county facilities after services are relocated as a temporary town hall while the new one is being developed. Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy, though, said the board put new town hall's construction "on ice" for now. 'The board met as a group several months ago and said the project is unaffordable right now," Kennedy said. The proposed town hall project would cost Pittsboro \$26 million, meaning the town would have to take out multi-million loans or receive grants to finance the project. Kennedy said he'd been in conversations with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for the



Pittsboro and Chatham County Commissioners met in joint session last Thursday to discuss the future of Chatham and improvements to Pittsboro's infrastrucutre.

last year to try to receive federal funding for the project, but the back-and-forth conversations with the USDA had not gone the way he anticipated. "We've been chasing down bank letters, trying to prove to USDA that we cannot find equal lending terms in the private market," Kennedy said. 'We're really kind of at the point of telling the USDA to either approve the project or don't." Instead of using the property near the traffic circle as a temporary town hall, Pittsboro Commissioner John Bonitz suggested using public land for affordable housing and commercial development. "So many of our properties in town belong to a nonprofit, which is the government," Bontiz said. "We could have public-private partnerships where the land is retained in public ownership, but is leveraged with special agreements for development to occur ... for nice things like affordable housing that we so desperately need.' Howard supported Bontiz's idea, but said commissioners need to consider all options as to how to best utilize the property. "It could make for a beautiful housing unit," she said. "I guess what you guys should be thinking is: is affordable housing at the circle the highest and best use for that space, or is there somewhere for affordable housing?'

of [it if] we don't find it advantageous, but we don't believe

gested creating a countywide intramural sports league, where participants would travel to different parts of the county to engage in competitive sports, such as soccer or basketball. "The idea would be more so to have the northeast park of the county have their own teams, along with Pittsboro, Siler City and the rural areas in the county," Gomez Flores said. "They could create a team or two per sport and then travel amongst each other to the different areas of the county." Gomez Flores also said the league would allow for people to visit areas of the county they otherwise may not have. which would also encourage out-of-towners to support businesses in the towns they visit. "This would not only stimulate the local economy," he said, "but it would also help to bring more unity into the county, as well as get residents to understand different perspectives.' LaMontagne expressed support for Gomez Fores' idea, saying it would not only reap economic benefits, but it could be a fun thing for residents to do. "I would like to partner because it's nice to have a county league and a city league," LaMontagne said. "It's nice to have competition, and the more people that you have, the more often you have tournaments."

project before moving forward. Kennedy also said he wants to ensure the town can support the county in future development endeavors, be that for hotels such as the Holiday Express, or other opportunities that may arise. 'Certainly, we are a contributor to the EDC and want to promote some of those things beyond just Commissioner (Kyle) Shipp's role on that board," Kennedy said. Howard said she sees a lot of opportunity for the two boards to collaborate on economic development, particularly within Chatham Park. "I think that intergovernmental piece is critical that we kind of know what your game plan is, what your vision for major investment in Pittsboro looks like and how we support that," she said. Howard said it would also be a good idea to work with community colleges, the Chatham Chamber of Commerce and other groups to encourage economic development within Pittsboro and the county as a whole. Bonitz supported this idea, adding that this could also encourage the development of smaller, local businesses. With more larger businesses coming, such as Vinfast, he said he believes it is more important for the county and town to continue supporting local businesses. "I feel like we have landed our mammoth, we've landed our whale, and there will be other whales that follow that," he said. "So I am very eager to do everything I can to support small business development, small business incubation, sup port and retention of existing small businesses.'

Water and wastewater

Pittsboro gave a presentation to the county commissioners regarding their intent to partner with Sanford to merge both water infrastructures.

"We're in the infancy stages in many ways of the actual agreement of it (the merger with Sanford)," Kennedy said. "Both parties could pull out that to be the case — we don't believe we would've gotten this far if this was a marriage we couldn't make work."

Pittsboro announced their intent to merge with Sanford on May 23, and Sanford will decide if they agree to the merger during its June 21 meeting.

Sanford and Pittsboro staff met to discuss the framework for merging the systems, and Kennedy said the two municipalities would use models from other cities, such as Raleigh, Zebulon and others.

