

Chatham News + Record

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'SADDENED AND DISAPPOINTED'

Chatham residents, leaders, pastors react to SCOTUS overturning Roe v. Wade

Participants in an abortion and women's rights protest display signs Monday outside Pittsboro's Historic Courthouse. About 80 protestors gathered to rally against the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Many Chatham County residents and elected officials expressed frustration and anger at the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last Friday to overturn Roe v. Wade — a bedrock court case protecting reproductive rights — while others celebrated its demise.

Even though Friday's ruling was expected following a leaked draft opinion by Politico in early May, that didn't make the anguish any less palpable for those who shared their frustration about the ruling.

"The rejection of a woman's right to choose by the Supreme Court felt like a gut punch," said Brooke Davis, who attends The Local Church in Pittsboro. "As a woman and mother of three daughters, I believe bodily autonomy, supportive healthcare, and choices are imperative — for everyone. Reproductive health suppression already negatively impacts marginalized individuals and it is heartbreaking to think about the generational implications of this vote. We must continue to advocate and support the right to choose."

Colleen Sharp, a fellow Local Church congregant, said the abortion issue often ignores the nuances of deeply personal decisions.

Church congregant, said the abortion issue often ignores the nuances of deeply personal decisions.

"It ignores the fact that this is an incredibly complex and emotional issue, and no woman wants to have an abortion," Sharp said. "But she should have the choice, decided by her with input from her doctor. This is about women's rights. And women's rights are human rights. There's only one side to that issue."

The court's overturning of the landmark ruling is likely to

See ROE, page A7

THREE DOG APIARY

Beekeepers in Chatham prepare for honey harvesting season

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Cousins Mitchell Shivers and Erik Simon have spent the last few weeks working toward harvesting their own food.

Typical farmers they're not. Rather, the pair work about 60 beehives with thousands of bees in Pittsboro, harvesting honey and beeswax for their business, Three Dog Apiary off of Log Barn Road. "Bees are the most efficient workers ever," Shivers said. "Honey harvest makes all the work you've done that year worth it, and you actually get to see and enjoy the fruits of your labor."

Shivers and Simon started beekeeping about a decade ago, and since then, they've worked to build up their business and spread awareness on the importance of bees to the environment and for pollinating flowering plants — a process which helps to create a lot of the fruits and vegetables seen on dining tables across the county.

Simon first started raising bees as a hobby about 10 years ago, which he hoped would become a second source of income for himself. However, he said the first three years he tried were "failures."

"I failed hard for three years, even after I read every book out there I could find on the subject

See BEES, page A3



Courtesy of Three Dog Apiary

Mitchell Shivers (left) and his cousin Erik Simon tend to their hives at Three Dog Apiary, their beekeeping business in Pittsboro.

'DIFFICULT DAYS'

Northwood mourns deaths of three students

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Three Northwood High School students — Christian Poteat Jr., Tony Keck and Cassandra Sibrian — died in separate accidents within the span of a week, Chatham County Schools officials confirmed.

"Northwood has experienced several difficult days with the deaths of three students in the past week," read a statement released by CCS. "Last Thursday (June 16), Christian Poteat, a 2022 graduate, died in an accidental drowning. On Tuesday (June 21), Cassandra Sibrian, a sophomore, was killed in a car accident and (Thursday, June 23) night, Tony Keck, a freshman, was hit by a car and died while riding his ATV."

There have now been five deaths in the Northwood community in the course of just a few months.

"These three students, and the two we lost in the fall, have left a huge hole in the Northwood family," said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said in a statement. "We mourn the loss of bright futures, friendships and family that these students had. Please reach out for

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Cassandra Sibrian



Christian Poteat Jr.



Tony Keck

KIDS & VACCINES

With new CDC guidelines in place, is it time to get your young child vaccinated?

BY BILL HORNER III
News & Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Now that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention is recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children up to 5 years old, Chatham's health experts are encouraging parents to seriously consider it as a "critical line of defense" against the virus.

After the omicron variant's emergence last winter, child hospitalizations jumped significantly. COVID became the fifth-leading cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 4 since March 2020, based on data from the

National Center for Health Statistics. But it wasn't until June 17 that the Food and Drug Administration authorized Pfizer's three-dose vaccine for children 6 months to 4 years old, and Moderna's two-dose vaccine for children 6 months to 5 years old.

The vaccination rate for children of all ages is low. The prevailing wisdom — perhaps borne out of studies that have since been updated — is COVID doesn't impact children as much as adults.

But more recent evidence reinforces the efficacy of vaccinations for children. The basis for having children between 6 months and 5 years old vac-

inated is clear, according to the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department.

"Added protection, plain and simple," said Mike Zelek. "These vaccines have been proven to be safe, and while children are at lower risk than older adults of severe illness, they are not at no risk. The vaccine adds an important layer of protection, generating an immune response similar to what we see in young adults."

Zelek said there's "still a lot of COVID in the community, and that will likely continue with new variants. Vaccinations continue to be a critical line of defense, even for young children."

Eric Wolak, the chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at Siler City's Chatham Hospital, agreed children remain at risk — which is why parents should consider having them vaccinated.

"First and foremost, the vaccines work and they are safe," he said. "I know a big reason often given for not vaccinating children is because there is an impression that COVID does not impact kids as much. While that may be true from a data standpoint, COVID does impact children. Children can get sick from COVID, keeping them out

See VACCINES, page A9

IN THE KNOW

Virtual bond creates inseparable friendship for two students. PAGE A13

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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 Pittsboro Business Association** is sponsoring **Summer Fest**, featuring food, music, crafters, other vendors, activities for kids, and a sundown laser show, from 4 to 9:15 p.m. on Sunday, July 3. The PBA will also hold a “Beard and Mustache Contest” and a “Pie Contest.” Register for either of the contests by emailing your name and contact information to downtown.pittsboro@gmail.com. For the kids, there will be various amusement attractions, and a “Decorated Bike Parade” sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Carolina. To register for the bike parade, go to <http://conta.cc/3Qxfw54>. More information on our Twitter feed @PittsboroPBA, or at www.shoppittsboro.com.

• **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.

Wren Memorial Library

in Siler City announce new programs and events for the Chatham County community to enjoy. The **Arts & Crafts** began Wednesday, June 1 and continues on the first Wednesday each month, from 10 a.m. to noon. Community members of all ages are invited to create theme-based arts. Materials are supplied. Take-and-make supplies will be available for those who wish to drop in and make something at home. For the month of June, the theme is Ocean Animals. --- Wren Memorial Library **Social Hour** begins Thursday, June 2 and continues each Thursday, from 3 to 4 p.m. Adult community members (ages 18 and up) have an opportunity to meet and chat with fellow neighbors, a great opportunity to meet new people and form lasting friendships. --- The **Family Story Time** begins Thursday, June 2 and continues each Thursday, from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. Community members of all ages are welcome to join Wren Memorial Library for interactive story time. Participants will hear stories, sing songs, and maybe even do some dancing. Note: **Toddler Story Time** at Wren Memorial Library will continue to occur each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. The Library is located at 500 North 2nd Avenue. For more information about these events and programs at Wren Memorial Li-

brary, individuals may contact wren@chathamlibraries.org or (919) 742-2016.

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 Silk Hope Ruritans** host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of each month. Next on the schedule is June 30 at the Silk Hope Community Center.

• **Horton High School Alumni Association** Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for 2022-2023 HHSAA Scholarship. Descendants of any Horton High School alumnus or attendee may apply online, at hortonhighalumni.com; then click on “scholarship.” Applications must be accepted by August 1, 2022.

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

• **The Chatham Historical Museum** is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the governor’s directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham’s unique history. The museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the Circle. More info at <https://chathamhistory.org>.

• **Second Bloom** hours are 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 630 East St., Pittsboro, in the Food Lion Shopping Center. We are accepting donations of gently used men’s and women’s spring clothing and accessories. Credit cards are accepted. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• **The Chatham Arts Council** has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.

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

• **Alcoholics Anonymous** —

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

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

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

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

SCOUT NEWS

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

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

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

‘La Voz de Chatham’ put on hold

With Victoria Johnson’s departure, Spanish-language project seeks new reporter, funding

CN+R Staff Report

The News + Record’s “La Voz de Chatham” project, which for two years has provided Spanish-language news content in both print and digital platforms, is officially on hold, Publisher Bill Horner III has announced.

Lead Reporter Victoria Johnson, whose award-winning coverage has led to national recognition for the project, has left the newspaper to pursue a career in the legal field.

“Victoria was our original lead staff member for this project, and her reporting and writing skills and ability to provide compelling coverage in both English and Spanish is what made ‘La Voz’ work,” Horner said. “We’ve launched a search for a bilingual reporter to continue La Voz. So until we find the right person to continue doing the work Victoria started, we’re going to pause the project.”

La Voz de Chatham — “the voice of Chatham” in Spanish — was originally funded with a grant from the Facebook Journalism Project in the spring of 2020. Initially designed to be a four-month reporting project to cover the impact of COVID-19 on Chatham County — with stories in English in the print edition of the News + Record, in English and Spanish on the newspaper’s website and additional coverage in Spanish on social media — La Voz was expanded and continued past that four-month funding budget. It eventually included quarterly Spanish-language print editions, as well; those Spanish-language newspapers were mailed to 2,500 Spanish-speaking homes in Chatham County, and another 2,500 were distributed by hand through various local nonprofits and agencies.

The impact was significant. Editor & Publisher magazine, the American Press Institute, the Knight-Lenfest Newsroom Initiative and UNC’s Center for Innovation & Sustainability in Local Media were just a few of the publications and organizations to feature the La Voz project.

“La Voz de Chatham is a remarkable resource and source of information

about local news for the Latinx community of Chatham County,” said Ilana Dubester, the executive director of El Vinculo Hispano/The Hispanic Liaison. “La Voz created a space for our community to be reflected in the social fabric of our county through personal stories, opinion pieces, events, and news from local organizations such as the Hispanic Liaison. La Voz was also very accessible through a vibrant Facebook page and free printed editions that were mailed to Spanish-speaking households. I am proud of the Chatham News + Record for creating a more inclusive local media. I am hopeful that they will soon find someone to carry forth Victoria Johnson’s excellent work. She was an engaged and compassionate journalist, and a great writer! We will miss her.”

Horner said the News + Record would apply for grant funding and seek local funding support in order to keep it sustainable. Two major newspaper grant opportunities open in July, he said, including one from Report for America, a national service program that places journalists into local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and communities.

“We’re also considering crowd-funding this reporting project,” he said. “La Voz has provided meaningful coverage of Chatham’s Spanish-speaking population, and we’re very optimistic that we’ll find grants and other support to keep it going. But even that’s not going to happen until we find the right person to do the work.”

Johnson, a UNC graduate who lived in Greensboro, has taken a position at an immigration law firm in Raleigh and ultimately will consider getting a law degree.

“We hated to see Victoria go, but she’s part of our family and this new move will suit her careers goals and interests,” Horner said.

“It’s been such an honor and a privilege to lead La Voz and serve Chatham County’s Spanish-speaking community,” Johnson said. “I wish the best of luck to the next reporter who takes over La Voz and can’t wait to see how he or she grows the project.”

CORRECTION

Information in a photo caption in the June 23-29 edition of the News + Record stated Mae Glover’s 103rd birthday party was celebrated at the

Western Chatham Senior Center. It was actually held at Genesis Health-Care’s Siler City Center. The News + Record regrets the error.



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

July 4th through July 8th

- Monday, July 4**
 - COA Offices Closed for Independence Day.
- Tuesday, July 5**
 - Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
 - Spill the Beans w/Liz at 10:30 AM (Holly Brooks Room, WCSC) 🍲
- Wednesday, July 6**
 - 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) 🧘📶
 - Strong & Fit w/Olivia at 12:30 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧘
- Thursday, July 7**
 - Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
 - Move It Or Lose It w/Jackie at 10:00 AM (Holly Brooks Room, WCSC) 🧘
 - Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Olivia at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧘
- Friday, July 8**
 - 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**
- 💰 **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.

<p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC)</p> <p>365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512</p>	<p>Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)</p> <p>112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975</p>
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News + Record offices, others closed for July 4th holiday

CN+R Staff Report

The business office of the News + Record will be closed on Monday, July 4, for the federal Inde-

pendence Day holiday. Federal offices, banks, post offices and many other government offices, agencies and businesses will also be closed; check

hours and availability before going in person. The News + Record’s print deadlines and delivery times will not be impacted by the holiday.

Chatham News + Record

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BEES

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and taking classes until I found a local mentor and learned how to do it," Simon said. "You have to be really willing to fail and learn from those failures, and it can be disheartening."

Simon and Shivers have perfected their beekeeping processes after years of trial and error, as well as having new mentors help them along the way. They're now churning out several hundred pounds of honey per year, but spend most of the year tending to their bees — from feeding them to treating them for diseases and mite infestations. That ensures they remain healthy and able to produce honey and wax for the summer harvest season, which starts in mid-June and can go until the first week of July.

"You spend the whole late winter and early spring building up your bees, feeding your bees, making sure they have the right equipment, the right space, making sure they don't leave," Shivers said. "They build for a couple of months and then it really isn't until just about now, the first week of July, when the spring honey flows and then you can start pulling honey off."

The Three Dog Apiary bees in Pittsboro produce honey twice a year, according to Shivers — once in the summer and once in the winter. Shivers said they only harvest in the summer to ensure the bees have enough honey stored in their combs to survive the winter.

That's not the only thing the beekeeping duo does to protect their "workers."

The two also use different treatments to help prevent bees from contracting diseases from mites, which could wipe out an entire year's worth of work.

"They're little bitty spiders that you can barely see crawl all over bees, and they eventually kill the hive," Shivers said. "Most people don't treat bees for that and that's a big killer for these bees, and I treat for it, so I don't lose my bees every year nearly as much as others."

Simon said there are different methods to beekeeping, such as natural beekeeping —



Courtesy of Three Dog Apiary

Beekeepers at Three Dog Apiary in Pittsboro tend to one of the 60 or so hives they work at their property.



Courtesy of Three Dog Apiary

Erik Stevens (left) and his cousin Mitchell Shivers work throughout the year to ensure their bees are healthy and working hard at Three Dog Apiary in Pittsboro.

where no chemicals are used to treat the bees. However, the duo utilizes a mixture of approaches to treat their bees, including utilizing some chemicals to treat their colonies for diseases and mites.

"You're gonna find out by talking to different beekeepers that everybody's intentions are the same," Simon said. "They want to keep their bees alive, and they want to keep them healthy. There's different methods to go about doing that."

Another goal in beekeeping is to ensure the bee population continues to rise after some bee species became listed as endangered in the last five years. While the honey bees Simon and Shivers keep are not on the endangered list, they are dedicated to protecting bees and the role they have in the ecosystem.

"Whether you realize it or not, the majority of your food is pollinated by honeybees, especially in the United States," Simon said. "It's important to keep our bees healthy so they can continue to do their job ... our population here is not getting any smaller, and we've got to be able to produce enough food for them for those folks to be able to survive."

Beekeeping is not an inex-



Courtesy of Three Dog Apiary

Mitchell Shivers is one of the owners and beekeepers at Three Dog Apiary in Pittsboro.

pensive endeavor, according to the cousins. Beekeeping equipment can cost upwards of a few hundred dollars per hive,

and Shivers and Simon have 50 to 60. So far, they've not yet turned a profit. "It's not an easy thing to get

into from a financial perspective," Simon said. "The learning curve and the knowledge you have to have to be somewhat successful with it or even moderately successful — it takes a long time."

The years of hard work have culminated into a medium-sized working apiary, which has produced years worth of honey and beeswax. Shivers said this is something he and Simon want to continue doing, whether it's as a pastime or as a second job.

"I don't think I'll ever recuperate a lot of the money that I have put into this between the equipment and just how expensive it can be," Shivers said. "I'm just purely doing it out of love, and it's kind of a hobby, but it's one that I'm definitely going to do for the rest of my life."

Three Dog Apiary's products will be available in a local retail store called Spinfiber in September, according to Simon. He said if people are interested in their products before September, they can call 910-429-5943.

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

In 2011, Pittsboro's historic downtown was suffering from benign neglect

Faded and peeling paint, stained and crumbling bricks, tattered awnings, and old light fixtures caused Pittsboro's historic properties to look every bit their age.

The Town of Pittsboro sought and received Main Street designation from the NC Department of Commerce to help fund and guide building facade improvements. In 2017, a group of volunteers established a non-profit organization called Main Street Pittsboro to continue the facade improvements and address pedestrian safety and accessibility, develop places and reasons to gather, and support downtown businesses.

June 30, 2022 marks a day of transition. The Main Street Pittsboro non-profit will evolve into one that supports The Welcome Center. The Main Street Program will continue under the Town of Pittsboro with guidance from an advisory committee. We wish them well and share this partial list of accomplishments to inspire continued forward movement.

IMPROVED THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF PITTSBORO

- Page Vernon Pocket Park • Handrails • Modern Trash Cans/Recycling Bins and Benches • Rain Garden • Pervious Pavers
- Traffic Circle • Informational Kiosks • Seasonal Banners • Historic Banners



EVENTS attracted people to downtown and added vitality to the town

- Local on Main, 2019
- Business Mixers, 2019 & 2021
- Arts in the Park, 2021 & 2022
- Found It! Chatham Rabbit Hunt, 2021 & 2022
- StoryBook Walk, 2022



PROMOTIONS & MARKETING helped brand the downtown as a unique, historic, and creative destination

- Developed an interactive virtual tour of downtown and an interactive online business directory;
- Advertised downtown culture, events, and retailers to audiences locally, regionally and state-wide via social media, ads in magazines and newspapers and on radio;
- Opened a Welcome Center that provides info on shopping, dining, events, natural resources, and recreational activities across the County; a public ADA-compliant bathroom; and spaces to rest, eat, and enjoy downtown.

- Facades:** 115 Hillsboro Street • 107 Hillsboro Street • 127 Thomson Street • 38 Hillsboro Street • 37 Hillsboro Street • 102 Hillsboro Street • 106 Hillsboro Street



- Murals:** 121 Hillsboro Street at Circle City Books — "Chatham Authors"
37 Hillsboro Street at Welcome Center — "Chatham Flora and Fauna"
184 East Street at Yoga Garden — "Breathe"
110 Hillsboro Street at Page Vernon Pocket Park — "Trees"



MainStreetPittsboro.org

STUDENTS

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help if you need it during this sorrowful time."

Northwood Principal Dr. Bradford Walston echoed Jackson's call for empathy and community support during this time.

"I am concerned about helping our Northwood family through this," Walston said. "To lose so many of our family in a year is incredibly difficult. There are supports in place for anyone who needs them. Please reach out."

Poteat Jr.'s funeral service was held in Roxboro last Friday afternoon. According to the funeral home, Sibrian's visitation was the same day. Keck's services were held Sunday.

"All of these students attended Chatham Coun-

ty Schools throughout their school careers so we know that these students have touched the lives of many of you," a CCS statement said. "We are also a family that feels the grief at the loss of any of our children. Understanding the difficulty of the moment we wanted to reach out to each of you."

The district said social workers have been on the campus of Northwood High School to help students and community members grieve and process the traumatic events.

CCS employees also have access to the Employee Assistance Program. EAP is a company-sponsored benefit that offers the support and resources needed to address personal or work-related challenges and concerns. It's confi-

dential and free to all employees and their household family members.

EAP is available 24/7/365 as a free and confidential service. To seek assistance, call 800-633-3353 or visit mygroup.com

"We appreciate your kindness, thoughts and prayers for our Northwood school and these students who may have touched your lives as they journeyed to high school," CCS officials said. "While the moment is difficult, please take comfort in knowing that as a Chatham County Schools family we will continue to love and support all of our students and each other moving forward. Take care of yourselves. Be well."

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

PITTSBORO ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR: ROGER SAUNDERS

Tar Heel born & bred, Roger is an alumni of UNC, where he met Ann, his wife of 42 years & counting, whom he married following graduation. He served as an officer in the US Army Nurse Corps., stationed in SC, CO, KS, NC, TX, & Germany (his favorite 3-year assignment thanks to Volksmarching, traveling, & the food).



After Army retirement, the Saunders family returned to North Carolina where Roger was employed by UNC Health until he celebrated full retirement. He now enjoys traveling with Ann & spending time with their 3 children & 4 grandchildren. "It's an honor to be called Rotarian, a member of Rotary International whose mission is "to

provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional and community leaders."

Congratulations, Roger, we are honored to have you as a friend & member of our local club!

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VIEWPOINTS

My review is in, and it ain't that great

Among the long list of things the internet has encouraged is to turn too many of us into overly enthusiastic blowhards, as well as elevate not too few of us into

BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

high-minded, self-appointed critics.

Blowhards most of us can do without. Thanks to the web and social media, yelling and screaming and name-calling are almost de rigueur online and in the public square; it's not useful and never was cute.

But the web-generated phenomenon of truly independent, unbiased reviews — honest user recommendations from regular Joes and Janes found online — has been a most helpful byproduct.

I almost never purchase a book, choose lodging or a

restaurant, or go see a movie without first scouring reviews from sites like goodreads.com or tripadvisor.com or imdb.com. I read reviews on Amazon.com before any purchases I make there as well. I like learning what others who have been there, done that, think. (I typically disregard the most glowing or most critical reviews and instead focus on the most descriptive, given the circumstantial nature of written criticism.)

Those of us in the newspaper biz rely on advertising revenues for survival, but I've always said — and believe it to this day — that “word of mouth” is the most powerful form of advertising. Credibility is king, and if I trust you, and you say it's good or bad, or worth it, I'm likely to believe you — and your opinion.

The generous digital domain of apps and websites out there, however, means we don't have to be standing beside each other — or even know each other

— to share the inside scoop on good and bad experiences or purchases.

Which begs the question: what about when we do have a truly bad experience? Should we share it for the masses? And if so, how honest — how harsh — should we be in a written review?

I just faced that question. On the rare occasions when I write a review, my site of choice is TripAdvisor (tripadvisor.com). I've written 70 or so over the years. The majority are five-star evaluations of restaurants my wife Lee Ann and I have visited or of tours we've taken while traveling. My account shows I've written reviews from 31 different cities; I try to be quick to share a “good word” of enthused praise when it's merited and an honest appraisal when there's a disappointment.

And disappointment was the word after a recent restaurant visit in Blowing Rock: I was agitated not by the food (while

pricey, it was mostly very good), but by the inattentive service which spoiled an otherwise nice night.

Among the items on our list of grievances about our server: she didn't tell us about the specials, didn't bring us bread, didn't refill our water glasses, didn't pay attention to a specific food sensitivity request my wife told her about, and didn't offer dessert options, then didn't bring us our check after clearing our dinner plates. She mostly just wasn't there, and when another server finally flagged her down for us and brought her over, she rolled her eyes when we brought a few of these things to her attention.

While other patrons' servers were cheerful and attentively explanatory, ours was AWOL.

So naturally I hopped online when we got back to the house we rented to share about the experience. And naturally, Lee Ann cautioned me: don't be too harsh, particularly since we

already vented to the manager, who happened to overhear us telling the host about our experience. (He knocked \$22 off our \$75 bill for our discomfort, then gave her, as he told us after we paid the check, “more than a good talking to.”)

What struck me after I submitted my evaluation was the fact that most of the reviews of that particular restaurant addressed either very good or very bad service — not the food. Sure, I'd skimmed them before, as usual, but the primary attraction for us in going there was the menu and the food options. Scattered among the many five-star reviews were lots of one- and two-star write-ups, nearly all addressing inattentive service.

I should have read the reviews closer.

Would we go back? Maybe. If we did, though, up front I'd ask not for a great table, but for great service.

It's not on the menu, but it ought to be.

A different Christian view on abortion

In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Justice Samuel Alito's argument began and ended with the claim that abortion is never mentioned in the U.S. Constitution.

But I contend it is more relevant to note another word not found in the Constitution — woman.

According to an editorial in *Nature*, a respected scientific journal, a primary reason women give for wanting an abortion is an inability to afford to raise the child. Some 75% of women who choose to have abortions are in a low-income bracket. These women are already economically vulnerable, yet in the 25 states expected to ban abortion, there are not even laws that guarantee maternal leave from work. As Dan Rather recently wrote, “The burden is almost always heaviest for those who are already burdened.”

The states' ban on abortion is not only going to disproportionately impoverish women, it will result in more maternal fatalities. Many women already have unequal access to health care, which accounts for the U.S. having the highest rate of maternal death among wealthy nations. The same editorial in *Nature* cited a study that, if abortions were banned throughout the United States, the risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes for non-Hispanic Black women would rise from 1 in 1,300 to 1 in 1,000.

The majority of these women will lose their lives because of a lack of medical care. Abortion is the treatment for ectopic pregnancy or a septic uterus. Without these abortions, women die.

But health care workers could face criminal prosecution for saving a woman's life.

In the same week that one branch of the U.S. government abolished more than 50 years of precedent for the right to an abortion, another branch enacted significant gun control legislation for the first time in nearly 30 years. Congress passed bipartisan legislation in response to the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Some level of gun control has long polled favorably among a majority of American voters, but it took the mass murder of 4th graders to spur political action.

While the Supreme Court has circumvented the will of a vast majority of Americans who likewise support access to abortion, it is possible to legislate access to abortion. But I fear that it will take horrific loss of women's lives to convince politicians to put aside their ideology.

This ideology may be described as anti-abortion. Yet, many in this movement describe themselves as “pro-life” because of their religious motivations. I recognize that people of faith oppose abortion out of their desire to protect the unborn. Yet, I do not find biblical evidence that life begins at conception. The word abortion is not found in the Bible.

I read multiple Old and New Testament passages calling for care of “widows and orphans,” which in today's world would mean services like universal health care and childcare, affordable housing and access to healthy food.

But the very same “pro-life” politicians are often against these policies for well-being. As I write, Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kan., is blocking a federal program that provides up to 10 million kids with free breakfasts and lunches in school.

Passages, such as Isaiah 1:17, make it clear that the Bible calls for much broader understandings of equity and justice — “Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.”

“Pro-life” policies should not stop after birth.

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



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters



Looking for a connection between age and wisdom

Long ago and far away when dinosaurs roamed the world and I was a wee young lad — well, at least a young lad — I was often not very fond, detested at times even, hearing much in the way of conversation, more specifically advice, from the older generation.



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

The reason or reasons were many but the most obvious was, “I'm young and hip, part of the new and now generation and what could those old fogeys possibly tell me about the world and the shape of things?”

“Plenty” would be today's answer to that question.

Let me hasten to say here that I did not ignore all counsel in those days. Actually, I took a great deal of it to heart, although some of the lessons and instructions had to be verified the hard way.

For instance, when my mama said not to touch her spray and steam iron I should have heeded her. And the day one of my dad's friends told me, while we were standing in his small engine repair shop, not to touch the spark plug of an idling lawn mower with the screw driver I had just picked up, I should have listened.

The larger issues of life, however, weren't necessarily wrapped up in those minor events, although I

have come to learn the principles there apply to larger considerations. And that principle is this: experience is a good teacher and if wisdom comes along with that experience, it's a wise boy who pays attention to the experience and wisdom of his elders.

All throughout the Good Book, especially in Proverbs, are jewels of wisdom and lately I have begun to note that many of them have a home in the minds and hearts of those senior adults. Snow white hair on its own does not necessarily a wise person make but it can be a sign that you're in the presence of one.

As I think about that, I think of a little lady I knew almost 60 years ago. Mrs. Mary Shotts was the guidance counselor at Pittsboro High School as I was coming through, maybe the first ever, at least officially in title. She was a kind and gentle lady and I became very fond of her except when she wouldn't let me sign up for a class in advanced PE my senior year in high school. Her reasoning was that a class period devoted to picking up rocks on the football field or cleaning trash from under the bleachers would not be as beneficial in the long run as would a class in, say, algebra-trigonometry.

Of course, the fact I barely passed algebra/trig doesn't matter anymore. At least she saved me from picking up rocks, a task I still don't like.

Mrs. Shotts had that silver and snow-white hair and years of experience and wisdom. Nowadays I also think not only of her but also of Dr. Chevis Horne, my professor of preaching at seminary. A wise elder statesman, he served one church his entire professional life, first being its associate pastor. Then after a stint as a field chaplain in Sicily during World War II, he came back to that parish as its senior pastor and served 30 years before retiring and turning to teaching.

Since those days, it's been my desire to emulate those folks, to become them. And I know I'm on the way because my hair and beard are starting to turn gray and because the youth of today say “sir” to me or offer the senior adult discount without asking for proof.

That other part — the wisdom part — however, I'm not so sure of and as I meander through my biblical “three score and ten,” I can only hope some of the other will come along.

Maybe it will ...

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?

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | DENNIS STREETS

My wife's retiring.

Here's a tribute to her — and all teachers.

While I write this to honor my wife, Dawn Streets, upon her retirement from Chatham County Schools, I also hope to raise further awareness of and appreciation for the admirable work of all teachers.

Dawn officially had 30 years of service (29 in the classroom) at the end of this school year. However, if we count the fact that she was at the school by 6:30 each morning, worked another two to three hours at night, and additional hours on weekends

— I imagine she had at least 40 years of service as a middle school teacher.

She did this while also being a wonderful mother and partner.

I remember her first classroom at East Lee Middle School in Sanford. We actually bought several bookcases and assembled them to create the fourth wall in a small alcove at the end of a hallway. This was just the first of many out-of-pocket expenses she had over the years to support quality instruction.

Hearing her talk about her school experiences over the supper table, I consistently felt her passion for teaching despite whatever challenges she encountered on any particular day. I came to understand that a dedicated teacher does much

Our future largely depends on the expertise and dedication of all our teachers. It is critical that we do all we can to recruit and retain qualified teachers in Chatham County and beyond.

more than teach content.

The exemplary teacher — whom we all can remember — models professional behavior, inspires us to achieve more than we think we can, listens to our problems and helps resolve them, and goes the extra mile to make sure we are prepared for our next steps in school and in life.

I can't recall any occasion when Dawn and I have gone to a local grocery store or restaurant when there hasn't been at least one former or current student and/or parent who makes a point to say,

"Hello, Ms. Streets." On other occasions, where the clerk or cashier hears my name, commonly their response is, "Are you related to Ms. Streets? I love her. She was an amazing teacher."

Let me brag a bit on Dawn. In addition to her experience at East Lee, Dawn taught at Horton, Perry Harrison and Margaret B. Pollard. She was selected "Teacher of the Year" at three of these schools. She earned her National Board Certification. She led the extracurricular Envirothon program at Perry Harrison

and Pollard. She served as preceptor for numerous student teachers — some of whom are now teaching in Chatham County. Dawn served in various capacities to support beginning teachers. She led committees, developed curriculum, wrote grants, sought out professional development opportunities ... I could go on.

Let me conclude by saying how important it is that we honor the teaching profession. Our future largely depends on the expertise and dedication of all our teachers. It is critical that we do all we can to recruit and retain qualified teachers in Chatham County and beyond.

Dennis W. Streets recently retired as director of the Chatham Council on Aging.



DENNIS STREETS
Guest Columnist

GUEST COLUMN | SUSAN CRATE

Lets get in some 'good trouble'

I realize that when I posted to the Bynum listserv asking why there was not more diversity in the "Viewpoints" section of the Chatham News + Record that I may have ruffled some feathers. I wrote that I had subscribed to the paper after moving back home to Bynum after many years in order to learn about our county.

Perhaps without too much thought, I sent a message to the listserv asking if others had noticed that all the Viewpoints were written by white men. I got several direct responses of agreement, including one that encouraged me to submit a piece — and I decided that it was important to talk about what more diversity means in this day and age — yes a time of many misunderstandings, misperceptions, misrepresentations, etc.

The main point I want to get across is that more diversity is in all our best interest. Why is that? Because when we stand for diversity, we are standing for community. And when we stand for community, we are bolstering our ability to "weather the storm," literally and figuratively. Our county, our towns within that county, and our neighborhoods within and outside those towns are on the cusp of the type of changes we have not witnessed before. For that we need to talk to each other, support each other, essentially we need to be engaged in each others' lives, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, belief, political party, etc.

There are others out there who can speak with more authority to the economic, political and development challenges we face and will continue to face. My expertise is in our existential crisis: human-caused climate change. I have spent 30+ years working in a part of the world where the land is supported by frozen ground, permafrost. Today that permafrost is thawing at a fast pace. The land is falling in and rising, infrastructure is failing, entire parts of settlements are caving in. You probably wonder why this matters to residents of Chatham County. It matters because that frozen ground and all of the Earth's cryosphere (frozen areas to include permafrost, glaciers, sea ice, etc) is critical to maintaining the planet's system of heating and cooling. In short, if it thaws, we are all affected.

In Chatham County we don't have permafrost and we are not witnessing the extreme changes occurring in the Arctic and the more extreme parts of the planet. But if you look at the 20 year trends in our county, you will see the increase in temperatures, in violent storms, in extreme weather changes and in the lack of snow and ice.

Even if we were able to stop all greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, SO₂, CH₄, NO₂, water vapor) tomorrow, we would still be in for the accelerating change coming our way.

I worked professionally for 30 years researching, teaching, writing, speaking, and contributing to policy, all focused on raising consciousness about our existential crisis. Yes we need to cut carbon. Yes we need to transform our energy, agriculture, educational, health, political, ad infinitum systems to be regenerative; to put back into the biosphere, the ecosphere, and the socio-culturo-sphere more than they remove. What my experience has shown me, time and time again, is that no change is possible without a vibrant, diverse community that prioritizes the big picture. I know these types of relationships exist in many of our Chatham County communities. This is one reason I returned to Bynum after living here from 1995-2002 when I was swept away to do my work in northern Virginia. I knew then it was a unique place, like many others in our county. Let's see what we can do together. Let's weather the coming storms, in whatever shape or form they may come, together as one human family.

And if you are looking for one action you can take today in this effort, go talk to a neighbor you have not yet met. Go say hello to a person you may not normally feel inclined to say hello to. Look more for what you have in common with others and seek to celebrate that. I guarantee you will be surprised to find that, indeed, we have more in common that we all thought.

Susie Crate is an environmental and cognitive anthropologist, who since 2005 has analyzed perceptions, understandings and responses to climate change among Sakha (NE Siberia), arctic Canadian, Peruvian, Welsh, I-Kiribati, Mongolian and Chesapeake watermen communities. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles, two edited volumes on anthropology and climate change, and two monographs, most recently, "Once Upon the Permafrost: Knowing Culture and Climate Change in Siberia" (University of Arizona Press, 2021). She is a professor emeritus at George Mason University and lives on the Haw River in Bynum.

Editor's note: The News + Record has actively recruited different voices for its Viewpoints pages and regularly features diverse voices in the newspaper's "Chatham Chat" installments. Readers are always invited to submit letters and guest columns at news@chathamnr.com.



LETTERS

N.C.'s GOP needs to fund our schools

TO THE EDITOR:

In his recent Viewpoints column praising the expansion of school choice in N.C. ("Power is shifting toward parents," News + Record, June 23-29), John Hood noted parent dissatisfaction with public schools. He mentioned possible solutions, adding that "neither option proved particularly effective."

What he failed to do was explain why. The answer, of course, is the unwillingness of N.C.'s Republican-controlled legislature to fund public schools (and teacher salaries) to the level required to be top-notch. Had the tens (hundreds?) of millions of dollars bestowed on the charter and private schools been given instead to our public schools we would have that top-notch public school system. Instead, we are saddled with a chaotic system of sometimes inadequate and poor-performing charter and private schools not subject to the same scrutiny as are the public schools.

Michael Cotter
Chapel Hill

Is the idea of 'hope' just a fantasy?

TO THE EDITOR:

I struggle more and more to be hopeful about the future. It seems regional and national news and blogs follow the time honored "If it bleeds, it leads" format to inform; not so rural news, thankfully. Weary is an understatement!

Cutting myself off from the news does not satisfy my desire to stay informed. There are some bright spots, but it is necessary to wade through a swamp for the occasional nugget of a heart-warming story. Some see goodness others see turmoil. Which depiction of our world is the more accurate? Sometimes we who live here cannot see the positives, there must be a reason so many people want to come to the U.S. to live or be educated or work. Some-

thing so much better than what they are leaving behind. What do others see that we cannot? Is this hope?

News pundits are willing to sell their point of view even if unfounded just to earn ratings and generate dollars. It appears that they find joy in helping to tear our country apart. They are like spectators at a cockfight just hooting and hollering for blood! They sometimes admit that they don't believe what they are selling but there are so many buyers that they just can't resist. They sell dope on the corner street closing their eyes to the addicts.

Years ago, there were people on soap boxes in big cities espousing wild theories, often ignored. Today, the world is THE soap box and many stop to listen. We are drawn to these talking heads like people are to cult leaders; they give us Kool-Aid and we drink it! We know it's poison but drink anyway.

Maintaining balance is my goal in these turbulent times. Accepting or just listening to different points of view remains a challenge when conspiracies abound. I used to enjoy listening to policy debates between conservative and liberal pundits. Today many just yell sound bites at each other hoping to get picked up for the 6 o'clock news. It is so very hard to process when logic is defied. I must accept though that at least half the country is at odds with the other half. Maybe this is where hope comes in. But is hope just fantasy?