"One of the biggest fears is the unknown of how merging actually works," he said. "We feel very confident that we're going to provide a very good document, an instrument that allows this to happen."

Kennedy also told commissioners that the fast track granular activated carbon (GAC) project at the Pittsboro Water Treatment plant is "moving along well" and should go live within the next 30 to 45 days. The GAC project would allow the facility to effectively treat water for the removal of PFAS.

Parks & Recreation

Commissioners also discussed collaboration possibilities between each entity's Parks & Recreation departments.

According to Kennedy, Pittsboro plans to expand its Park & Recreation programming and staff. Next year's town budget has alloted funds for two new department, as well as several new parks and facilities, including a sports complex planned to be along Moncure-Pittsboro Road.

"We're looking at being between 40 and 50 acres, depending on how that develops," he said.

County Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores sug-

Economic Development

The two boards also discussed several economic development opportunities, including the possibility of a new hotel at Powell Place — a Holiday Express.

Kennedy revealed on Thursday that the town is in conversations with the hotel chain, but first needed to clarify whether the chain has necessary utility capacity for the

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

'COMPASS ROSE'

After 41 years of service, J-M librarian leaves a legacy of guidance and inspiration

BY BEN RAPPAPORT News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — For 41 years one woman has occupied the desk in the middle of the Jordan-Matthews High School library. It's been a space for students to have their college essays read, contemplate difficult life decisions and feel safe in the often chaotic times of high school.

Now, the woman behind the desk — a bedrock of the J-M community — is retiring. Rose Pate celebrated her final year at J-M on Wednesday night with a special retirement ceremony in the school's auditorium. The ceremony featured more than 50 current students, staff and alumni dating as far back as the class of 2006.

The auditorium seemed a fitting place for Pate's retirement ceremony as the founder and president of JMArts. the nonprofit organization to enhance arts education at J-M. When Pate founded JMArts in 2011, the school barely had enough funding to put students on stage in a costume. She wrote and produced three one-act musicals, working with J-M chorus teacher Matt Fry. The final one was "Twi-School Musical," a mashup of the Disney hit "High School Musical" and the Twilight books, which they performed because the school couldn't afford rights to perform a Broadway show.

Since then, J-M has performed nine Broadway musicals, including "Into the Woods," "The Little Mermaid" and "Oklahoma!" The theatre program is set to perform its 10th, "Shrek the Musical," next spring.



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Retiring Jordan-Matthews High School Librarian Rose Pate hugs a former student after her retirement ceremony in the school's audiorium last Wednesday. Her husband, Chip, looks on.

Pate's leadership in the arts extends beyond theater. She's also been instrumental — pun intended — in supporting the band, chorus and visual arts programs.

"There are so many opportunities for students at J-M that simply would not exist without Rose Pate," J-M marketing teacher Rachel Daniel said during the ceremony. "Everything Ms. Pate has done for JMArts is truly incredible."

Last Wednesday's ceremony was filled with heartfelt tributes and songs from past and current students. It featured snippets about the legacy Pate is leaving at J-M and glimpses at the talent she helped foster on the very stage where the goodbyes were said. By the end of the night, there were few dry eyes left in the room.

"I'm overwhelmed with joy," Pate said afterward. "I just wept with happiness the entire time because all of my former students, colleagues and friends made this really meaningful."

Pate said it was fulfilling to see students of past and present and witness their growth on one special night.

"She is the perfect symbol of what J-M stands for," said senior and emcee of the ceremony Wilson Ramos Meza. "Her love for the arts has inspired me, and I think I speak for everyone when I say Ms. Pate is cherished."

Throughout the night, there were stories of Pate going the extra mile for her students and the arts program. Once, Alyssa Gaines, a J-M student from the class of 2018, sent Pate a text on a whim because she was performing in a college junior recital in South Carolina.

"My school is about four hours away from here," Gaines said. "But it didn't matter. She and [husband] Chip made the drive to come see my recital, and it just meant so much to me."

Gaines performed a song from that recital, "Nothing Is Too Wonderful to Be True" from the show "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," during the ceremony.