I hope not.
Jim Vanderbeck
Pittsboro

On the use of COVID funding in schools

TO THE EDITOR:

Last week's feature article ("CCS puts emergency COVID funding to good use despite challenges," June 23-29) on Chatham Schools' use and spending of \$18 million in federal COVID relief act funds awarded to our schools (to spend on COVID relief-re-

lated projects by 2024) seemed to this reader as reaching too far to spend these funds.

For example, the line item about hiring 53 new employees did not explain what health mitigation or education away from school would occur if lockdowns happened again.

Second, if these jobs are sunsetted in 2024, we taxpayers (local and federal) best not be approached by the school board to come up with the \$450,000 each year moving forward to keep these positions funded. Our property taxes in two years will need to be increased to retain these positions.

I cannot imagine an extra three years of additional education for — again, unstated COVID-mitigated justification mentioned in the article last week. I ask the board to also make public the "COVID benefit rationale" in the near future as a follow-up article.

Are we now left to wonder about the new hires and the degrees and accreditations these teachers needed? As we did before COVID, and with little detail, are now informed that three years of federal taxpayer dollar programs for these new teachers will be of great value?

The fed and the state have five or six main categories each county can use federal COVID funds for. I would very much like to see Chatham County government and Chatham County Schools to put out a report in detail justifying these new hiring, education measures, and all issues about spending \$5.1 million to date that were presented to us in that article, and how it fits the federal and state COVID relief spending guidelines.

When our Chatham County and Chatham school district budgets, and Chatham property taxes and tax rates, are again discussed again in two or three years, may we well see these 53 were sunsetted jobs and and not placed in front of Chatham taxpayers again.

Don Wollum
Pittsboro

VIEWPOINTS

Stop punching political panic buttons

Remember when rapid automation was going to



JOHN HOOD
John Locke
Foundation

render large swaths of the workforce unemployed? Politicians and other professional worrywarts warned that robots would displace production workers, that self-driving vehicles and drones would displace truckers and delivery personnel, and the algorithms and kiosks would displace service and managerial employees.

Radical responses such as universal basic income would be needed, they argued, to quell the chaos to be engendered by lasting unemployment.

Politicians argued this as recently as two years ago. Now, in 2022, we are in the midst of a massive labor shortage. Businesses are desperate for employees and will hire them

at a premium — including for many of the same jobs, such as drivers and fast-food servers, previously forecast to disappear.

Yes, I realize that in theory there could be a short-term labor shortage followed by a longer-term labor surplus. In the real world, however, technological innovations (and free trade, for that matter) don't produce net job destruction. They produce net job creation. As consumers save money or time by purchasing goods and services produced at lower cost, that frees up money and time for them to patronize new businesses that hire employees of their own.

I also recognize that some specific concerns about the labor market are warranted. One factor explaining the current worker shortage is pervasive drug addiction, for example. And in the long run, some jobs will be eliminated, leaving their current or prospective occupants with the need to retrain, relocated, or rethink their futures.

What I don't agree with is the hysterical way politicians often talk about these issues. They may believe such emotive performances are what the public wants, that using such language will signal how much they care about those who are suffering. Or politicians may believe that if they punch their fingers into enough panic buttons, solutions will materialize. In this, they are following Teddy Roosevelt's leadership advice: "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing."

Another possibility is that at least some of these politicians are, in fact, hysterics. Roosevelt certainly was.

A subsequent Republican president, Calvin Coolidge, was his temperamental opposite — and offered much sounder advice: "If you see ten troubles coming down the road, you can be sure that nine will run into the ditch before they reach you."

Policymakers can and should take practical steps to help today's workers prepare for tomorrow's economy. They can improve and extend job-retraining programs. They can restructure the unemployment-insurance system to encourage rapid reentry into the workforce (including the option of a one-time cash payout to cover the expense of moving to where new jobs are being created). They can reform tax and regulatory obstacles that keep entrepreneurs from founding or expanding new enterprises.

What they can't do — what no one can or should attempt to do — is stop change from happening. If machinery can make things faster and cheaper than human hands, great! In the past, such innovations freed the vast majority of us from having to scratch our living out of the soil, as most human beings did for most of human history. Labor-saving methods and devices allow us to redirect our efforts to more productive pursuits.

One of the great products of modern engineering is, in fact, the panic button itself. A Boston inventor named Augustus Pope patented a battery-powered version in 1853. A businessman named Edwin Holmes bought Pope's patent and began selling electric-alarm systems to homes and businesses. Later innovators developed a variety of military, industrial, and medical uses for panic buttons.

In some cases, these applications displaced the need for human beings to monitor critical areas or perform emergency tasks. The net result was, however, to make workers and consumers better off.

Not all problems are emergencies. Pretending otherwise is itself dangerous. On this, and on much more, Coolidge was wiser than Roosevelt.

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).

Telling an aging relative she can't drive anymore

North Carolina is blessed with more than its share of great writers. And I am looking over some of my favorites from my 20-plus years hosting PBS-NC's North Carolina Bookwatch.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

One of the very best is Clyde Edgerton's "Lunch at the Piccadilly." It wrestles two of life's great challenges. One is coming to some understanding of the meaning and purpose of our lives. Another is figuring out how to tell an aging relative that he or she is no longer fit

to drive a car and must turn in the driver's license. As the novel begins, Carl Turnage, is taking his Aunt Lil from a nursing home somewhere in North Carolina to lunch at the Piccadilly Restaurant. After letting her drive around the parking lot, he plans to break the news that she will never be able to drive again.

After lunch, and after a dangerous spin around a parking lot, Carl just cannot muster the courage to give the bad news. Throughout the book he resolves again and again to try, but he never completes the project. Carl's love of his aunt and his deep sense of responsibility take him back to the nursing home time after time to visit and care for Aunt Lil.

On these visits, Carl encounters a rich variety of other nursing home residents and staff.

Aunt Lil's nursing home friends are hardheaded and opinionated even though their memories and reasoning abilities are in a state of decline. One of them, Clara, asserts that Bill Clinton was not the kind of president that Washington and Lee were. When someone reminds her that Confederate General Robert E. Lee was never president, she responds that he should have been.

Meanwhile, the nursing home staff members do their best to attend to the needs of the residents. But they also wrestle with the rigors and paperwork of Medicare and other government regulations.

Carl meets a retired preacher, L. Ray Flowers, who is recovering from a leg injury. L. Ray charms Aunt Lil and most of the other women residents. He preaches "tent revival" sermons. He sings and leads them in singing familiar old hymns and other songs, some of which he wrote himself.

The passionate preaching and singing conceal L. Ray's loss of faith in a God who would respond to his prayers. Struggling to find purpose for his life, L. Ray latches on to the idea that churches and nursing homes should merge into "Nurches of America" so that church members would come to worship in nursing homes, where they would automatically be of service. When the idea begins to catch on with the other residents, the nursing home's owner deems L. Ray a troublemaker and finds an excuse to force him out.

Meanwhile Carl looks out for Aunt Lil. He takes her back to her home to visit and give it a good cleaning. He sits with her and goes through her papers. He comforts her when her growing dementia makes her think that her nursing home room is a jail cell in South Carolina.

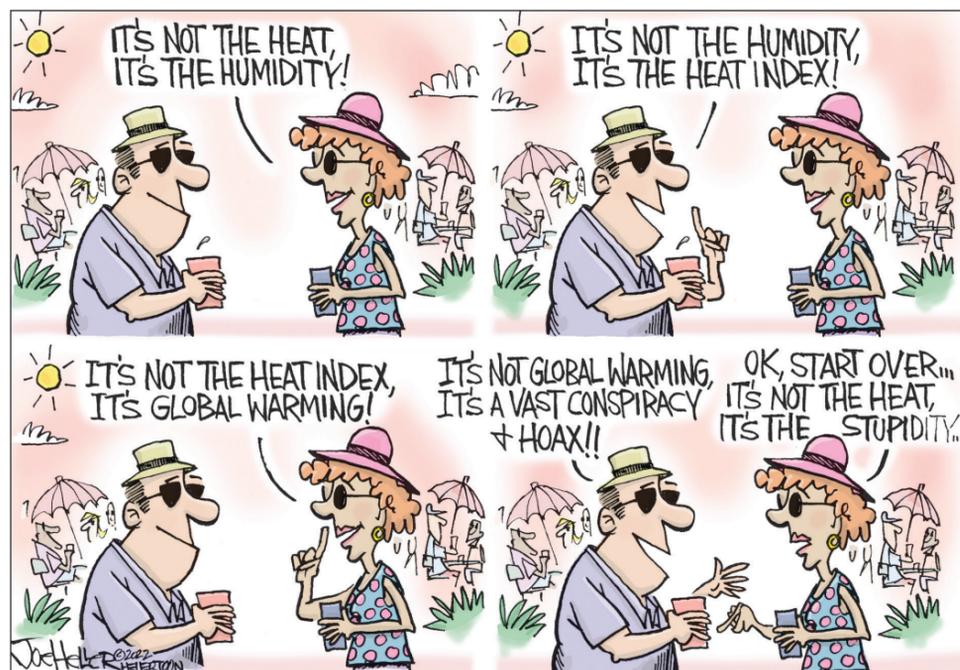
These scenes will ring true to every reader who has ever tried to help a parent leave a home that means so much and move forever to a strange place where he or she will be surrounded by others who can see and feel death closing in.

As Carl comes to grips with Aunt Lil's approaching death, the reality of his own mortality grows within him. As he gropes for the meaning and purpose of his own life, he represents all of us.

Like Mark Twain's best writing, Edgerton's entertaining story of the relationship of Carl and Aunt Lil as they journey toward the end of life can touch a reader's soul.

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

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



Balancing act

Lately, I've been thinking about the word balance. We refer to a



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

well-balanced life as one with equilibrium between work, family and recreation. A well-balanced diet includes a proper mix of the food groups. In government we talk about the balance of power, indicating that the three branches — legislative, executive and judicial — have checks and balances so that no one branch becomes too dominant. Balance is a good thing.

North Carolina has been seeking balance since our earliest times.

Shortly after the Declaration of Independence, and in anticipation of statehood, North Carolina's 5th Provincial Congress tasked Richard Caswell to head a drafting committee to write our first Constitution, which they presented in December 1776. That document expressed the belief of most colonists that no one person (in their case the British King) should have too much power over their affairs. Accordingly, our first constitution established the three branches of government, but gave the true power to the Assembly, the only leaders then elected by the people. The governor was appointed by the Assembly for a one-year term.

By 1835, people determined the power equation was out of balance, especially those in the growing Piedmont and Western sections of the state. Eastern legislators dominated the agenda, and the other regions felt their interests weren't being heard. A state constitutional convention was called that year and, among amendments later approved by the voters, the governor became an elected, not appointed official. It was hoped this would result in a better balance of power, since all the voters in the state would elect our chief executive. Through the years we have had

some very influential governors, but the legislature unquestionably holds the power and, until the last 20 years or so, that body was largely controlled by members east of I-95.

As former British Prime Minister William Pitt, for whom our Pitt County is named, wisely said, "Unlimited power corrupts the possessor." North Carolina has been blessed with examples of wise leadership from our General Assembly, but there have been times when they wielded too much power. Seeking to rebalance the power scales, in 1996 North Carolina became the last state in the union to give the governor the power to veto legislation.

From its inception there have been 99 gubernatorial vetoes, 64 of them issued by Governor Roy Cooper since he took office in 2017. Since 2018 all his vetoes have been sustained because enough Democrats were elected to negate absolute power by Republicans.

GOP legislators maintain Cooper has been a stumbling block to passage of good legislation. Many others just as steadfastly believe that most of those vetoes were justified and our balance of power equilibrium was restored.

I subscribe to the latter. Jim Martin, a Republican became governor and even with what can only be described as a "hostile" legislature dominated by Democrats, had a very good record for passing legislation. Martin was a conservative, but also a pragmatist and adept at getting votes from Democrats. During Martin's tenure moderates of both parties dominated on Jones Street and lawmakers could sometimes be persuaded to put aside party loyalty for the good of the state. Not so much today.

Whereas Caswell and the drafters of our first constitution never envisioned political parties, or the resultant lockstep allegiance and votes from them, we are now experiencing factions within each party, creating another form of

imbalance.

In 2010 Republicans convinced the state's voters that Democrats had ruled our legislature too long and they could be more responsive and accountable. The first couple of years they passed some good legislation, but then the extreme faction of their caucus started demanding and taking control. Then-Speaker Thom Tillis once told me his biggest job was trying to keep his caucus' factions together enough to pass bills. I believe one reason he decided to run for the US Senate is because managing those factions had become so difficult.

HB2, the so-called bathroom bill, passed in 2016 is a poster child of unbalanced power. There are current examples, such as the "Parents Bill of Rights" legislation I wrote about last week and blatant power grabs to remove or minimize the Governor's ability to appoint public boards and commissions. Need we remind you what has happened with the UNC Board of Governors, Community College, Board of Elections and now is being hinted to be done with the State Board of Education?

We repeat that balance is a good and desirable thing, and that once again North Carolina's government is out of balance. What will it take to restore equilibrium?

We've tried solutions before, but the problem persists. There is only one solution to power imbalances in state or local governments: Voters. The 7,312,000 voters of our state need to be reminded that THEY, not the governor or our legislators are the ones with real power in North Carolina. They have the chance to restore balance in November at the ballot box.

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

‘SAME CRAP, DIFFERENT CENTURY’

Protestors turn out in Pittsboro to fight for reproductive rights

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Carol Goettman has been fighting for reproductive rights since the 1970s. She was at the march in Washington in support of passing Roe v. Wade when it originally passed in 1973.

Now, donning a gold coat hanger necklace, the 87-year-old is in Pittsboro protesting what she believes was a giant step backward for the country.

“We’re still needing to march for this, which is very depressing,” Goettman said. “A lot of us at my retirement community are very upset about this.”

Last Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to overturn the very cause Goettman once marched for — Roe v. Wade. The decision gives the choice of abortion access back to the states; about half are expected to ban abortion altogether.

North Carolina is not one of those states because State Republicans do not have a supermajority to override a veto from Gov. Roy Cooper.

Regardless of state politics, protestors, including Goettman, gathered around the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro Monday afternoon to express their frustration at the ruling.

“It’s so depressing to think that a fertilized egg has more rights than a woman,” Goettman said. “I feel so strongly about this issue. This has been closest to my heart for most of

my adult life. I haven’t had an abortion but I have two daughters and four granddaughters and I want them and their progeny to have the same rights that I enjoyed.”

She said she believes the necklace she wears has become a symbol of the harms of unsafe abortions, and the damages of patriarchal decisions that strip women of their liberties.

Goettman was joined by about 80 other people of all ages who wrapped themselves around the courthouse Monday holding signs in support of reproductive rights. Some read “Same crap, different century,” “Stop the war on women” and “Abortion rights are human rights.” All the while, cars honked in support as they circled the roundabout.

The protest featured speeches from several youth organizers along with Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry. As Perry spoke, she held her own sign that read “My arms are tired from holding this sign since the 1960s.”

“Yes my arms are tired, I’ve been here before,” Perry told the crowd. The mayor recalled her own experience with reproductive rights when her college roommate needed an abortion. “It was the saddest and most awful experience she ever went through, but I’m so thankful she had a right to make that decision with her own body.”

Perry said she fears the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is just the first domino to fall. She said she believes this decision opens the door to other attacks on women’s rights like access to contraception.

“This is not a solitary decision,” Perry said. “This is the beginning of the end of women’s rights.”

Other local elected officials, including Chatham County Commissioners Karen Howard and Diana Hales, were also in attendance. Hales said there’s limited action the local government can take to protect abortion rights, but she showed up because she believes this is an important cause.

“It’s been 50 years since I became involved in activism and we’re back where we were,” Hales said. “Legislators, predominantly white men, regulating female bodies. This is not about equality, it’s purely about control.”

Hales said the best thing that could be done to protect reproductive rights on a state and national level is to elect Democrats to the State House of Representatives, Senate and more.

According to the Associated Press, N.C. Republican leaders Tim Moore and Phil Burger plan on taking up a 20-week abortion ban in the upcoming long session. Moore and Burger said “we stand ready to take the necessary steps” to restore the 20-week limit —

likely through filing their own request to lift an injunction blocking the law’s enforcement.

“We have to change the composition of the legislature because they will make the rules,” Hales said. “I’m a Democrat and I’m going to work my best to ensure the best outcomes in November across the state.”

Hales said despite the deflation of this decision, she was encouraged that this protest was organized by young people.

One of the co-organizers of the protest, Valerie Scull, 19, said she was pleasantly surprised and encouraged at the turnout and support received for the protest.

“This is a show of passion for reproductive rights,” Scull said in her remarks to the crowd. “It’s so empowering to see so much drive for change.”

Other protestors handed out resources about reproductive rights, including how to order abortion pills, donate to local abortion funds or find a local abortion clinic. One of the people handing out the literature was Xena Gray.

“Overturning Roe sets a really dangerous precedent,” Gray said. “You need to read up and think really hard about the future you want to create. There are a lot of people saying the youngest bloc doesn’t show up to the polls, but we need to keep up this momentum in November

or the Republicans are going to wait us out.”

Gray, 21, has been organizing protests across the Triangle including leading a march in Cary over the weekend. She said she’s been inspired by all the young people who have set up protests across North Carolina.

“It’s not just me, it’s not just your daughter, this issue impacts everyone,” Gray said. “One in four women have had an abortion and if you think you don’t know one, it’s because they aren’t comfortable telling you.”

A peer-reviewed study published in 2017 by the Guttmacher Institute — the leading reproductive health research organization — estimated that in 2014, some 23.7 percent of girls and women in the United States had undergone at least one abortion between the ages of 15 and 44.

Gray said she believes N.C. will become a battleground state in the upcoming election, which is likely to place abortion rights front and center. She said despite her qualms with the Democratic party and its failure to codify Roe v. Wade into law in previous years, she believes voting blue is still the best action every person can take to fight for abortion rights.

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

ROE

Continued from page A1

lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states. North Carolina, however, is not one of them — for now.

In response to that prospect, Caroline Puckett, along with Chatham resident Valerie Scull, organized a protest on Monday outside the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro. (See story, page A7.) Puckett said she hoped it would spark change in her community.

“I’m hoping that this protest will help our small town wake up,” Puckett, 19, said. “I stand with those that are affected by this crisis and I know coming together to express our feelings and our anger will help me, and hopefully all of us, feel seen and heard, and share love and support all around.”

Scull said as soon as the news of the ruling broke, she knew she had to take action.

“The minute I found out about the overturn, I immediately messaged Caroline saying that we needed to plan a protest,” Scull said. “We want to get as many people in the circle as possible to support women of color, trans men, and every woman who is going through the unimaginable.”

Other young Chathamites also shared their concerns. Aiden Vigus, 18, said the decision was “disgusting.”

“It is yet another depiction of the very shallow extent of how ‘for the people’ our ‘for the people, of the people’ government is,” Vigus told the News + Record. “This overturn is most certainly not indicative of the will of the people of this country, but rather the will of the five Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn Roe v. Wade.”

‘Life is more complex than this’

Not everyone in Chatham, however, was opposed to the decision. Bruce MacInnes, pastor of Goldston Baptist Church, applauded it.

“When I first learned of the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade I rejoiced and thought of the thousands of children who will live and not die,” he said. “Abortion takes the life of a child. It is not a removal of unwanted tissue but the taking of an innocent life. God’s word says this. Science says this. Common sense says this.”

The Supreme Court made “a horrendous decision” almost 50 years ago, he said.

“But they finally reversed it,” MacInnes said. “The prayers of millions for years and years were finally answered, and we couldn’t be happier about it.”

MacInnes said he took note of the strong reactions to the Supreme Court’s action.

“I see a growing divide in our country that is not so much political as it is an issue of right and wrong,” he said. “Political issues are size of government, priorities of spending, taxes, foreign policy, etc. The deepening divide in America is moral issues: abortion, marriage, sexuality, race, etc. Governments have to learn to compromise over political issues but people and governments cannot compromise over moral issues. Morality can never be decided by consensus but by truth and truth comes from God.”

But not every faith leader in the area agreed with MacInnes. Brent Levy, pastor at The Local Church, told his congregation that the overturning of Roe v. Wade was “not nearly as simple as being pro-life or pro-choice.”

“We know that life is more complex than this,” he said. “For those who are cheering this decision, there are important questions and calls to action related to the care of the mother and child before and especially after the child is born. For instance, what sort of support — financial and otherwise — will be needed? How are individuals and communities called to surround families with a network of support to meet the ongoing physical, mental, and spiritual demands of raising a child?”

In a letter to church members, Levy wrote: “I

grieve with women who, for any number of reasons, have had to access abortion and for whom this decision may kick up past trauma. I grieve with women for whom circumstances such as sexual assault and rape have necessitated abortions. I grieve a legal system that fails to hold space for these horrific acts. I grieve the ways this decision will put women in even greater danger.”

Levy said he wanted to affirm “it’s possible to believe wholeheartedly in the sanctity of life while also realizing that no law can account for every nuance, complexity and circumstance.”

Hannah Holden, another member of the church, agreed.

“The overturning of Roe v. Wade continues to exemplify how we feel about women and children in our society,” she said. “We are not valued, we cannot make our own choices for our own bodies. This is shown further in the Supreme Court ruling just days earlier to expand gun rights, without any ban on assault rifles. My heart is beyond broken for American women, we continue to be marginalized and not allowed to think for ourselves. We now have less rights in 2022 than we did in 1973.”

Andrew Taylor-Troutman, pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, echoed Levy’s sentiments, saying the decision did not actually support a “pro-life” approach. (For further insight from Taylor-Troutman, see his column in this week’s edition.)

Karen Howard, the chairperson of Chatham’s board of commissioners, was another who said she was “saddened and disappointed” by the ruling.

“I am concerned for any women and families who may suffer from a lack of access to safe, reproductive healthcare resulting from this decision,” she said.

‘You still have a legal right’

Abortion is still legal in the state and Gov. Roy Cooper, along with Attor-

ney General Josh Stein, said they remain committed to protecting abortion access for people across the state.

“For the women of North Carolina: you still have a legal right to an abortion in our state. North Carolina state law protects women’s reproductive freedoms,” Stein tweeted Friday. “This is true even after the Supreme Court today stripped women of their right to an abortion under the Constitution by overturning Roe v. Wade. If we want to keep our freedoms under state law, then we have to elect state officials who commit to protecting them.”

Chatham County’s incoming District Attorney, Jeff Nieman, has also emphasized no trigger laws are in place in North Carolina, meaning abortion will likely remain legal for the time being.

“At this point, there are no laws, as we’ve seen enacted in other states, criminalizing abortion in North Carolina,” Nieman told the News + Record.

He reiterated his statements from last month, which were issued prior to his election, pledging not to bring criminal cases against women who have abortions or doctors who perform abortions, even if the practice is outlawed.

“We cannot stand for this assault on women and private reproductive healthcare decisions,” Nieman said in May. “I have committed to join more than 60 prosecutors nationwide in this pledge not to prosecute women who obtain abortions nor the health care professionals who perform or assist in these procedures.”

Cooper also expressed his disdain for the decision and vowed to continue protecting reproductive rights in the state.

“I will continue to trust women to make their own medical decisions as we fight to keep politicians out of the doctor’s exam room,” Cooper said in a statement.

House Democratic Leader Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54) of Goldston also disagreed with the ruling. He said the N.C. General Assem-

bly should push to codify Roe v. Wade by passing Senate Bill 888.

“Abortion is still legal in North Carolina, but the General Assembly should act now to codify the long-standing holdings of the Roe decision,” Reives told the News + Record.

He said Cooper’s veto is one of the only obstacles remaining in keeping abortion accessible for North Carolinians.

“Republican leaders have told me that the General Assembly will not do anything this year but will be a top priority next year when they hope to have a supermajority in the legislature,” Reives said. “For now, Governor Cooper’s veto will prevent any controversial bills from becoming law.”

The man challenging Reives in November’s general election, Walter Petty, said overturning the ruling was the proper choice because it put the decision back in the hands of the states.

“Most agree the Roe v. Wade decision was based on a shaky legal foundation from the beginning, including the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” Petty told the News + Record. “The intent of last week’s decision by Supreme Court was to return this issue to the states where it should have been all along. This gives North Carolina citizens a voice on the issues around abortion and it’s impact.”

‘All life is sacred’

State Republicans have pushed to place more restrictions on abortions, but the Gov. Cooper has vetoed those efforts and vowed to continue to do so.

According to the Associated Press, Republican leaders Tim Moore and Phil Burger plan on taking up a 20-week abortion ban in the upcoming long session. Moore and Burger said “we stand ready to take the necessary steps” to restore the 20-week limit — likely through filing their own request to lift an injunction blocking the law’s enforcement. As it stands, the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled the right to an abortion until fetal viability, which is

generally between 24 and 28 weeks.

Some prominent N.C. Republicans including Sen. Thom Tillis and Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, also praised the ruling.

“I am overjoyed with the decision by our Supreme Court,” Robinson said in a statement. “For decades we have been praying for a day like today and it is finally here. I have experienced the pain of abortion in my own life and know the long-term effects it can have on families.”

Tillis echoed Robinson’s sentiments saying the decision was the right choice.

“This ruling is historic and monumental and affirms my belief that all life is sacred,” Tillis said. “Each state government and its duly elected representatives will now make the determination about the types of laws they wish to have in place.”

Chatham County, like Public Health Departments across the state, will continue to offer family planning services. Any resident of North Carolina may receive family planning services at the Chatham County Public Health Department clinics. More information about family planning services in Chatham County can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/familyplanning. The Chatham County Department of Social Services accepts applications for the Medicaid program for women and children. Applications can be made in person at the Department of Social Services, online through epass.nc.gov or by mail.

“Now, more than ever before, we must fight to protect the reproductive rights of women at the state level,” Howard said. “I stand with Governor Cooper and other state leaders who recognize the constitutional right of every woman to have access to safe health care and will continue to do my part to ensure that right is protected here in Chatham County and North Carolina.”

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

OBITUARIES

HARVEY LLOYD 'GOOB' BROWER



August 22, 1951 ~ June 22, 2022

Harvey Lloyd "Goob" Brower, 70, of South Second Avenue, Siler City, died Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at Hospice in Pittsboro, surrounded by his family.

He was born on August 22, 1951, to the late Harvey Oscar Brower and Jessie Griffin Milligan in Monroe, Michigan.

Survivors include his stepfather, Glenn Milligan of Siler City; partner,

Susan Sloan of Siler City; two sisters, Debbie (and Doug) Pugh of Silk Hope and Connie (and Todd) Fox of Liberty; one brother, Steve Brower of Staley; step-daughters, Holly Kozelsky of Martinsville, Virginia, and Mara (and Richard) Hunter of Fairhope, Alabama, daughters of his late long-time partner, Antoinette "Toni" Till; granddaughter, Mary Evelyn Quirk of Martinsville; nieces and nephews; and a good neighbor and friend, Jim Wellman.

He was a graduate of Southern Alamance High School. His wide range of skills were deployed in the printing trade, plumbing, automotive and body work, housebuilding and property management. In the early 1990s he ran Goob's service station and convenience store in Staley, and in recent years he has been a locksmith.

He was known for a sharp wit and dry sense of humor. He was a skilled artist including with sketching and painting. He had a keen mind and could get to the bottom of any mechanical issue. He was a quiet genius who provided invaluable guidance and comfort to his loved ones. He was protective, which earned him the saying "don't mess with his girls."

His many friends and the people who he has touched through the years are invited to join the family in a reception honoring his memory at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 15, in the banquet room of Best Food Cafeteria in Siler City.

TERESA DODD CRUTCHFIELD



April 4, 1951 ~ June 25, 2022

Teresa Dodd Crutchfield, 71, of Liberty, passed away on Saturday, June 25, 2022.

Born on April 4, 1951, in Siler City, she was the youngest of three daughters of Esther K. Dodd and Roy Joseph Dodd. Teresa was a resident of Chatham and Randolph counties for most of her life. She graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School and received continuing education in the field of banking. For many years,

she worked at Liberty Savings & Loan, where she managed personal banking and IRAs. In the last several years, she worked at H&R Block. She enjoyed diamond painting, cross-stitching, cooking and solitaire. She was known for her loving nature, beautiful smile and strength.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gary Crutchfield; and her sister, Paula Dodd.

She is survived by her beloved daughter and best friend, Brooke Crutchfield of Liberty; her sister, Kris Leroy of Georgia; niece, Brandy Johnston of Georgia; her great-niece and great-nephew; Aunt Jean Darden Baker of Clemmons; and her beloved cousins.

Visitation will be from 1 to 2 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Ave. in Siler City, on Saturday, July 2, 2022. A Celebration of Life Service in the chapel will be held at 2 p.m. Burial will follow the service at Oakwood Cemetery in Siler City.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memorial Giving, Memphis, Tennessee 38105-9959.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Crutchfield family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbuckner-fh.com.

EPIFANIA CARRANZA TORRES

Epifania Carranza Torres, 84, of Sanford, died Thursday, June 23, 2022, at her home.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Stephens Catholic Church with Father Baiju officiating. Burial will follow at Buffalo Cemetery.

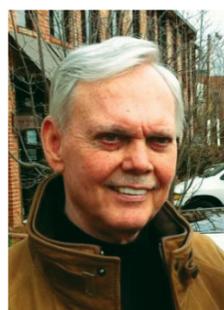
She was born in Mexico, daughter of the late Inez Carranza and Jeronima Torres.

Surviving is her husband Pedro Aguirre of Mexico; daughters, Reina Aguirre Carranza, Maria Aguirre Carranza, and Candida Aguirre Carranza, all of Sanford; sons, Noe Aguirre of Georgia, Evedo Aguirre Carranza of Mexico, Alejandro Aguirre Carranza of Pennsylvania, and Rene Aguirre of Texas; sister, Isaias Carranza of Mexico; brothers Feliciano Carranza and Rudolfo Carranza of Mexico; 35 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 1, at Smith Funeral Home in Broadway.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

TROY GAYLE CAIN



February 21, 1947 ~ June 25, 2022

Troy Gayle Cain, 75, of Southport, passed away on Saturday, June 25, 2022.

Troy was born in Lumberton, N.C., son of the late Floyd and Bessie Cain. He grew up in Lumberton and was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and National Guard. He retired from the Charlotte Police Department. Troy managed the FCX, Southern States, and Green's Fuel

Company in Chatham County where he lived for 37 years before settling in Southport in 2019.

Survivors include his wife of 42 years, Glenda Stone Cain; two children, Robin Garrido and husband Juan, and Robert Thomas and wife Julie; and a grandson Zach Thomas.

A private family service will be held.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.peacocknewnamwhite.com for the Cain family.

Peacock - Newnam & White Funeral and Cremation Service, Southport, N.C.

WALTER LEE SIKES

October 23, 1930 ~ June 23, 2022

Walter Lee Sikes, 91, of New Hill passed away Thursday, June 23, 2022, at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice in Pittsboro.

Funeral services were conducted on Monday, June 26, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Ebenezer U.M.C., with the Rev. Patrick Jones, officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was the son of Samuel Morgan Sikes and Erma Lee May Sikes. He was a member of Ebenezer United Methodist Church.

He is survived by two brothers, Wesley Sikes of New Hill and Curtis Sikes of Durham.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homemomcure.com.

JIMMIE WAYNE LAWRENCE

November 30, 1951 ~ June 17, 2022

Jimmie Wayne Lawrence passed away on Friday, June 17, 2022.

Wake service was held at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

PAMELA JEAN SMITH

September 6, 1961 ~ June 15, 2022

Pamela Jean Smith, 60, of Sanford passed away on Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 25, 2022, at Christian Provision Ministries with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

AGUSTIN AVILEZ MENDEZ

Agustin Avilez Mendez, 91, of Chapel Hill, passed away on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at My Genesis Healthcare in Siler City.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

GERALD WAYNE BROWN

March 10, 1963 ~ June 24, 2022

Gerald Wayne Brown, 59, of Spring Lake, died Friday, June 24, 2022, at his home.

Funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 30, 2022, morning at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake with military honors.

He was the son of Gail Laster Brown and the late James Elmer Brown. He was preceded in death by his father. Gerald was a veteran of the United States Army where he retired after 20 years of service.

Surviving is his mother, Gail L. Brown of Perry, Georgia; daughter, Tiffany Lynn Zabel of Broadway; son, Dustin Wayne Brown of Newport News, Virginia; sisters, Wanda B. White of Perry, Georgia, and Brenda B. Tressler of Warner Robins, Georgia; brother, Jimmy Brown of Bonaire, Georgia; and two grandchildren.

The family received friends from 6 to 8 Wednesday evening at Smith Funeral Home in Broadway. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to a charity of your choice in memory of Gerald.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

ANNIE RUTH (KIB) MATTHEWS

Annie Ruth (Kib) Matthews, 91, will be held Friday, July 1, 2022, at Olivers Chapel AME Zion Church, with COVID restrictions. The viewing will be from 1 to 1:55 and service will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Rev. Dr. Fannie Tootle-Adams officiating.

Condolences maybe sent to Mrs. Renee Matthews-Jones, 14 Ponderosa Court, Greensboro, N.C. 27406. Services are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Siler City.

BILLY JACK RAY

December 25, 1975 ~ June 14, 2022

Billy Jack Ray, 46, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

A memorial service was held on Friday, June 24, 2022, at noon at Cameron Hill Presbyterian Church with Rev. Wayne O'Quinn officiating.

He was the son of the late Thomas Patterson Ray and Darlene Christian Ray. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Diane Ray. He worked in construction.

He is survived by his sons, Taylor Ray and Jaiden Morton; daughters, Shelby Ray, Chelsea Ray, Jillian Ray and Kennedy Ray; brothers, Tommy Ray Jr., James Ray; and four grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

NANCY UNDERWOOD HALL

Nancy Anne Underwood Hall, 89, of Sanford, passed away Monday, June 20, 2022, at her home.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 24, 2022, at Smith Funeral Home Chapel in Broadway with Rev. David Martin officiating. Burial followed in the Jonesboro Cemetery.

She was the daughter of the late James Redding Underwood and Floy Harrington Underwood. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Gilbert Hall; brothers, J.R. Underwood, Charles Underwood and Waylon Underwood.

Survivors include a son, Barry Hall of Sanford; sister, Shirley Hall of Sanford; four grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham County reports untreated wastewater discharge

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Public Utilities experienced a discharge of untreated wastewater last Thursday along U.S. Hwy. 64.

At 8:13 a.m. that day, county staff discovered the discharge at a manhole located along U.S. 64, approximately 800 feet east of Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro.

The discharge of approximately 2,000 gallons was abated at 9:05 a.m. The

cause of the discharge, according to a release from the town of Pittsboro, was a pipe failure inside the manhole that overflowed. Utilities crews immediately worked to repair the pipe and remediate the spill. The untreated wastewater from this pipe failure discharged into an unnamed tributary of Harlands Creek.

The N.C. Dept of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality Raleigh Regional Office was notified of the event within the 24-hour requirement.

For more information, please contact Chatham County Utilities Director

Blake Mills at 919-542-8238

Chatham Hospital to host LGBTQIA+ walk

SILER CITY — Chatham Hospital, in demonstration of its support and commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community, will host a Pride Month walk at the hospital on Thursday and is inviting community members to attend.

"While we are committed to this community every day of the year, June provides us a dedicated time to be espe-

cially vocal of this support," the hospital said in a statement. "Whether it is our LGBTQIA+ staff, our LGBTQIA+ patients, and/or loved ones of LGBTQIA+ community, we want all to know that Chatham Hospital welcomes you and supports you."

At 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30, hospital officials will lead a walk from the front of the hospital down to the Medical Office Building on Medical Park Drive, and then back to the Employee Parking lot, where refreshments will be served.

—CN+R staff reports

CHURCH NEWS

HOLLAND CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH

The Voices of Victory will celebrate their anniversary at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 3, during Sunday morning worship service, honoring Bro. Leroy Farrar.

The Harmony Male

Chorus will honor the late Mr. Farrar on Sunday, July 17, during morning worship service in observance of the 3rd annual Bro. Leroy Farrar program. Time: 10 a.m.

The church is located at 360 Burgess Rd., Apex (919-362-7831).

SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

You are invited to join us at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, for our annual Independence Day Celebration cookout. Along with hot dogs and the trimmings, we will have a horseshoe tournament,

a cornhole tournament and bingo. There will also be a homemade ice cream competition where you can vote for your favorite, helping to choose the Icer Cream King or Queen.

Come join the fun at 715 Sandy Branch Church Rd., Bear Creek.

CHATHAM MONUMENT CO.