Another performance was from Heath Smith, a J-M alumnus from the class of 2014. He played a piano rendition of "Music of the Night," from "Phantom of the Opera." The meaning of the song for Smith, however, extends deeper than a visceral ballad about choosing between passion and romance. Smith didn't see the movie until after he graduated high school, but when he finally did watch it, his first message was to Pate.

"I said, 'Ms. Pate, this is the best thing I've ever heard,'" Smith said.

He then forgot about that message until a few weeks later when there was a knock at his door.

"There was a wrapped up gift from Chip and Rose," he said, "and it was a copy of the musical score to the show."

Smith said he went on to learn every piece of music in that book. He added getting to perform "Phantom of the Opera" was special for him because it symbolized the type of impact Pate had.

"Tonight was incredible because we celebrated a woman who has so much of an impact on so many lives," Smith said after the ceremony. "Knowing her has been a jewel in my life. It was so special to be able to perform something that Ms. Pate spawned my love for. Every time I play it, I think of her."

Following Pate's retirement, that desk in the library will be taken over by J-M alumna and teacher Jessica Kimrey something she said only feels natural. When Kimrey was a freshman at J-M, her parents told her if she ever felt lost that she should come to that desk in the library and find Rose Pate.

"From that moment on, Rose Pate has been my compass rose," Kimrey said. "When I was upset and needed someone to talk to, the office in the library was my go-to destination. When I wanted to celebrate or needed an essay read, Ms. Pate's office was the first stop."

Kimrey said Pate was the person who encouraged her to reach for her dreams. She said Pate asked the right questions to counsel her, and many others, through tough life decisions.

"That library has felt like home since I was 14 years old," Kimrey said. "It felt like home because of Rose Pate. It's my goal, I hope, that I can continue that legacy just a little bit as I transition in trying to fill very big shoes that are being left behind."

Following the conclusion of the school year, Pate said she will remain involved as president of JMArts. But first, she and her husband Chip are taking some much-deserved time off with a trip to New York City to see more shows on Broadway.

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

Siler City seeking applications for at-large commissioner

The Siler City Board of Commissioners are accepting letters of interest from the public to serve as

NEWS BRIEF

a member of the Siler City Board of Commissioners representing the at-large district seat that was held by Thomas "Chip" Price, who was elected mayor.

Interested parties must be registered and eligible to vote in the city limits (all the highlighted areas on the map) in order to be considered.

Letters of interest and any supporting information about qualifications and experience should be submitted no later than 2 p.m. on Friday, July 8.

Submit letters to Town Clerk Jenifer

Johnson at jjohnson@silercity.org or by mail at P.O. Box 769, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

For questions, please contact Johnson at 919-742-4731 or jjohnson@silercity.org.

-CN+R staff reports



ight, there Opera" was going the because it



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With a servant's heart, Tillman retires from Council on Aging

BY JIMMY LEWIS Chatham County Council on Aging

SILER CITY — In reality, Faye Tillman will never be located at the

> bottom of the ocean floor. Nor will she mow down a runner attempting to

or communicate

the defensive



Faye Tillman

signals.

But her Chatham County Council on Aging colleagues, past and present, had different ideas on a Wednesday afternoon at Western Chatham Senior Center.

"She's like an octopus," Western Center Activities & Wellness Specialist Olivia Hayden said. "She can do eight things at one time.'

Although lacking eight appendages on a day where Tillman was recognized for her 18 years of service to the Council — her last day as manager of the Western Center before retirement was Friday — she drew praise for one attribute that rose above all the others.

Steadiness, Stability, Dependable.

It was Dennis Streets, the COA's former executive director, who likened Tillman to some of Major League Base ball's greatest catchers. With a baseball in hand as he spoke, Streets had no problem citing



Congregate clients and staff pose for a group photo with former Western Chatham Senior Center manager Faye Tillman, who retired last week. Tillman was a COA employee for 18 years.

the likes of Sandy Koufax and a litany of pitchers that could paint both sides of the plate and leave batters in stiches on their way back to the dugout.

But it was at the "2" position in the baseball scorebook — that of catcher - where names were harder to come by for Streets. The likes of Yogi Berra, Johnny Bench, Mike Piazza, and Yadier Molina were never uttered.