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Opposite Smith & Buckner Funeral Home

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board grants rezoning request for proposed subdivision

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town's board of commissioners on Monday granted a rezoning request for a nearly 100-acre subdivision proposed for Harold Andrews Road, a vote which came after a recessed public hearing on the issue a week ago. Commissioners originally heard the rezoning request during their regular meeting June 20 and could not come to a consensus after several questions that arose from the presentation, most of which revolved around the lack of affordable housing planned for the development. On Monday, in a special-called meeting at 6:30 p.m.

at Wren Memorial Library, commissioners asked again if the subdivision, located at 893 & 909 Harold Andrews Rd., would have affordable units. The developers' response: all units would be available at "market value." "Sometimes when you agree to affordability, that would shut the door on certain builders from looking at the site," Lou Dickey, from Raval Realty LLC, said. "So at this point, we don't want to agree to conditions providing a certain percentage of affordable housing in this project, it's going to be a market value development." Siler City Planning and Community Development Director Jack Meadows said

he and his staff met with the county's affordable housing department twice in the last week to discuss what the town could do to incentivize developers to build affordable housing units. "We had one meeting with just the town staff and county staff, and then the next day we met with the developer and development teams," Meadows said. "There was quite a lot of information shared, so I just wanted to highlight that." One of the ideas the county staff had for the town was to develop an affordable housing incentive program for developers who include affordable housing in their development plans. Incentive programs

can provide developers with expedited review and approval, allowance for fees in lieu, higher residential density or more. However, affordable housing wasn't the only question brought up by commissioners on Monday. Commissioner Norma Boone said she was concerned about the visibility coming up the hill from Snow Camp Road up to Harold Andrews Road. "I know we've talked about speed limits and putting up warning signage and things like that, but I am concerned about the visibility coming up that hill," she said. "Is there a way we can do a study or investigation to see if any changes need to be made before all those people move there?"

Meadows said three engineering firms — one for the town, one for the N.C. Dept. of Transportation and one for the developers — examined the intersection to see if any changes were needed. Each said even with the increased traffic, the intersection would function without changes. Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the rezoning request, as well as accept a fee in lieu from the developers in regard to green space in the subdivision. The fees will be allocated toward improving facilities in Bray Park. Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnc.com and on Twitter at @HeedenTaylor.

A CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

Here's what led us to decide to get our 5-year-old son vaccinated

BY MICHAEL ZELEK
Director, Chatham County Public Health Department

We are parents of a young child. We also work in public health. Like many working parents, we spend a lot of time balancing our professional and personal responsibilities. But at this moment of the pandemic, our goals as parents, an epidemiologist and a public health director aligned. Last Friday, we took our son Nico to the Chatham County Public Health Department's clinic in Siler City to get his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. We had hoped for this moment for over a year, waiting eagerly as older age groups became eligible to get vaccinated. That said, as children under 5 were on the verge of joining them, we wanted to be sure we were making the right decision. After all, like all parents, the well-being of our child comes before everything



Courtesy of the Chatham County Public Health Department

Mike Zelek, the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department, poses with wife Jess Edwards and son Nico — who received his first COVID vaccination shot recently — and Public Health Nurse Evi Bonilla.

else. So, we did what we usually do: We looked to the data to make the best decision for our family. And what do the data show? First, and most important-

ly, the vaccines are safe for children Nico's age, as they are for older children and adults. Second, the vaccine adds protection against COVID-19. And while children

are typically at lower risk of severe illness from COVID-19 than adults, they are not at no risk. Children under 5 who get COVID-19 occasionally have severe outcomes or develop long-term effects of infection. So, why not give Nico's immune system some help for when he is exposed to the virus? Moreover, we are eager to avoid the disruption that a potentially severe, infectious, illness in a toddler can cause. Nico doesn't exist in a vacuum, if he gets sick, we worry about passing that infection along to grandparents or other vulnerable adults. Other than scheduling around naptime and work commitments, getting Nico vaccinated was a breeze. We arrived at the clinic a little after noon, filled out a one-sheet form, changed a diaper, and, within 5 minutes or so, Nico had the first dose of the Moderna vaccine in his thigh. After the 15-minute monitoring period, we were

on our way. Like all shots Nico has gotten in his life so far, tears were shed. But that was nothing a cup of ice cream couldn't fix. As far as side effects go, so far so good. Nico took his nap and woke up ready to see his Uncle Jeff, who came to town for a weekend visit. And while side effects, though typically mild, can vary from one person to the next, we have not noticed anything out of the ordinary in the 72 hours since his shot. We know many parents are trying to decide whether to get their children vaccinated. We hope sharing our story may help some decide to move forward. While there is no silver bullet against COVID-19, a vaccination is one additional layer of protection that we are excited our son will have. And when you are ready to move forward, know that the Chatham County Public Health Department will be happy to serve you at our Siler City clinic.

VACCINES

Continued from page A1 of school than if they were vaccinated." Vaccinations also protect children from long COVID, as well as protecting the adults with whom children interact regularly, Wolak said — including teachers, church members, grandparents, parents of friends and others. "The unfortunate reality is that children have died of COVID, children end up hospitalized with COVID, and children can pass COVID on to others who may get very sick from it," he said. "This reality, alone, I believe, is justification to getting children vaccinated." Chatham is considered at "medium" community level for COVID right now, Zelek said, with still plenty of cases being diagnosed. Hospitalization rates continue to be on the decline, he said, but there's a reason: vaccinations. "Getting this young age group vaccinated remains important and will help lower that hospitalization rate even further," he said. "At the end of the day, this isn't a choice between getting COVID and getting vaccinated — it is about whether or not you have protection from the vaccine when you get exposed to COVID." Not getting vaccinated can only lead to more illnesses that are preventable, Zelek said — a fact borne out by data. "We've learned that vaccines have held up well to COVID, especially against severe illness and death, and that they continue to be very safe," he said. "We've also learned that boosters play an important role in reinforcing that protection over time. This is especially important for older adults and those with conditions that

Kids ages 6 months to 5 years old can get their COVID-19 vaccine now!

WHAT: No-charge COVID-19 vaccinations
WHERE: 1000 S. Tenth Avenue, Siler City
WHEN: Monday to Friday | 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

CALL (919) 742-5641 to schedule an appointment.

For more on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine.

¡Los niños de 6 meses a 5 años pueden recibir su vacuna contra el COVID-19 ahora!

QUE: Vacunas contra el COVID-19 sin costo alguno
DONDE: 1000 S. Tenth Avenue, Siler City
CUANDO: lunes a viernes | 8:30 AM a 4:30 PM

LLAME al (919) 742-5641 para programar una cita.

Para más información sobre la vacuna contra el COVID-19, visite www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvacuna.

Courtesy of the Chatham County Public Health Department

affect their immune systems." Wolak said data "clearly indicates" the vaccines are safe and effective. "I do not understand why a parent would risk their child getting sick from a disease, when we have good tools available to us to protect our children and those around them," he said. "Every vaccine carries some risk. The same is true for the COVID vaccine, specifically myocarditis. However, the risk of getting myocarditis from COVID infection is many times more likely than getting it from the vaccine." Variants remain a wild card, but respiratory viruses tend to rise in fall and winter — more

rationale for protection. "My best guess is that we will see an increase in cases that time of year, as we have the past two," Zelek said. "Which, for me, is all the more reason to stay up-to-date on vaccinations." Zelek's department began offering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 6 months to 5 years last Friday. It'll continue to offer the vaccine weekly for all individuals ages 6 months and older from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; parents and guardians are asked to call the Siler City clinic at 919-742-5641 to set up an appointment. The CDC's decision to rec-

ommend vaccines came after months of study and trials to ensure the vaccine's effectiveness and safety in this newly-eligible age group. "If you have questions about the vaccine, talk to your child's doctor," Zelek said. "And if you are looking for a place to get vaccinated, either for your child or yourself, we would be happy to serve you at our clinic in Siler City." To find all locations offering the COVID-19 vaccine for children, visit <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/kids>. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and find other resources, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine.

To find a COVID-19 vaccine location, visit www.vaccines.gov. Wolak says COVID became more personal for him in the last week: he tested positive for it for the first time. "I think the biggest lesson learned is that while the current COVID variants are able to evade our immune system, the vaccines are still keeping people out of the hospital and out of the funeral home," he said. "I knew that since I was fully vaccinated and up-to-date with my booster, that I would be just fine. Unfortunately, those who are not vaccinated and boosted may not share that same since of security."

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

SEVERAL ACRES of land with mature timber is for sale. Located near 5300 Old US 421S, Bear Creek, NC 27207. Call 410-655-5146 to inquire., Jn30-Au25,9tp

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learn-aboutland.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 APARTMENTS

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

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

FOR SALE

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

AUCTIONEERS

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

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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, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. Au26,tfnc

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

SILER CITY COUNTRY CLUB taking applications for two positions, available for Golf Course Maintenance. Apply at Club House. Jn30,Jy7,14,3tc

FURNITURE FRAME BUILDERS NEEDED, Charter Furniture,

Liberty, NC - \$2500 Signing bonus to those candidates who have a min. of 2 years frame building experience with a licensed furniture company; Signing bonus of \$2500 payable in three installments as per the following: \$500 paid after 3 months of continuous employment, \$1000.00 paid after 6 months of continuous employment; \$1,000 paid after 12 months of continuous employment - All payments subject to normal taxes and withholding. Responsibilities: Frame Builders work either individually or as a team to assemble the wooden frames for sofas, love seats, and chairs; Assembles wood frames or sofas, love seats and chairs using pneumatic staple guns; Positions precut frame parts and glues, staples, or screws them together to fabricate furniture frame, using pneumatic staple gun and glue applicator; Trims and smooths edges of frame, nails, screws, bolts and glues precut frame parts and attaches legs, arms, and back pieces using pneumatic staple gun; Nails screws, or bolts plywood or other material to frame; May cut wood parts, according to specifications, using power tools; May attach hardware to wooden furniture frame; May be designated according to part or pieces assembled as Arm Builder, Back Builder, or Center Frame/Floor Frame Builder. Other duties to be performed as directed by supervisor(s). - Pay: \$16.00 - \$18.00 per hour. -- Contact Rhonda Goldston at Charter Furniture (336) 622-2201, Ext. 219. Jn30,1tc

CALLING ALL Hab. Techs., CNAs and PCAs FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE!!!! Well established home care agency in Chapel Hill is looking for committed Hab. Techs., CNAs, PCAs in Chatham, Orange and Durham Counties for immediate hire. Must be compassionate, have a pleasant demeanor, possess good work ethics, and passionate about making a difference in people's lives. Competitive compensation offered. Please call us today at 919-967-0507 or visit our office at 781 Mount Carmel Church Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517 to complete an application. Jn23,30,Jy7,14,4tp

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

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified 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, Executor 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 SZIMORE** 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. 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 as Executor of the Estate of **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 recovery. 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. GRIZZARD**, 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. 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 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. 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, Starnes and Davis, P.A., Attorneys-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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM 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 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, 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 municipal 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 voteymail.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

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 qualified 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 qualified 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Samantha Marie Arzate, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MAYBELLINE ANN ARZATE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All per-

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.

sons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 23rd day of June, 2022. Samantha Marie Arzate, Administrator 79 Oldham MHP Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-548-2703 W. Ben Atwater, Jr. P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 benatwater@chathamlawfirm.com Jn23,Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified on the 10th day of June, 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **BEVERLEE A. McNEILL** aka Beverlee Ann McNeil 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 23rd 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 23rd day of June, 2022. Lorene Tripp, Executor of the Estate of Beverlee A. McNeil aka Beverlee Ann McNeil Julia G. Henry, Esquire Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707 Jn23,Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 316 All persons having claims against **SANDRA M. ELIXSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd 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 23rd day of June, 2022. Jennifer M. Yacobellis, Administrator 510 Raleigh St. Fuquay Varina, NC 27526 Jn23,Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 220 All persons having claims against **AMY W. WHITT AKA**

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS
Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.
400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5410
TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Career Opportunities Available
Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

HELP WANTED
Chatham Monument Co. has an opening for a monument installer. Work involves working in Siler City and surrounding area installing monuments as part of a 3-person team.
Apply in Person, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 227 N. 2nd Ave. Siler City, NC 27344

HIRING CNA's 2ND & 3RD SHIFT
CALL: 919-542-3151
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm for appointment to complete application and interview.
Pittsboro Christian Village
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

AMY WAGNER WHITT, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd 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 23rd day of June, 2022. Mary White Clark, Executrix 3847 Airport Rd Siler City, NC 27344
Jn23,Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **SANDRA M. WARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, are hereby notified to present them to Barbara M. LaFevers, Administratrix of the Estate of Sandra M. Ward, Estate File Number: 22 E 242, on or before September 23, 2022, in care of the below Attorney at Law at her address, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to Sandra M. Ward, please make immediate payment. This 23rd day of June, 2022 Lisa K. Vira, Attorney at Law The Vira Law Firm, P.A. 205 West Main Street, Suite 207 Carrboro, NC 27510
Jn23,Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Philippe Jean Schaefer, having qualified as the Executor of the Estate of **RUTH ANN SCHAEFER**, Deceased, in the

Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on February 16, 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 September 21, 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 21st day of June, 2022. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandevener, 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. Vandevener, Attorney of Record 101 Conner Drive, Suite 402 Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
Jn23,Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,4tc

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of BARBARA HOWARD and spouse, if any, which may include WOODROW W. HOWARD and spouse, if any, and KIMYETTA L. HOWARD and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **17-CVD-318**, the undersigned **Commissioner will on the 13th day of July, 2022, offer for sale and sell for cash**, to the last and highest bidder at public

sale at the courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described real property, lying and being in Baldwin Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron stake in the Southern margin of the S.R. 1717, the Northeast corner of the Jessie Farrow lot, and running thence South 19 degrees East 260 feet to an iron stake; thence North 82 degrees East 320 feet to an iron stake in the line of Clyde Edwards; thence with his line North 21 degrees West 200 feet to an iron stake in the line of the old Fearrington land; thence North 88 degrees 15 minutes West 145 feet to an iron stake in the Southern margin of S.R. 1717; thence with the Southern margin of said road, South 76 degrees West 182 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing 1.80 acres, more or less, and being designated as Lot No. 3 according to a survey and plat prepared by J. Ralph Weaver, Surveyor, of the Ed W. Fearrington and Sallie W. Fearrington Heirs land. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: **0018813**
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 15th day of June, 2022. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585
Jn30,Jy7,2tc

and Salome Ramsey tract and running thence with the center line of State Road 1142 South 52 degrees 45 minutes West 226 feet to a steel nail in the pavement; thence North 37 degrees 15 minutes West 190 feet to a stake; thence North 52 degrees 45 minutes East 226 feet to a stake; thence South 87 degrees 00 minutes East, 116.5 feet to a 2 1/2 foot sweet gum tree, the northeastern corner of a tract to be conveyed to Evelyn Austin; thence with the Austin and Salome Ramsey line South 00 degrees 30 minutes West 143 feet to the beginning corner, containing 1 acre, more or less. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record. Parcel Identification Number: **0004961**
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 15th day of June, 2022. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585
Jn30,Jy7,2tc

containing 2.7 acres, more or less, and being all of Lot #6 of the Horton Lands. LESS AND EXCEPT: So much of the above described parcel that the right of way of Horton Road, and St. Luke Church Road lie. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: 0010057
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 15th day of June, 2022. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585
Jn30,Jy7,2tc

are asked to make immediate payment. This the 27th day of June, 2022. Ashley Rabbitt, Executrix 115 Matt Dr Bell Buckle, TN 37020
Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,Jy21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 339
All persons having claims against **ALFONSINA MARIE THYLSTRUP**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 27th day of June, 2022. Celeste D'Emilio, Executrix 6065 70th Avenue Ridgewood, NY 11385
Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,Jy21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Steven Hurley, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **JANICE M. HURLEY** (also known as Janice Marie Hurley), 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 30th 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 24th day of June, 2022. Steven Hurley, Executor of the Estate of Janice M. Hurley c/o Whately Law, PLLC PO Box 904 Kernersville, NC 27285
Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,Jy21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 288
All persons having claims against **ROBERT THOMAS BOONE, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 23rd day of June, 2022. Carol Ann Rinzler, Executrix 4 Neptune Dr. Groton, CT 06340
Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,Jy21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 356
All persons having claims against **DEBORAH LYNN PARYZ**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 27th day of June, 2022. Jonathan Joseph Paryz, Executor 1028 St. Cloud Loop Apex, NC 27523
Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,Jy21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 312
All persons having claims against **DENNIS COOK aka DENNIS ROSS COOK**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 27th day of June, 2022. Adam Cook, Executor 114 Vintage Hill Cir Apex, NC 27539
Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,Jy21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 334
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANDREWS JONES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Co-Executors of the Estate of **PERCY W. HORTON**, 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 29th day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 27th day of June, 2022.

Cindy Annette Horton and Wanda Gail Horton Co-Executors of the Estate of Percy W. Horton P.O. Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE, ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA (919) 542-5605
Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,Jy21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified on the 17th day of June, 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **RAYMOND C. LAUVER**, 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 30th day of September, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 30th day of June, 2022. Franklin Street Trust Company, Executor of the Estate of Raymond C. Lauver Post Office Box 57579 Durham, North Carolina 27717
G. Rhodes Craver Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707
Jn30,Jy7,Jy14,Jy21,4tc

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CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS

Budget approval, broadband updates highlight June meeting

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners officially approved the county’s fiscal 2022-23 budget last Tuesday at a meeting which also featured updates about broadband access and a new historical marker coming to Pittsboro.

With no public discussion and limited fanfare, it would have been easy to miss the commissioners’ unanimous approval of the county budget for the next fiscal year. The commissioners earlier held budget work sessions and public hearings on the budget. The final version of the spending plan saw limited changes from the proposed version commissioners saw last month. The \$164.9 million budget is based on a maintained property tax rate of 66.5 cents per \$100 of valuation.

“We continue to experience rapid development, including the recent announcement that electric vehicle manufacturer VinFast will be locating its US production facility at the Triangle Innovation Point East megasite in Moncure,” Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said. “Throughout this budget, residents will see that we are focused on ensuring that the county’s development is well-monitored and aligns with the long-term vision that Plan Chatham has laid out for Chatham County.”

The budget also includes more than 70 new county job positions and substantial revenue increases. (A full breakdown of the budget can be found in the May 26-June 1 edition of the News + Record.) A full copy of the budget document for FY 2022-23 is available on the Annual County Budget

section of the county website at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/county-budget>.

G.R.E.A.T. grants

Commissioners also heard updates about the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grants. The money aims to improve broadband access and bring high-speed internet to rural counties in North Carolina, including Chatham. The county is eligible for up to \$8 million in funding through the GREAT grant.

Applications for the grants became available to private broadband service providers on May 31. The applications have since closed and Chatham saw six providers apply for funding: AT&T, Spectrum, Brightspeed, Conterra Ultra Broadband, Northstate and Randolph Communications. The applications cover more than 10,000 residential and business addresses — meaning those homes and businesses would soon have access to high speed internet provided by the companies.

Brightspeed accounts for the most addresses covered with the grants at 5,578 total addresses, with more than 5,400 of those being residential. No other company has more than 1,500 total addresses.