That was fine. And rather intentional. Tillman never sought the limelight. But when it came time to make a key organizational hire for the COA, Streets knew he could rely on Tillman to provide and help drill down to the key attributes a successful candidate had to have.

Many faces have come and gone through both centers in Pittsboro and Siler City during Tillman's tenure with the council. But her presence proved unflappable and never budged, beginning as a parttime employee before eventually assuming the key leadership role at the Western Center.

"The closer it gets, the moreteary eyed I get," Tillman said.

It's that desire to serve the seniors of Chatham County that made the closing days of her career bittersweet even as she prepares to spend some extended quality time with her husband, Jerry.

However, one would be advised not to try to keep Tillman in a single place for too long. An attempt to hold a conversation about her career last week was quickly interrupted by a legitimate request.

There was a client in the library that needed to talk with her for a minute. Time was of the essence, but every step taken by Tillman on this day was bathed in purpose and an institutional knowledge of her surroundings.

The steady advocate for western Chatham's seniors knows how to brighten a day with a

simple word or smile. Or, she can speak on behalf of that one senior that needs just a little extra help with the electric or phone bill for a given month.

"The more I did with the se niors, the more I loved them,' Tillman said. "They make it a rewarding job. It's the best job I've ever had. Because I'm helping somebody; I'm making somebody's day if I can make one of them smile or laugh."

Tillman, who cited the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic as the biggest challenge of her career, has seen a high rate of return among seniors who try out COA facilities on a trial basis.

"I think we've attracted more seniors that have come because they find out it's a good place to come and visit," Tillman said. "By doing some of the improvements to the building (ramps), it's made it acceptable for some who were on a walker. The rocking chairs are encouraging to them. They can sit

outside and chat to each other and some of the programs we do, they love. We've made it a good place for them to sit and socialize instead of being homebound."

The time has come for Tillman to step into retirement and entrust the care of Western Center clients to a new generation. She departs, still with a watchful eye.

"If I know they're going to be taken care of. I'll be happy," Tillman said. "Because remember — everybody's going to be a senior if they live long enough."

Tillman did have one parting assurance for the COA's clients. With retirements come turnover and newer. often vounger faces to assume the vacated roles. But that doesn't mean the lines of communication have been severed.

"If they don't treat you right, vou call me." Tillman assured. "Because I will come back!"

Siler City's Public Works, Utilities department to split

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — As Siler City continues to grow, new Town Manager Hank Raper says expansion of town services will become a necessary step to ensure residents are satisfied with the work of town departments.

One first step: expanding and separating Siler City's Public Works and Utilities department into two separate entities.

"We want to draw businesses here, we want to draw residents here, we want our community to look good," Raper said. "We need to start making plans for the future and look at Siler City as to what we expect it to be with the growth rather than what it's been." Raper proposed this split at the town's most recent commissioners meeting last Monday, and commissioners unanimously approved the split. Since that meeting, Raper has made job postings for both departments. His reasoning: as it stands, Raper said most of the work the current department does is with water and sewage, but there are still maintenance calls for road repairs, trash pickup and more. "As a town, that (water and sewage) is top of the list when it comes to essential services that we have provided," he said. "The challenge is when you have a limited staff with limited resources, it means to get that right, other things get neglected – not because we want to, but because there's not enough time, not enough staff, not enough money to address those other issues.' The split will allow for Public Works and Utilities Director Chris McCorquodale to address more issues regarding Siler City's water and sewer infrastructure, including a recent moratorium the state placed on the town's sewer plant. The moratorium should not impact current customers, according to McCorquodale, but new sewer customers will be unable to connect to the town's system.

limits on nitrogen, ammonia, BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand), and toxicity," McCorquodale said. "We have been working to address these issues at the sewer plant by updating aging equipment, like the blower motors, backwash pumps, changing our feed system around to help with settling of sludge. We are also in the process of starting a plant upgrade that will address the majority of these issues. We currently do not know how long this will take to be lifted. We have had a conversation with the state and are having another meeting with

them very soon.' Siler City's Utilities customers expect," he said. "So breaking the department out will allow us to have another director to focus on the Public Works component.'