While the program would lead to improved broadband access across the county, there are several challenges that come along with that expansion. For starters, there’s an expectation that with these grants there is up to a 15% local match, which means the county would have to contribute up to \$1 million in addition to the grant funding to make the project possible.

LaMontagne also speculated there would be an extended “challenge” period for the grants, meaning even after the money is allocated there are still problems to sort out.

“I think it’s the uncertainty in the maps of the coverage is why they put the challenge period in the GREAT grant,” LaMontagne said. “I would think we will see more refined numbers and maps of what the expected coverage areas are.”

The county manager said he hopes the county will be awarded two GREAT grants — meaning Chatham would be awarded up to \$16 million of the state’s available \$350 million in the GREAT program.

Regardless of the outcome of the GREAT grant program, more grant funding is available to the county for broadband access. The Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Grant program is expected to open soon. CAB provides an opportunity for individual N.C. counties to partner with the state to fund broadband deployment projects in unserved areas of each county. The CAB grant, however, does come with a higher local match expectation of up to 30%.

Commissioners were not provided with an expected timeline of when the GREAT grants would be awarded.

New appointments

The board also appointed several new members to various county committees including the Library Advisory Committee, the Recreation Advisory Committee and the Chatham County Appearance Commission.

The Library Advisory Committee had two open seats in Districts 2 and 5. Dist. 3 commissioner Diana Hales

nominated Lisa Padgett, who serves as an at-large board member for the Friends of Chatham Community Library, a nonprofit that aims to help Chatham County Public Libraries. Chairperson and Dist. 1 Commissioner Karen Howard appointed Margaret Goldston, who previously served as treasurer of Friends of Goldston Community Library.

The Recreation Advisory Committee had two vacancies in Dist. 1. Howard nominated William Sparrow and Keith Shea for the positions. Sparrow is an attorney with Bugg & Wolf Law Firm, where he practices construction law. Shea serves as the travel team director and interim vice president of Siler City FC and the JV women’s soccer coach at Northwood High School.

The Chatham County Appearance Commission had one vacancy. Dist. 3 Commissioner Diana Hales nominated Tony Mayer, a teacher at the Hawbridge School in Saxapahaw and owns a landscaping business specializing in design and consulting.

These nominees were all unanimously approved by board vote.

Honoring Chatham’s lynching victims

Commissioners also unanimously accepted the donation of a historical marker to honor the six victims of lynchings in Chatham County: Harriet Finch, Jerry Finch, Lee Tyson and John Pattishall in 1885, Henry Jones in 1889, and Eugene Daniel in 1921.

The marker is being donated to the county by the Equal Justice Initiative and the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham.

“White mobs terrorized and lynched at least six Black people in Chatham County,” the marker will read. “Creating a legacy of violence, intimidation and injustice.”

According to the EJI, the Historical Marker Project works with local groups to erect narrative markers in public locations describing the devastating violence, today widely unknown, that once took place in these locations. These projects and the other engagement efforts that community coalitions develop center the African American experience of racial injustice, empower African American community members who have directly borne this trauma, and invite the entire community to use truth to give voice to those experiences and expose their legacies.

Howard said she was proud to be part of a government that is recognizing the past and paving the way for a better county going forward.

“It feels like a timely placement,” Howard said. “I’m proud to be able to say that we are taking a step in the right direction on behalf of all the families that didn’t get to experience the longevity of their relatives.”

The marker will be displayed on county property located on the south side of the County Government Annex at 12 East St. in Pittsboro.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on July 18 at the Historic Courtroom in Pittsboro. For more information visit chathamcountync.gov.

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

Chatham County Commissioners approve FY 2022-23 county budget

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the county budget for fiscal year 2022-23 on June 21. The \$164.9 million budget is based on a maintained tax rate of 66.5 cents per \$100 valuation. The budget will allow the county to continue prioritizing support for education and focus on growth.

“We continue to experience rapid development, including the recent announcement that electric vehicle manufacturer VinFast will be locating its US production facility at the Triangle Innovation Point (TIP) East megasite in Moncure,” said Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne. “Throughout this budget, residents will see that we are focused on ensuring that the county’s development is well-monitored and aligns with the long-term vision that Plan Chatham has laid out for Chatham County. Additionally, this budget allows us to enhance and expand services in order to meet the needs of our growing population.”

Major Revenue Highlights

- The county property tax rate is approved to remain the same at 66.5 cents per \$100 of valuation.
- Revenue from Ad Valorem taxes is projected to increase by 6.1%.
- Sales tax revenue is projected to increase by 24% over the FY 2022 budgeted amount, this is due to the continued strong sales tax collections that the county is seeing and projecting for continued modest growth.
- Revenue from permits and fees is projected to increase 14.8% from the current year budget.

- Register of Deeds excise tax revenue is projected to increase 50% from the current year budget.
 - Consistent with the Board of Commissioners’ Financial Policy, appropriated fund balance in the General Fund, Water, and Solid Waste & Recycling are earmarked for one-time and capital expense items.
 - For a detailed list of General Fund revenue, the public may refer to the General Fund section of the budget document.
- “We are confident that all major revenues are on track to meet or exceed budgeted figures, which bodes well as we continue to expect and plan for growth,” said Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chairperson Karen Howard.

- The budget prioritizes the needs for Chatham County Schools:
 - Additional \$105,000 to support the opening of the new Central Services building and Chatham Reads literacy program.
 - Additional \$820,000 to implement a new hybrid model for the teacher supplement; implementation of the new model also includes a guaranteed minimum increase of \$250 for all teachers’ supplements.

Of the non-school budget items, a major addition is that of more than 72 new positions. “We can no longer delay responding to the increased demand in service that accompanies growth,” said LaMontagne. The budget allows for new positions in Building Inspections, Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, Solid Waste and Recycling, Environmental Health, Watershed Protection, Social Services, Aging, Tax Administration, Utilities, Facilities, Parks and Recreation, Court Services, and in the Ani-

mal Services division of the Sheriff’s Office.

Other major new items included in the budget:

- The Solid Waste enterprise fund will undergo a significant transition during FY 2023. For many years, the collection center staffing has been maintained via a contract for services. Solid Waste staff have negotiated with the current vendor to continue to provide service for the 1st quarter of the fiscal year (through September 30) at which time, collection center staffing will move “in-house” and be operated by county employees located within the Solid Waste enterprise fund. The transition from a vendor to county staff does not require any increases to the Solid Waste fee for FY 2023.
- An additional \$137,885 is approved for the Management Information Services (MIS) department to implement enhanced data governance policies and technological resources. This will allow MIS to work with industry leaders to develop and implement best practice models to protect the organization, and its data, from known and unknown risks. The goal of this data governance strategy is to serve Chatham County well into the future while also addressing current data needs.
- An additional \$200,000 is approved for the implementation of countywide LiDAR for Chatham County. This project will update the current county LiDAR (last updated as part of a state LiDAR acquisition project in 2015) and will allow for more frequent data updates. Given the rapid development that is occurring within the county, having GIS mapping data that is updated more frequently can help track adher-

ence to the development objectives outlined in the comprehensive plan.

- A turf maintenance preventative management plan for the county’s playing fields is included, at a cost of \$42,455. This plan will allow for the various playing fields at county parks to be utilized more frequently and will also minimize the wear and tear on the respective fields.

The budget includes a 2% increase in the county contribution to the health plan and a 7% pay increase for employee pay raises. A 0.5% increase in the county’s 401(k) contribution for general government employees is approved. This will increase the contribution rate for general government employees to 5%, which is the same as the current law enforcement

employee contribution amount.

“We are grateful for all the work of our dedicated staff,” added Howard. “The board wanted to make sure that our employees are adequately compensated to lessen the burden of national cost of living challenges as well as keep their salaries competitive with surrounding communities. It is vital that we are able to retain our excellent staff and attract new and talented members to the county, so we can continue to make Chatham County the best in North Carolina.”

The budget includes some changes in county fees to cover specific services:

Environmental Health

- Improvement Permits: Residential 2 bedrooms – increase from

\$130 to \$150; Residential 3 bedrooms – increase from \$200 to \$225; Residential 4 bedrooms – increase from \$275 to \$300; Residential 5 bedrooms – increase from \$330 to \$350; Residential 6+ bedrooms – increase from \$400 to \$400 plus additional \$50 for each bedroom above 6; Pool Permit (Seasonal) – increase from \$175 to \$200

Aging Fees

- Senior Games - \$10 early registration, \$15 normal/standard, \$5 bag lunch; Facility rental (Dance) - \$120/week; Sitter background checks - \$18; Medical Transport \$2 each way

Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center

- Tractor Rental fee - \$75

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World wide web: The virtual bond that created an inseparable friendship

Two students met online in the Chatham County Schools Virtual Academy. Now they're on their way across Europe together.

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Back in mid-December, Massiah Smith struggled to figure out the plotting and functions assignments in her math homework. She decided the best way to solve her problem would be to send an email to her fellow classmate.

She didn't have a particular reason for choosing Mary Harris as the recipient; she just had a feeling about it.

"It was just something... I don't know," Smith said. "That something just made me text her."

Whatever that *je ne sais quoi* was, Harris ended up being the right person for the task: not only did she help Smith with her math homework, she also became a fast friend, instantly clicking with her classmate and using Snapchat to send messages back and forth.

"Massiah was always the funny one of the class, even though it was online," Harris said.

Smith and Harris met as 8th graders through the Chatham County



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Massiah Smith (left) and Mary Harris met through the Chatham County Schools Virtual Academy. Their virtual friendship is now taking them on a trip across Europe together.

Schools Virtual Academy. The virtual schooling option, offered for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, was required during the height of the pandemic but is now optional.

Harris said when Smith reached out, neither one of them really had close friends because school was in a virtual setting. But now they have a message to others who are struggling to make friends in an increasingly virtual world: reach out.

"Just send an email," Smith said. "Take a risk to make new friends."

After the two connected, the class went on a field trip to Central Carolina Community College where Smith and Harris met in person for the first time. Their friendship didn't skip a beat. Smith went to Harris' house to hang out that same day and ended up staying three nights in a row.

"She came over to the house and we just became really close," Harris said.

Now, the two do all sorts of things together — shopping, making TikTok videos or attempting to bake cakes. Over the course of those first few

days together, Smith was already invited on the family beach trip in August. After that was accomplished, Harris started working her mom on the next big ask — being able to take her new friend on the family's vacation trip to Europe.

"We just started begging my mom to let Massiah come too," Harris said.

The trip was already planned for seven family members, and the begging worked. They're now on a two-week trip that's taking them from Amsterdam to Paris. Harris' grandmother even funded Smith's plane tickets for the trip, which began last week.

"It's exciting," Smith said before leaving. "I've never been out of the country, especially to something like this. It's a dream come true."

The trip's stops include the Anne Frank House, a dinner cruise in Delft, the Rijksmuseum, Versailles and more.

"It's not going to be relaxing at all," said Mary's mother, Laurel Faisst. She organized the trip

with an itinerary down to the last detail. It's Faisst's fourth visit to Amsterdam, but the first time she's bringing such a large group with her. She made everyone folders with printed itineraries and tickets.

"With this many people, organization was a must," Faisst said. "We need to be on those trains and at those museums, it's bam, bam, bam."

After they return from their jam-packed worldly travels, Smith and Harris will be parting ways, at least in the classroom: Harris is attending Northwood next fall, while Smith is sticking with the Virtual Academy. Each said the Virtual Academy has been a blessing in disguise because it fosters their independence and self-growth.

"I feel like you become more mature about things," Smith said. "You really got to start early with what you want to do. This all goes by fast."

CCS has announced it will continue the Virtual Academy next year with virtual-only teachers being paired with

virtual-only students. Students in grades K-8 will be enrolled in the Virtual Academy at Bennett School, not at their base schools. Students in grades 9-12 will transfer to Chatham Central High School and enroll in Chatham Central's Virtual Academy. Student enrollment in Virtual Academy is at no cost to families and requires a semester-long commitment for students.

What started as a virtual bond between Smith and Harris has become a meaningful friendship. And even though they've only known each other for six months, that bond is sure to last for years to come.

"I feel like I've known her my whole life," Smith said. "When you're with someone you truly love, it feels like the friendship has been a lot longer. You're having so much fun with this person and all of a sudden time is flying by."

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

NEWS BRIEF

Sanford votes to accept Pittsboro water merger

SANFORD — Sanford's city council voted to accept the letter of intent from Pittsboro declaring the merging of the two municipal water treatment facilities at its meeting last Tuesday.

"This resolution ... I think signifies our willingness to embark on that particular merger and look and see how that goes," Sanford City Manager Hal Hewger said.

This isn't the first time the two municipalities have entered agreements regarding water infrastructure.

In November, Pittsboro entered an agreement with Sanford, Chatham County, Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina to jointly construct an \$18+ million expansion to a joint water treatment plant, which each of those entities would be able to use.

The city of Sanford has

worked with Chatham County in different ways, according to Hewger, so Tuesday's resolution to accept the letter of intent was just the next step in continuing that partnership.

"We have a history of cooperative agreement with Chatham County and, of course, Pittsboro," Hewger said. "With all

of this work going on and the relationship we have, there was a question of does it make sense for us to look at a more broad merger with each other and what those benefits be, so this resolution signifies our efforts to do that and move forward."

—CN+R staff reports

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PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board set to meet Thursday to discuss water and wastewater utilities in Unit Vitality program with the state

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Town commissioners on Monday decided to hold a special session Thursday, June 30, to discuss a response to a N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality letter regarding Pittsboro qualifying for the state's Viable Utility Program. The meeting will be held via Zoom at 4 p.m. The Viable Utility program was established in July 2020 to help address "distressed communities" and their water and wastewater needs. A distressed community is defined as one with "growing economic challenges for rural parts of the state and the struggle

to maintain viable water systems." According to DEQ, as a "distressed" community, Pittsboro's water and wastewater problems — which include a shortage in capacity — could qualify the town for millions of dollars of funding toward interconnecting and extending public water or wastewater infrastructure. The infrastructure would provide regional services, rehabilitating existing public water or wastewater infrastructure by decentralizing an existing public water system or wastewater system into smaller viable parts. The town received the letter from the state on

June 21; the board has until July 1 to respond to the letter. Town Manager Chris Kennedy told commissioners he'd provide additional information at Thursday's session in order to help facilitate a decision by the board. **In other business:** • Commissioners unanimously approved the town's continued support of Summer Fest, an annual celebration held on the downtown streets. This year's event takes place Sunday. It's sponsored by the Pittsboro Business Association. Town Manager Chris Kennedy said overtime pay for police officers and other municipal employ-

ees, and the use of town utilities and equipment such as water hoses, Pittsboro's financial commitment to the event will likely be \$3,000 to \$5,000. The money will be transferred from a budget item that covers miscellaneous expenses. • Commissioners heard an update on the status of the Pittsboro Wastewater Improvement Project from Charles Davis, director of marketing and business development for The Wooten Group, designers of the project. Davis said he realized commissioners have

grown frustrated by the lack of progress on the project, about three years in the works. He said the skyrocketing price of materials is partly to blame for cost overruns. When the project, which will link the wastewater system of Pittsboro with Sanford's, was conceived, it was expected to cost about \$19 million. The cost has now risen to about \$30 million, Davis said. Kennedy said an example of the price increases the town has experienced on the project is the cost of piping. He said when the

work was first conceived, piping was expected to cost about \$70 a foot, including installation. Now, the cost of the pipe alone has soared to \$98 per foot, installation not included. • Commissioners approved a special use permit for a cemetery on 11.6 acres of land at 1365 N.C. Hwy. 902. The applicant and landowner is Iglesia Bautista Misionera Roca Fuerte Inc. Reporter Taylor Heeden and News + Record correspondent Steve Huffman contributed to this report.

Sullivan, Paige honored by N.C. Farm Bureau



Courtesy of N.C. Farm Bureau

Rising Chatham County high school seniors Matthew Sullivan (Northwood, second from left) and Hasten Paige (Chatham Central, third from right) have been recognized for completing N.C. Farm Bureau's Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders program. The program assists exceptional rising high school seniors from across the state in exploring agricultural-related college majors available at the state's two land-grant universities — N.C. A&T State University and N.C. State. Shown with the pair are, from left, Dr. Travis Park and Dr. Joy Morgan, N.C. State IFAL Program Coordinators; North Carolina Farm Bureau President Shawn Harding; and Dr. Chastity Warren English, N.C. A&T IFAL Program Coordinator.



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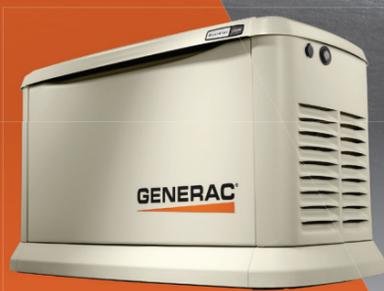
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It's hard to believe that summer is arriving in Chatham Park again! With so many outdoor activities available, this Pittsboro community beckons residents to get out, get adventurous, and explore the area they call home. From hiking to biking, from picnics to paddles, from splashing to soaring, there is truly something for everyone and for all comfort levels. The hardest part about summer in Chatham Park may be deciding which option to try first!

Paddles Swim & Pickleball is scheduled to open on July 1st for the Summer season. Located adjacent to Knight Farm Community Park, Paddles is a welcome addition to Chatham Park's growing list of leisure living amenities.

Knight Farm Community Park, our first community park that was dedicated to the town of Pittsboro, celebrated its anniversary in May, and what an inaugural year it was! Resi-

dents and visitors alike enjoyed the playground and splash pad while getting to know their neighbors.

While the daytime hours in **MOSAIC at Chatham Park** highlight retail, office, and residential activities, the evening brings theatres, restaurants, and music to life. From June through October, MOSAIC will offer a variety of events on the lawn ranging from sunset yoga, to outdoor movies, to live concerts.

Getting outdoors and being active is easy at Chatham Park. We currently offer 2.5 miles of **paved greenways** with over 30 total miles planned of scenic walking, biking, and multimodal trails.

A new **pocket park** will open in Vineyards at Chatham Park at the end of



2022. This park will be dedicated to the town of Pittsboro and will provide area residents with a natural space for gathering. Three additional pocket parks are planned in Vineyards.

Chatham Park is an amazing place to live because it is located right next door to two breathtaking outdoor recreational areas. With both **Jordan Lake** and the **Lower Haw River** at our residents' doorsteps, there are nearly 46,000 acres of options for getting active, whether it is a nature walk, bird watching, swimming, biking, fishing, boating, or camping.

As summer quickly rounds the corner, make sure to include plenty of outdoor activities on the calendar. Getting outside is a perfect way to feel refreshed and create lasting memories. Adventures don't always require big-ticket experiences, especially when you are fortunate enough to live in a community with so many opportunities right outside your front door.

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SCRIMMAGES AND SPECIAL GUESTS



Photo courtesy of Northwood Athletics

Former UNC Basketball and NBA player Tyler Zeller (center) speaks to a room full of campers at the 4-day Northwood Sports Camp on June 20. Zeller answered questions about his playing career during the session and took photos with each camper in attendance.

Northwood's annual sports camp a 'blast' for nearly 120 students

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — With this year's NBA Finals out of the way, Pittsboro had the stage to itself last week for its own version of an action-packed basketball competition.

In a selection of tournaments that could rival NCAA's March Madness, the attendees of the Northwood Sports Camp — held at Northwood High School from June 20-23 — were tossed onto teams that competed in brackets, dependent on their age group, to determine each tournament's champion.

However, scrimmage tournaments were just one aspect of the four-day co-ed camp, which offered sessions for both basketball and football for children aged 6-13.

Students could choose to participate solely in the basketball or football portion of the camp, or channel their inner multi-sport athlete and sign up for both.

In total, the camp saw nearly 120 attendees from Chatham and beyond.

"We had over 100 kids there, ranging from kindergarten all the way to 8th grade, so we had quite a lot," Kerri Snipes,

Northwood's head women's basketball coach and one of the camp's primary counselors, told the News + Record. "They were wide open and had a lot of energy, but I think overall, they had a blast."

This was the first Northwood youth summer camp for Chris Kenan, the school's newly hired head football coach, and from his perspective, it couldn't have gone more smoothly.

"It went extremely well. The kids were burning energy and excitement every day and I know our kids, as a football

See **CAMP**, page B2

Chatham sees host of all-star youth baseball teams win district titles, prepare for state tournaments

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — As the days get hotter, the pools get cooler and the ice cream melts faster, the sights, sounds and familiar feelings of summer are finally creeping their way back into our lives.

And in what has become an unofficial summer tradition unlike any other, youth baseball in Chatham is, once again, taking the county by storm.

Last week, teams from both East and West Chatham won their respective district tournaments for the second straight season, including the East Chatham 8U All-Stars and the West Chatham 12U All-Stars, securing each team a berth in their respective state tournament in early July.

East Chatham also saw its 9U squad win the Little League District 2 TOC Championship, meaning it will also be featured in the state tournament next month.

Putting on for Pittsboro

Last Wednesday, the East Chatham 8U All-Stars took the field at Pittsboro Elementary, one win away from the district title, with only Davie County standing in their way.

Up to that point, East Chatham had scored 15 or more runs in each of its three tournament games — including a 15-3 win over Davie just two days earlier.

But even though a district championship was on the line, head coach Jimmy Simpson could tell something was off.

"In the first game against Davie, we played probably our best game of the year," Simpson said. "I told the kids that I thought we played like the New York Yankees. We could play with anybody that night because we made every play in the field. We were focused.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

East Chatham's Dylan Lutterloh (center) swings for the fences in his team's 16-7 loss to Davie County in the N.C. Little League District 2 tournament on June 22. East Chatham downed Davie the following night, 23-2, to win the district title.

"We had a night off after that, where Davie had to come back and play a loser's bracket game against Kernersville, and to Davie's credit, they found a good roll in that Kernersville game and they brought that focus against us the next day," he continued. "We didn't, and I blame myself as a coach. I just could not find a way to reach the team and bring that focus back."

Davie ended up pummeling East Chatham in the potential tournament-clincher, earning a 16-7 win in

what turned out to be East Chatham's worst game on both sides of the mound.

Davie's win forced a winner-take-all final game the following night, last Thursday, to see which team would take home the District 2 title.

Yet, despite faltering in the first game, East Chatham's players came out with "a sparkle in their eye," described Simpson, and not a single doubt in their minds. In their heads, they'd already won the title.

"We suffered that loss and it was really good for our kids from a learning standpoint because our goal is to get better every time we step on the field, and we may not get better physically, but we got better mentally in that loss," Simpson said. "Our coaches didn't really do anything, our kids got 100% of the credit. They walked into that ballpark (on Thursday) ... and they were determined to have fun."

See **BASEBALL**, page B4

You win, Duke fans. I'm on your side.

If you've been a News + Record subscriber for any number of my 18-month tenure as the paper's sports editor, you'll likely know one super important thing about me: I loathe Duke Basketball.

As a Tar Heel through and through, it has been my duty to express disdain for all things relating to "The Brotherhood," Coach K and Duke as a whole through many columns that have graced this very sports section.

Today, however, I'm here to announce something that, quite honestly, makes me a little nauseous.

Duke fans, I'm (sort of) on your side. I'm legally obligated to be.

Let me explain.

Last Thursday, the 2022 NBA Draft took place at Barclays Center in Brook-

lyn.

Here are a couple of my quick hits:

Paolo the Magician

I'm not sure I've ever expressed it in the pages of the News + Record, but I grew up a fan of the Orlando Magic. (Yes, you're allowed to feel sorry for me. Pity is welcome.)

Over the last decade, the Magic have been the definition of irrelevant.

Since the 2012-13 season — the year after the team's last No. 1 draft selection, Dwight Howard, demanded a trade that left the organization in shambles — Orlando has made the playoffs just twice, losing in the first round in both instances. Its highest win total came in 2018-19 when it won 42 games, finishing barely over .500 (42-40).

The Magic have had six coaches in 10 years, have put faith in countless young players that ultimately aren't on the roster anymore and have failed to put together any semblance of success.

But the tides are (hopefully) turning, with the front office duo of Jeff Weltman and John Hammond putting together a young core with names like Markelle Fultz (former No. 1 pick), Jonathan Isaac, Cole Anthony (former Tar Heel), Franz Wagner, Jalen Suggs and Wendell Carter Jr. (former one-and-done big man at Duke), all of which are aged 23 or younger.

And heading into this year's Draft, the Magic found themselves with an abundance of luck, happening upon the No. 1 overall pick for the first time since drafting Howard in 2004.

Much to my dismay — despite all of the rumors that said they were almost guaranteed to select Auburn forward Jabari Smith Jr. — the Magic used Smith as a smokescreen and used their No. 1 pick on Duke forward Paolo Banchero.

A text from my college roommate from UNC says it all.

"NOOOOOOOOOOOO," it read.

I was stunned. But as much as I wanted to hate the pick, using every Carolina blue bone in my body to reject it, I just couldn't.

Because, truth be told, it's the perfect fit.

Banchero will undoubtedly be the Magic's top offensive weapon and will help the offense flow a heckuva lot better, given both his deadly scoring ability and passing prowess.

His defense leaves a little to be desired, but it can be improved. And with a team like the Magic, they've got time.

The only real issue, of course, is the school he went to.

But with Orlando formerly being the home for Duke greats Grant Hill and J.J. Redick — and now Carter Jr. and Banchero — I've gotten used to holding my nose and rooting for a player no matter the school he went to.

Reluctantly, I'll do the same for Ban-

See **DUKE**, page B2



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor



Photo courtesy of Northwood Athletics

Attendees of the 2022 Northwood Sports Camp take a photo on the first day of camp inside of Northwood's gym on June 20. In total, nearly 120 campers signed up to participate in the 4-day camp centered around basketball and football.

CAMP

Continued from page B1

team, really enjoyed (being volunteers)," Kenan said. "We had some good competition going and we were able to instill some fundamentals and have fun doing so."

Kenan is no stranger to leading youth summer camps. Before being hired at Northwood in January, he came from Neal Magnet Middle School in Durham, where, as the school's head football coach, he helped create a successful four-week summer camp centered around both athletics and academics. "We were just trying to bridge the gaps over the summer because kids were losing so much academically and athletically by being at home," he said. "We called it the Extra Effort Camp, with guys coming in during the summer to put in extra effort and trying to gain ground on the EOGs. Some of the academic growth at the middle school was through that camp."

Northwood's Sports Camp, with it being split between two sports, would feature a 2 1/2-hour morning session of either football or basketball, depending on the student's chosen sport, starting at 9:30 a.m. Football was never played in the afternoon in an effort to stay indoors during the hottest hours of the day. Then, there'd be an hour for lunch around noon, another hour of skill sessions around 1 p.m. and two hours of "camp games," namely the basketball tournaments, from 2-4 p.m. before dismissal.

For football, those skill sessions would mix in the fundamentals of defense, agility

training, route-running and pass-catching, among others, divvied up between camp days. A staple of every session, however, was one of Kenan's biggest emphases: footwork.

"Everything starts at the bottom, including your house, so we wanted to instill some footwork foundation," Kenan said. "We started every day with some footwork. After stretching, after warming up, we started there."

Kenan said that the football camp was split into three age groups: the 6-8-year olds, 9-10-year olds and 11-13-year olds, with different drills having different looks depending on the age group. For example, while the 11-13-year-olds had an off-the-ground agility ladder for their footwork drills, the 6-8-year-olds had a ladder on the ground that presented "very little risk of falling," said Kenan.

In a county void of school-sanctioned middle school football — besides organizations like the East Chatham Chargers, which now has 12U teams in both Pittsboro and Siler City — Kenan said he was impressed with the amount of young athletes that came out to partake in the football side of the camp, going as far as to say the football players may have made up the camp's majority.

"After hearing about how much (Pittsboro) is a basketball and baseball town, it's good to see so many kids come out for football," Kenan said. "The young kids were really excited. I'd say it was a 50-50 split, maybe 60-40 for the kids going out for football (compared to basketball). It was very heartwarming to know that kids

want the opportunity to play football in Chatham. ... I just love to see it."

On the basketball side of things, led by Snipes and Northwood men's basketball head coach Matt Brown, along with a selection of current Chargers players, the excitement level was through the roof.

Just like the football portion, basketball skill sessions gave attendees a taste of the game's most necessary fundamentals: passing, dribbling, shooting and defending, with drills and stations divided up between age groups.

Snipes said that while the camp's attendees were the ones there to learn, her players getting the opportunity to take over coaching roles as the camp's volunteer counselors helped to develop a sense of leadership amongst her fairly youthful core.

"Being able to teach and lead others was a great experience for a lot of them, just having to flip to the role of being the teacher," Snipes said. "They had to be creative, too. We didn't give them step-by-step what to do each time when they had groups coming to their stations, so they were just being creative and thinking of different things that they may not work on all the time."

While getting insight on the game from Northwood coaches and players was exciting enough for the campers, the school's athletic director, Cameron Vernon, decided to turn it up a notch, bringing in a special guest on the camp's first day: Tyler Zeller, UNC basketball national champion and former NBA journeyman.

Zeller played four seasons for UNC from 2008-12, winning a national championship in 2009. He also spent eight seasons in the NBA, with his most notable stint coming for the Boston Celtics from 2014-17.

Perhaps most notable, though, is his 7-foot frame.

"Just being able to see his height and wingspan really blew them away," Snipes said with a laugh. "He just talked about his career from UNC all the way to the NBA, and then answered any questions they had, which was a lot with over 100 campers. I think what was the coolest for the campers was hearing who he had played with or who he'd played against in the NBA, just naming off those players that are still currently playing that they're familiar with."

"He was very kind and took pictures with each of the campers and they got to take those home to keep and remember camp," she added. "That was a really neat experience for a lot of them who may not have ever been around any sort of professional athlete before."

But the highlight of the camp for many, of course, was the basketball tournament.

After the first day, which the counselors used to determine each player's skill level, the campers were split into evenly matched teams, with the younger campers being divided into NCAA-themed teams with names like Louisville, Wake Forest and Boston College and the older campers participating in an NBA-themed playoff with teams names like the Celtics and Warriors.

"A lot of campers are competitive by nature, which

is great, so they got to see it displayed on a bracket and kind of go from there," Snipes said. "They really enjoyed and got a lot out of the skill development aspect (of camp), but of course, like any other player, they love being able to play the game."

Getting to play on Northwood's gym floor — and spend four days immersed in the school's athletic culture — was a special treat for a lot of the younger kids, who Snipes said she hopes grows into a solid group of future Chargers.

And one day, those same campers may have the opportunity to end up like Snipes' current crop of players: reigning 3A state champions.

"It kind of gives them a taste of what it's like at the high school level at Northwood," Snipes said. "It's really neat because I can remember a couple of these players that just came to this Asheville camp [for the women's basketball team] that are rising 9th graders and they've been coming to (the sports camp) for five-plus years and this time, they were getting to be on the other side. They were no longer a camper, they were getting to help and lead."

"Just being able to see that growth and build a sense of community, which I can certainly attest that the Pittsboro community has been phenomenal," she added. "It's a good way to bring together the community and showcase Northwood so they can get a feel for what it'll be like for them in the future."

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

DUKE

Continued from page B1

chero. After all, he only spent one season at Duke, one where he and his teammates ruined Coach K's legacy by losing to UNC in the Final Four. So I'm sure he's more than happy to forget about his time in Durham, anyway.

The Hornets aren't cutting it

It may sound odd to say coming from a Magic fan, but I'm sorry to all of the Charlotte Hornets supporters out there. This organization is destined to be average. Entering Draft night, the Hornets possessed the No. 13 pick, and for a moment, used it on Memphis big man Jalen Duren, an 18-year-old player with plenty of raw talent that many analysts considered a solid pickup at 13.

But in a flurry of draft-day trades, the Hornets wound up sending Duren to the New York Knicks for a 2023 first-round pick and four future second-round selections.

Then, at pick No. 15, the Hornets nabbed Duke 7-footer Mark Williams to make up for trading Duren.

It wasn't the worst draft ever, especially since Charlotte turned one pick that it clearly didn't want (No. 13) into five total selections for later drafts. But the idea of the Hornets missing out on a talent like Duren, while simultaneously coming out of a draft where they had two top-15 picks with just one

middle-of-the-road selection, is on brand with what the Hornets have represented since changing their name from the Bobcats in 2014: a whole lot of mediocrity.

Charlotte clearly made the right decision by drafting LaMelo Ball at No. 3 overall in 2020, who's turned out to be a star, but aside from Ball and forward Miles Bridges — who's a restricted free agent this summer — the Hornets are a team which looks content staying in the middle of the Eastern Conference for years to come.

Sadly, this Draft didn't do a whole lot to change that. Pair an uneventful

Draft with the news that broke the following day of the team hiring Steve Clifford to be its next head coach — after Golden State Warriors assistant Kenny Atkinson spurned the Hornets after the Warriors won the NBA title — and you've got little reason for Charlotte to draw much excitement this

season (besides, of course, Ball). For the record, Clifford coached the Bobcats/Hornets for five seasons from 2013-18, amassing a 196-214 record and making the postseason just once. He's also notorious for stunting the growth of young players, as seen by his short-lived tenure in Orlando from 2018-21.

Oh well. If history is any indicator, the Hornets will likely be sitting near the back half of the Lottery again next season. Maybe then they'll finally strike mid-first-round gold.

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

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'IT WAS PRETTY SPECIAL'

Seaforth hosts 1st youth lacrosse camp as Hubbard aims to grow game in Pittsboro

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Nationally, lacrosse hasn't yet broken into the mainstream, with it being most popular in the northeastern U.S. with small pockets of interest in other regions across the country.

But as illustrated by Seaforth's latest venture into youth sports camps, Pittsboro might just be one of those pockets.

Seaforth hosted its first-ever co-ed youth lacrosse camp last week, from June 20-23, as part of a jam-packed week of camps alongside those for baseball, cheerleading, soccer, softball and volleyball. The camp garnered interest from students across the area, with 60 athletes, ranging from ages 7 to 17, signing up to attend.

"It was pretty special," Joe Hubbard, the school's head men's lacrosse coach and camp's main counselor, told the News + Record. "We're pumped to continue to build the program at a high school level. ... There are some very special things happening in this community right now."

Seaforth drawing 60 attendees for the camp shows the level of interest the community has in the sport, though Hubbard refused to take all of the credit.

"I've got to say, part of the credit for that success, and for the numbers, goes to the youth organization, the



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Camper Thomas Greto (center) works on passing during Seaforth's first-ever youth lacrosse camp last Thursday. The 4-day camp featured nearly 60 participants that performed drills, learned fundamentals and played games on the field at Seaforth High School.

Chatham Cardinals," Hubbard said, "because a lot of kids play in the rec league."

The Chatham Cardinals, otherwise known as North Chatham Youth Lacrosse (NCYL), is a Chapel Hill-based recreational men's lacrosse league that's "dedicated to promoting the game of lacrosse in Chatham County and surrounding areas," according to its website. It offers four teams, one for each of the 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions.

Hubbard said that NCYL has "done a really good job" at getting more students involved in lacrosse, a mission he hoped to further during Seaforth's four-day camp.

Typically, Hubbard gets rising seniors to help out by volunteering as camp counselors — a staple of the youth camps he hosted during his tenure at East Chapel Hill High School before being hired by Seaforth — but with Seaforth's population being as young as it is, with the rising juniors being the school's oldest age group, along with his own players participating in the camp, he decided to get creative.

He found a few recent high school graduates to help out with volunteering, as well as former Lenoir-Rhyne defenseman and current Chatham Cardinals 14U head coach Arno Olivier, who assisted in coaching the high

school-aged campers.

As is typical for summer athletic camps, Hubbard and the other counselors split the players into groups determined by age and skill level, allowing each group to work on different elements of the game at different times.

They'd often start with stations, where campers would get the basics on passing, shooting, defensive positioning, among other skills, and then they'd get to put what they'd learned to the test in scrimmage games.

Though aside from the general fundamentals, the camp also had specialized sections for goalies — who would break off on their own to focus on improving their goal-keeping skills with specific goalie coaches — along with what Hubbard called a "face-off clinic," where campers would essentially learn strategies for winning face-offs, one of the most important facets of the game.

While the camp had its tough moments of skill work, Hubbard always ensured to mix in a little fun along the way to keep campers smiling, especially those in the younger age group.

"It's all about the energy and the passion and the coaches putting that into the younger group, keeping them moving," Hubbard said. "Doing things in short bursts, keeping them playing and incorporating a fun element, so with each skill that's being taught, making a game out of it.

"For ground balls," he explained, "we played games like Hungry Hungry Hippo, where it's a challenge and there's some competitive stuff to it. The guys would put all of the balls in the middle and split them up into teams and they'd have to run in and bring balls back. They loved it."

During his camps at East Chapel Hill, Hubbard encountered plenty of campers that had little to no experience with lacrosse, many of which had never picked up a stick before. One of the



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Seaforth camper Jack Petrusa (in white) rockets a shot toward the goal, which Coach Ryan Montgomery attempts to defend, during the Hawks' youth lacrosse camp last Thursday.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Seaforth camper Jasmine Lawrence (in purple) stands in goal and attempts to save a shot during the Hawks' youth lacrosse camp last Thursday.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Seaforth camper Oscar Swenson (in black) fights for a loose ball with fellow camper Ivan Grimes during the Hawks' youth lacrosse camp last Thursday.

most rewarding things, he recalled, is when those same campers would ask him what stick they should buy once camp was over.