Additionally, the split will allow for current employees to find "specializations" and move up the ranks. Raper said a change in the department's working model will help not only encourage employees to work towards higher positions, but it will also help to retain employees who may seek work elsewhere.

"Departments are getting smaller as far as the levels, but more specialized," he said, "It's not just about getting that job and staying with an agency and working your way up over a 30-year career — it's much more transient than that. So it's just something we have to recognize and adapt to." Siler City is bound to see a significant increase in population due to economic development, according to Raper. With VinFast coming to Moncure, Toyota bringing jobs to neighboring Randolph County and the possibility of the CAM site becoming a hub for another big manufacturer, Raper said Siler City could soon see unprecedented growth, which will bring more money into the town. "The new money that may come in to address new residents is going to need to go towards adding services for those new

residents — it doesn't give you extra money to fix the preexisting challenges," he said. "I want to make sure that we're identifying all the existing challenges that we have, and are working towards dedicating revenue to solving those problems so that we don't fall into that trap, so I think this will be a tool in

helping us do that." Raper said he has already received applications to fill the position for the Public Works Director and hopes to fill that position by the end of the month. Once someone is hired to be the head of the Public Works, the split will officially begin. "It's moving us in the

direction of providing

higher quality service," Raper said. "Not just what we can get to with limited staff, but also saying we have people whose job is to make sure these specific services are provided."

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

Siler City Board of Commissioners Are Accepting Letters of Interest for the At-Large Commissioner Vacancy

The Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners are

"Violations cited by the state include, exceeding

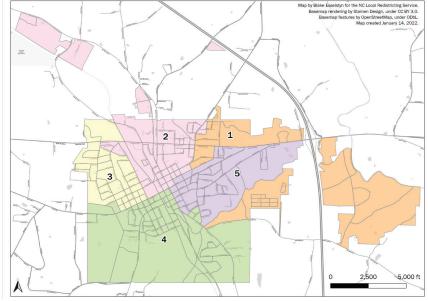
Department will be headed by McCorquodale and will address issues strictly involving water and sewage, such as the moratorium. The Public Works department will be led by a new hire and will address issues including building maintenance and road repairs.

Raper said dividing Public Works and Utilities better prepares the town for an influx of new residents that could come with job expansion from the \$4 billion VinFast manufacturing facility and potential new tenants for Siler City's Chatham Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) site.

"As we have grown, it is becoming more of a challenge to make sure that we're providing the level of service that the

accepting letters of interest from the public to serve as a member of the Siler City Board of Commissioners representing the At-Large District. Interested parties must be registered and eligible to vote in the city limits (all the highlighted areas on the map below) in order to be considered.

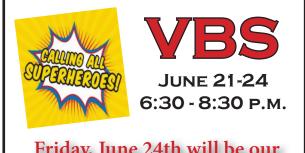




Letters of interest and any supporting information about qualifications and experience should be submitted no later than 2:00pm on Friday, July 8, 2022.

> SUBMIT LETTERS TO: **Jenifer Johnson Town Clerk Town of Siler City PO Box 769** Siler City, NC 27344 jjohnson@silercity.org

For questions, please contact Jenifer Johnson at 919-742-4731 or jjohnson@silercity.org.



Friday, June 24th will be our family celebration!

Theme Verse: Micah 6:8 "Mankind, He has told you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Volunteer for VBS: A sign-up sheet is located in the education foyer. Choose which area that you would like to serve in.

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CN+R ENTERTAINMENT



'Lightyear' is fun and funny, but a pale Pixar prequel

Three one-sentence title cards at the outset of Pixar Animation's "Lightyear" reveal

this was the film that

that made him yearn

for a Buzz Lightyear

action figure. It is a

helpful clarification

young Andy from "Toy Story" watched



Film Critic

about "Lightyear's" place in the "Toy Story" universe, one

that would have been far more effective if built into the actual animated portion of the film (for instance, an epilogue showing Andy and his parents leaving the theater as he breathlessly begs for a Buzz Lightyear toy). As presented, the perfunctory context feels like a slapped-on explanation prompted by one too many questions posed during the post-production process

Such is the quandary with "Lightyear," an otherwise entertaining, even charming bit of animated fun that would be more than satisfying in a cinematic vacuum. As a "Toy Story" spinoff, however, it is a middling addition to the Pixar oeuvre.

In a galaxy far, far away, Space Rangers Buzz Lightyear (voiced by Chris Evans this go around) and Alisha Hawthorne (Uzo Aduba) led an exploratory expedition onto an uninhabited planet. When conditions turn hostile and their spaceship is damaged, Buzz, Alisha, and the rest of their hibernating Star Command members are unable to leave the remote planet. Their only means of escape is to manufacture the rocket fuel to achieve hyperspeed. Buzz is the most qualified pilot to test the fuel. The problem is that due to gravitational time-slippage, a test run that feels like mere hours to Buzz actually lasts over four years to his marooned crewmates. A culmination of numerous failed runs plus one final successful flight lands Buzz 60-plus years in the future, when all his contemporaries (including Alisha) have lived lives and passed on. The now-colonists have evolved into a functioning self-contained society, with a ruling sect that seems settled on remaining where they are. Still literally living in the past, Buzz has other aims that place him at odds with the new authorities.

LIGHTYEAR

GRADE: B -

DIRECTOR: Angus MacLane STARRING THE VOICES OF: Chris Evans, Keke Palmer, Peter Sohn, James Brolin, Taika Waititi, Dale Soules and Uzo Aduba

MPAA RATING: PG RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 40 min.

Helmed by "Finding Dory" director Angus MacLane, "Lightyear" boasts the superb animation you would expect from a Pixar production. From Buzz's interstellar jaunts to his clashes with Emperor Zurg (James Brolin) and his army of robot baddies, the film earns its action bona fides. The highlight of "Lightyear," however, is Sox, a robot therapy cat Alisha gifts to Buzz. Voiced by Peter Sohn, Sox and his repartee with Buzz is the film's witty heart and the amusing centerpiece for both adult and kid viewers.

Only Sox cracks the code for hyperspeed fuel, just one of numerous plot holes in an ultimately slapdash plot since Sox is just a computer, why couldn't the colonists just program another computer, or robotic pet, to formulate the fuel during any of Buzz's many absences? The ultimate reveal behind Zurg's identity also presents a









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mystifying puzzler.

Moreover, the latter half of "Lightyear" comprises Buzz teaming with Izzy Hawthorne (Keke Palmer), Alisha's granddaughter, and a couple of ranger cadet misfits (Taika Waititi and Dale Soules) to stop Zurg and find a way home. They convey standard-issue lessons about the value of friendship and teamwork that are well-suited and worthwhile for "Lightyear's" target audience.

But they are also pat and superficial, a far cry from the existential underpinning of Pixar movies like "Finding Nemo," "WALL-E," "Up," "Ratatouille," "Coco," "Soul," and, heck, especially the "Toy Story" tetralogy.

"Lightyear" is a fun and funny diversion, well worth consuming but not as much contemplating.

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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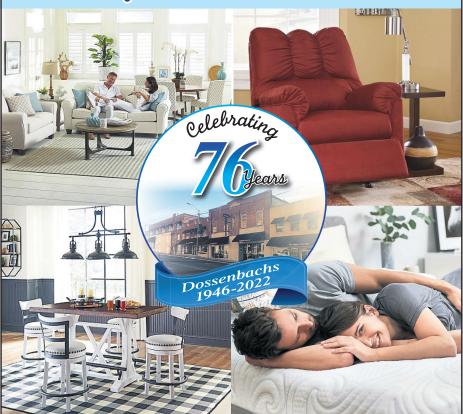
RQPNIAPSSREDROB

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: MEDITERRANEAN -

Airport	Gambling	Peninsula	The Rock
Borders Spain	Harbor	Royal Navy	Tourism
British	Limestone	Shipping	WWI
Finance	Low taxes	Territory	

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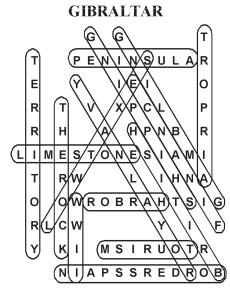


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Weekly SUDOKU

It sparks joy

Well, it's not huge, sprayed hair, or cod pieces, or swal-

lowing live goldfish. So as far as trends go, it ain't too bad. Organiza-

In my old house, we

had lived

there for

more than

tion.



DEBBIE **MATTHEWS** The Curious Cook

30 years. After three decades of, well, I won't say hoarding but ... the easiest way to organize that place would have been to light a match and start over.

Unfortunately, insurance companies tend to frown upon arson. (Their word, not mine; I'd call it extreme house cleaning)

When I moved into my new place, my plan was to keep it



The Curious Cook's pantry.

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

The fridge of the Curious Cook.

tidy, to treat it the way a boat is treated. In a boat there is finite space, so there must be a finite number of objects that all have a spot where they live. When not in use that is where the object resides.

Then my friends Stace and Val began visiting to help get me moved in.

Basically, they were my parents before they had kids and those kids made them old and tired.

Stace is a consummate handyman. I think he was born with a cordless drill in one hand, and a level in the other. He assembled, hung, and created numerous crazy things that I kept coming up with for my new home. I hang my clothes, store my books, and see into my pantry because of Stace.

And Val is my mother in that she is a neat freak. While Stace measured, hammered, and drilled, Val positioned furniture both in an aesthetic and

symmetrical way, and helped me set up my kitchen.

In my apartment is a pantry - it's actually the first pantry I've ever had in any place I've ever called my own.

So, a lot of stuff went into the pantry. It was out of sight, but kind of haphazard.

That's when Val began talking about a friend of hers who had gone "all in" on the home organization trend. After the binge watching, bread making, and Zoom meetings during the COVID-19 lockdowns, people started looking around their homes and many of them decided that they needed a system.

Home organization became a thing.

There a few reasons why it became a craze. People were spending lots of time in their homes and its clutter and chaos was noticed and wore on them. There was more time to tackle projects that had been on to do lists. And a third rea-

son had to do with our mental health.

In a world gone berserk, where no one knew what the next horrible twist would bring, getting our homes under control was the only control we had in our own worlds.

And a clean, organized home can confer a sense of calming serenity.

But back to my kitchen. Everything was put away in pantry and fridge, but there was no rhyme or reason.

I decided that the next time Stace and Val visited, Val would be impressed, and more importantly, it would be easy to keep tidy.

There was one huge hitch in my organizing giddy up: those organization kits and products are really expensive. Like \$20 or \$30 for one clear plastic bin for the fridge.

My only option was to get creative.

For my refrigerator, I found

two plastic bins at a discount store for \$10. For the bottom shelf I wanted something to keep my ridiculous amounts of jams and jellies together, yet separate and easy to see. So instead of buying expensive clear plastic bins, I bought inexpensive flatware drawer inserts. I did it without measuring, just on a wing and a prayer.

I got lucky.

(So maybe do a little measuring, Gentle Reader.)

When I went to purchase for my pantry, I was again appalled at the prices, so I took my time.

I decided to go for mainly glass jars of various sizes. I like the look, and you can see through the glass into what's inside.

My smaller jars? I just bought two cases of canning iars.

For my larger jars I scoured every discount store, sale, and thrift store. I splurged on

labels, which in hindsight was a waste of money.

The shelves were racks, which I dislike. They're not stable. So, I bought heavy plastic cutting mats and laid them on the shelves. Everything is more secure and they're easy to remove to clean.

I then organized areas on the shelves. I have baking supplies and pasta on one shelf and both sadly and characteristically one entire shelf is taken up with snack items. I picked up a wire basket for the items that don't work in jars.

My way was not only hundreds of dollars cheaper than regulation organization supplies, but I also love the way it looks.

How much?

The photos I took for this column were not the first photos I've taken of my pantry.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.

mom.

LAFF-A-DAY



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher

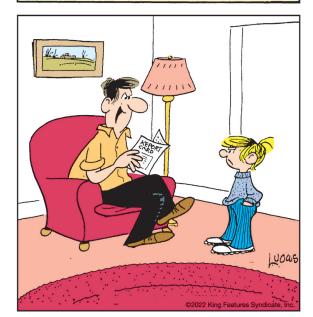


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"I'm proud of you, son - it took a lot of guts to show anyone this."

Volkswagen Settlement

The county worked

closely with Duke Energy

Fund.

Chatham County installs two EV charging stations

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County has installed two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations with the aid of a grant from the state and the Volkswagen Settlement Fund.

Chatham County was awarded two grants in 2021 to install an EV charging station in Siler City at the Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q restaurant and in Pittsboro at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. These grants are administered by the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality and funded by the North Carolina portion of the



Courtesy of Chatham County Government

The electric vehicle charging stations at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

and ChargePoint, an

electric vehicle charging

station manufacturer, to

design and build the two

stations. Installing these two stations aligns with the county's Comprehensive Plan goal to encourage adoption of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions in the county. The two stations charge EVs at different rates and are designed for different purposes.

"The direct current (DC) fast charger at Smithfield's is designed to quickly charge a vehicle and will be mostly used for drivers charging with a destination farther away," said Kevin Lindley, Chatham County **Environmental Quality** Director. "The location near the junction of Hwy. 421 and Hwy. 64 is ideal for a charging station like this. The Level 2 station at the Agriculture & Conference Center will more often be used as

a destination charger since it charges more slowly. This will be ideal for people who want to drive their EV to an event at the Center but might not have enough range to make it all the way there and back without charging."

EV owners who want to use these two stations will need to create an account with the Charge-Point network. There is a charge to use the stations, which was set by the county to recover the cost of electricity used to charge the vehicles.

For more information, contact Lindley at 919-545-7875 or email at kevin.lindley@chathamcountync.gov.

What pet owners should know about Chatham County animal law

BY BRIANNA DIAZ Chatham Animal Rescue and Education

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved new animal resource ordinances for the care of domestic and farm animals in 2017. Among other things, these ordinances regulate four areas of responsible animal care: food and water, required vaccines, containment (tethering), and shelter.

Food and water

Animals should be given access to adequate food and water at least every 24 hours.

For example, clean, fresh water must be given continuously or at suitable intervals in a clean, sanitized container. Food made specifically for pets, as opposed to human food, provides the nutrients needed based on the animal's species and age. These pet foods are made to meet the differing nutrition needs of



An example of adequate sheldter for a pet with access to food and water, according to CARE's Diaz.

energetic puppies and kittens, which are distinct from the needs of older dogs and cats.

Required vaccines

The only vaccine that is required by law in Chatham

County is a rabies vaccine. The first rabies shot is good for one year, and then it is required every three years.

Containment

Pet owners should keep

their animals on their property at all times and make sure their enclosure is escape-proof. This reduces the risk of injury to both domestic and farm animals as well as people in the surrounding area.

If an animal is kept outside, it should be tethered properly. For example, a rope, metal chain, or coated cable can be used to secure an animal, such as a dog. A tether needs to be at least 15 feet in length and give the animal enough room to move around and access shade, food, and water.

Shelter

Weather conditions should be taken into account when an animal is kept outdoors.

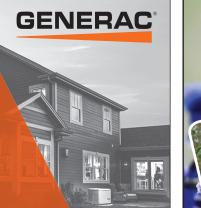
Adequate shelter should protect an animal from extreme temperatures, and give the animal enough room to be comfortable and move around in easily. Shelter should have at least three solid sides and a solid floor elevated above the ground. The roof of the shelter should give them protection from scorching sunlight.

Additionally, the Chatham County ordinances also state that a dog should not be left in a vehicle unattended, as this could lead to injury or death due to extreme heat, poor ventilation, or other conditions.

By following these basic guidelines, Chatham County residents can ensure their pets have what they need to thrive and also ensure that animal owners are in compliance with Chatham County animal law. The Chatham County Sheriff's Animal Resource Center can assist residents in need of certain supplies for their pets whether it is a dog house, water and food bowls, or food.

For more detailed information about Chatham County's animal resource ordinances and services, please visit chathamsoar.com or call (919) 542-7203.

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