His primary goal throughout all of his youth camps, including Seaforth's, has been to get campers to fall in love with the sport, thus growing the game in the process.

"At the end of the camp, the goal is to have them energized, feeling excited and encouraged to be the best lacrosse player they can be," Hubbard said. "Most importantly, in my opinion, is that they have a good time, that they're smiling and laughing at the end of camp. To me, that love and passion for the sport goes a long way, even if it's just for two hours every day for four days.

"The best possible outcome," he continued, "is that they keep the ball in their stick and keep the stick in their hands for the rest of the summer. ... That's the most important piece of the puzzle." With Seaforth hosting

9th through 11th graders next school year, the expectation is that the lacrosse program will grow with the school's population, which puts forth the possibility of more than just a varsity men's program.

In fact, according to Hubbard, Seaforth is planning to offer women's lacrosse for the first time next school year as the sport continues to grow among mid-sized NCHSAA programs, though it's still up in the air whether it'll be a J.V. or varsity program in its inaugural season.

"There is 100% (an expectation to have a women's program)," Hubbard said. "There seems to be enough folks expressing interest out of the new 9th graders that are coming in, so we're currently working to get that on day one, starting to have girls come out to workouts and things like that. All signs are pointing to us 100% having a team."

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

How did you LAND here?



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LAND (Representing Sellers) 33 Units

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- 0 Diane Street (9.21 Acres)
- 3095 N NC 87 (2.269 Acres)
- 2453 Marthas Chapel Road (2.052 Acres)
- 419 Hickory Pond Road (3.208 Acres)
- 435 Hickory Pond Road (2.72 Acres)
- 275 George Brooks Drive (184 Acres)
- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
- 0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)
- 218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)
- 323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)
- 106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)
- 0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)
- 180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)
- 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)
- 0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)
- 1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
- 1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)
- 0 Chicken Bridge Road (10.051 Acres)
- 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
- 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
- 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
- 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
- 4931 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres)
- 208 Stonewall Road (3.810 Acres)

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)

COMMERCIAL (REPRESENTING SELLERS) 3 Units

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

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 24 Units

- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 52 Gentle Winds Drive (Pittsboro)
- 1475 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 550 Callie Lane (Bear Creek)
- 3871 S. Plank Road (Sanford)
- 76 Millbrook Drive (Pittsboro)
- 5144 Rives Chapel Church Road (Sliver 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 (Sliver City)
- 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
- 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 745 Merl McManus Road (Bear Creek)
- 2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)
- 206 Olympia Street (Sliver 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 (Sliver City)
- 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

(Representing Sellers) 5 Units

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 00 Alston Chapel Road (176 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)
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RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 2 Units

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

Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week
NEW URL: <https://youtu.be/1XW8z7R2C1M>

NEW TOPIC: Can One Heir Force the Sale of Property in North Carolina?



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Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A group of campers, including Payne Swenson (center), await instructions during Seaforth's youth lacrosse camp last Thursday.

Siler City lassos in traveling rodeo



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Last Friday marked a night made for cowboys as the Silk Hope Pro Rodeo came to Siler City, bringing with it a host of events that left the crowd cheering. Here, a contestant of the saddle bronco riding event holds on to his horse for as long as he can while it attempts to buck him off during the Silk Hope Pro Rodeo in Siler City last Friday.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Participants of the Silk Hope Pro Rodeo take a lap around the arena before the events began on Friday. The rodeo brought in participants from the Southern Rodeo Association and the International Professional Rodeo Association to compete.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Young steer wait in pens for the rodeo events to begin during the Silk Hope Pro Rodeo in Siler City on Friday. The young cattle were later used in steer wrestling, tie-down roping and team roping events.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Rodeo clown Brian Hope rides around a small motorcycle in a superhero cape to entertain the crowd during the Silk Hope Pro Rodeo in Siler City on Friday. Hope made jokes and told funny stories to the audience in between events.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A participant of the tie-down roping event charges after a young steer, attempting to lasso it, during the Silk Hope Pro Rodeo in Siler City on Friday.

BASEBALL

Continued from page B1

In between innings, the coaches and players would have what Simpson called a “dance party” to stay loose, dancing to the music playing nearby and refusing to let the game get to them.

When it was all said and done, East Chatham came away with a never-in-doubt 23-2 victory over Davie in the highest-scoring performance of the tournament, claiming redemption and yet another District 2 title.

“In baseball, it takes a bunch of individuals to grow and go and (in the championship) those kids had that in them,” Simpson said. “They remembered that they were from the night before and they didn’t want that feeling again. ... They walked in with a focus that they were not going to allow that loss to happen on their watch and it was really great that they took it upon themselves.”

East Chatham’s dominant showing throughout the District 2 tournament is one for the history books. As a team, the 8U All-Stars scored 81 runs in five games — giving up 39 runs in the process — and had a mind-blowing .705 batting average.

“Those kids should get all of the credit for it,” Simpson said. “It was something special that our coaching staff is thankful to be a part of.”

What made the experience even more special for Simpson and his team was being able to play the entire tournament in Pittsboro, an advantage that not only helped them in terms of fan fare and travel, but one that was important for the community as a whole.

“We hosted the tournament this year and it was really nice,” Simpson said. “Eight teams from outside of Chatham came



Submitted photo

West Chatham 12U All-Stars’ slugger Austin Morgan swings at a pitch during the first round of the N.C. Dixie Youth Division 1 O-Zone Tournament on June 18.

to Pittsboro and were a part of our community. They stayed in our hotels, ate in our restaurants and as a league, we hope to build that over the years and make Little League baseball a part of our community. Because as our community grows and embraces our sport and our league, we hope that we can give back to the community just like the community gives back to us because we couldn’t do it without them.”

The East Chatham 8U and 9U All-Stars will appear at the N.C. Little League state tournaments in Wilson from July 8-10.

A perfect run

With the way the West Chatham 12U All-Stars were playing last week, a district title was all but guaranteed.

In five games, they put on a defensive showcase, outscoring opponents, 42-16, en route to the N.C. Dixie Youth District 1 O-Zone title.

The performance left head coach Shawn Murray speechless.

“They never gave up. Defensively, we’re probably one of the best teams that I’ve seen,” Murray told the News + Record after the tournament win. “We had a couple of hiccups, but defensively, we were pretty tough.”

For five straight days, from June 18-22, the

team had to make the trek to Polkton and back, totaling nearly 160 miles round trip. As the tournament wound down, Murray said the weight of that trip every day began to take a toll on them.

In West Chatham’s first two games — against Mt. Pleasant and Anson County, respectively — the team rolled to two victories with a combined score of 25-4.

Then, the exhaustion began to set in.

“You can figure, by Tuesday, we were all just tired,” Murray said. “You could tell the players were, but they just fought through it. I’m really proud of them. They did what they had to do.”

West Chatham’s final three games were a little closer, including a 4-3 win over Mt. Pleasant in the semifinals — an abnormally low score for a youth baseball game, Murray admitted.

“(Mt. Pleasant) had their best pitcher throw it against us. He was left-handed, and we didn’t see any left-handers in the tournament except for him,” Murray said. “You know how left-handers are. It doesn’t matter if they throw it slow or hard, it’s just a little different.”

In the semifinal game, West Chatham found itself in a three-run hole early, but the team “buckled down,” Murray



Submitted photo

The East Chatham 8U All-Stars pose with the banner after winning the N.C. Little League District 2 title in Pittsboro. East Chatham will win the Wilson in early July for the state tournament, along with its 9U All-Stars team.

said, and posted six total baserunners in the final three innings to climb back into it.

That was a much different tune than the championship game a day later, when West Chatham led Montgomery County, 7-0, going into the fifth inning. But a three-run home run in the fifth made it 7-3, setting up an all-time comeback opportunity for Montgomery in the sixth inning.

After scoring a trio of runs in the sixth, Montgomery County had runners on second and third bases with two outs, down by just a single run. With a hard-hitting batter up to the plate, Murray thought it was time to pull his starting pitcher, Haggan Purvis, a player that’d dominated for West Chatham for most of the tournament.

But Purvis had other plans.

“I went out to (Purvis) and I said, ‘Look, dude, you’re done’ and he said, ‘Coach, don’t take me out,’ and told me to walk the next guy and then he’d throw three straight

curveballs and strike the last batter out,” Murray recalled. “And he did it, that’s what he did. I walked the next guy — it was the one that hit the home run — and that made the bases loaded. The next guy came up and he threw three straight curveballs and struck him out. You don’t see many 11-year-olds with that kind of confidence. He has no fear.”

When naming the players that contributed most to the perfect tournament run, Murray comes close to listing his entire team — Purvis included.

Shout-outs included relief pitcher Jackson Clark — who he deemed his “workhorse” for his ability to come in when needed and hold down the fort, including the semifinal game against Mt. Pleasant when he didn’t allow a hit or walk for three innings to keep his team in it — catcher Austin Morgan, Gavin Williams and Grant Copeland, who he called his most consistent hitter of the tournament.

And while last week

may not have been a run quite like last season, where West Chatham outscored its opponents 56-1 and tore through the District 1 tournament, Murray said he hopes his team can learn from its close calls and redeem the 2021 team, which fell just short at the state tournament, one game away from the World Series.

For Murray, who announced this would be his last season coaching the team, that redemption arc is part of what fuels him.

“I’m really pushing them because that was a really tough loss and it still haunts me,” Murray said. “They want to get back and win it. They’re hungry.”

West Chatham’s 12U All-Stars will compete in the 2022 N.C. Dixie Youth Baseball O-Zone D1 State Tournament alongside five other teams, beginning on July 9 in Locust.

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

Sam Rauf recognized as N.C. Economic Development ‘Emerging Leader of the Year’

From Chatham EDC

PITTSBORO — Sam Rauf, the former senior project manager for the Chatham EDC, was named the North Carolina Economic Development Association’s “Emerging Leader of the Year” at its annual meeting. The award is presented to the individual who best exemplifies leadership in the state’s economic development efforts. In his nomination, Economic Development Corporation partners and colleagues highlighted Rauf’s dedication to Chatham County and versatility in his role. In his time with the EDC, Rauf oversaw the business retention and expansion program and helped to lead attraction efforts. He played a crucial role in landing North Carolina’s largest-ever

economic development project, VinFast, which will locate at Chatham County’s Triangle Innovation Point.

“In his few years at the EDC he has not only learned but mastered the skill sets and leadership necessary to run an effective economic development operation,” said Katy Parker, senior business recruitment manager for the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. “He is not afraid to get his hands dirty, serve coffee, and be a go-for, all while commanding a board room of CEOs and investors at key project meetings. His ability to multi-task and manage significant workload for the county is unmatched.”

“Sam did an outstanding job for the Chatham Economic Development Corporation with

his hard work and dedication,” said Michael Smith, president of the Chatham EDC. “He helped keep the organization moving forward during a major staff transition, a cyber event, and a global pandemic. We are grateful for his ability to grow into an increased role of responsibility during such a challenging time. He has excellent skills and we wish him well in his new role with our neighbors in Raleigh.”

Rauf recently departed the Chatham EDC to accept a role with his native Wake County. As the senior economic development manager on the Wake County Economic Development team, Rauf will continue to be a key ally and neighbor as Chatham County continues to take a regional approach to development.



Submitted photo

Sam Rauf (left) accepts the North Carolina Emerging Leader of the Year award from NCEDA President John Nelms at the NCEDA annual meeting in Wrightsville Beach. The award is given in recognition of the winner’s contributions to expansions and projects completed during the previous calendar year.

LEAVING THE NEST

Starrlight Mead hosts bird release event with Claws Inc.

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Owls and hawks alike soared high in the skies above Starrlight Mead on Saturday when Claws Inc. — an organization dedicated to assisting wild and exotic animals — held a bird-releasing event at the meadery at 130 Lorax Lane in Pittsboro.

Guests were able to have a first-hand look at some of North Carolina’s native birds, ranging from screech owls and red-tailed hawks to a small kestrel and a friendly corvid bird mix named Grip, who perched on the shoulders of guests.

A highlight was the release of four birds into the wild — two great horned owls and two red tail hawks.

“They’re super nice people — they rescue birds, rehabilitate them and try to release them back into the wild,” Starrlight Mead owner Becky Starr said of Claws. “Of-tentimes when they come out, they bring a number of birds with them that are ready to be released, and they basically raffle off an opportunity to release the bird back into the wild, which I’ve done twice. It’s the coolest experience ever.”

Claws, based in neighboring Orange County, holds various educational events and rehabilitates local wildlife until the animals are healed enough to be released into the wild.

Kindra Mammone



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Claws Inc. volunteer and treasurer Vincent Mammone hands one of two great horned owls to another volunteer to prepare for its release at the Claws wildlife education event on Saturday at Starrlight Mead in Pittsboro.

and her husband, Vinny, started Claws as a way to help educate people about the animals living in their own communities.

“We understand all these big sexy animals, but the public does not understand what’s in their own backyard,” Mammone said. “That’s what I want to teach. That’s what I want — people to understand what they might actually run into and not fear it.”

Mammone came from a family of rehabilitators, so she knew she wanted to help animals in some way. Her role in Claws allows her to share her love for helping animals in need, as well as educate people on the importance of their local ecosystems.

Starting off with a raccoon and a skunk, Claws began to take in other small mammals. Soon, Mammone was able to

help rehabilitate birds who had been injured in the wild.

Now, she and her team book events at schools, breweries, festivals and more to help give people more insight into the creatures they see on a day-to-day basis.

“The animals that live with us permanently need a job,” she said. “And who better to teach about what people do and why we should appreciate these animals?”

Claws held its first event at Starrlight Mead in 2017, but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, most of the organization’s regular bookings came to a screeching halt. When restrictions were lifted in 2021, Starr said she started booking Claws for monthly educational and bird-releasing events.

“They’ve been coming

out once a month for the last two years, and every time, I’m still in awe of these birds,” Starr said. “They’re beautiful creatures, and you don’t normally get to see owls and hawks and eagles up close ... to be able to see them up close just really gives you an appreciation of their beauty and how amazing they are.”

Mammone and her volunteer-run organization continue to come to Chatham County, particularly to Starrlight Mead at The Plant, for a plethora of reasons. But one of the main reasons is because of the people who come to these events.

“They’ve always got an amazing crowd of people,” Mammone said. “This whole area down here ... it’s beautiful. They’re really trying to make it very family-friendly, which of



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

‘Grip,’ the raven, rests on the shoulder of a visitor at the Claws wildlife education event on Saturday at Starrlight Mead in Pittsboro. According to volunteers at Claws, Grip’s favorite drink is orange vitamin water.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Claws Inc. volunteer and treasurer Vincent Mammone holds a red tailed hawk and speaks to an audience about the bird at the Claws wildlife education event on Saturday at Starrlight Mead in Pittsboro. Alongside the education programs, Vinny also builds all of our enclosures, habitats and fencing for Claws.

course, being us, we want the kids to come out.”

For Starr, she said these events not only bring more people out to Starrlight Mead, but having Claws at her business allows guests to learn something new about local wildlife and expe-

rience it in a way they might not have before.

“It’s super fun, and it’s really amazing to be able to see these birds up close,” Starr said. “It’s an opportunity that not many people get very often, and kids in particular think it’s really cool. I would hope that they would continue to support Claws because it’s a great organization.”

Mammone said she hopes she can continue the events at Starrlight Mead in the pursuit of educating people, particularly children, about wildlife. By doing so, Mammone hopes she can address misinformation and “old wives tales” surrounding animals such as buzzards or raccoons.

“I’m convinced that most people learn everything they know about wildlife from Bugs Bunny,” she said. “We get so many calls about buzzards — a buzzard is a red-tail hawk, not a vulture. So just being able to teach that kind of thing is very important and it shows people what people have done and what they shouldn’t do.”

Claws’ next event at Starrlight Mead will be from 12 to 4 p.m. on July 30. It will be free to attend and all age groups are welcome.

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

CHATHAM IS BOLD!



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT: Projects in Siler City, Pittsboro continue to evolve

CN+R Staff Report

Ongoing projects in downtown Siler City and Pittsboro are refurbishing existing structures with the goal of creating more walkable town centers, complete with new restaurants and much more.

In Siler City, Wren Farrar's projects along South Chatham Avenue and West Raleigh Street will include an apartment complex, a butcher shop, fine dining and a brewery. He previously told the News + Record he hoped the work he's doing would make Siler City's downtown area resemble the bustling town in which he was raised. "We're very excited for the future of Siler City and we're excited to be in a position where we can

do this redevelopment and contribute to the revitalization efforts," he said. "Siler City has always been special. Maybe it's been a couple of decades since that has been really quantified or qualified, but I think we're at a point where it's really going to become a neat place to be and a special place to live."

Over in Pittsboro, developer Greg Stafford's \$10 million SoCo project — it's located south of the historic courthouse — has a goal of giving downtown "a place to gather and have fun."

Some initial work is completed; upfit will begin on Havoc Brewing within the week and not all buildings have tenants, but Stafford is hopeful. "All the pieces are



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

An intricately-decorated ceiling and exposed brick lines the living room of one of the new apartments in downtown Siler City. Some of the new apartment buildings, developed by the Wren Family Estate, have kept some of the original features of the old building, incorporating original ceilings, floors and other features.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

One of the new apartment buildings in downtown Siler City is furnished as part of the new development estimated to be complete around October in Siler City. There are a total of 16 new apartments being constructed by the Wren Family Estate, several of which have already been spoken for.

in place," he said, even as inflation and supply chain issues hamper his work.

"If we can fight through the inflation and housing slowdown for a couple of years downtown Pittsboro will be

amazing," he said. "S&T's Soda Shoppe, Virlie's, The Mod, The Beagle, Postal Fish, Red Moose ... that is an outstanding lineup, and that doesn't even count the Beverage District, which is simply amazing."



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

The blue exterior of the new apartment buildings contrasts against the brick walls in downtown Siler City. Alongside 16 new apartment buildings, Wren Family Estate is also developing spaces for a restaurant and butcher shop in the downtown area.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

The view from one of the new apartment buildings overlooks a banner raised over the street in Siler City. The apartments, developed by the Wren Family Estate, are expected to be completed in October.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Bricks begin to build up what will be the outside portion of the restaurant building being developed by the Wren Family Estate in downtown Siler City. The development is being split into two parts, with the first encompassing the butcher shop and the second being the restaurant.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A view of the inside of the restaurant currently being developed by the Wren Family Estate in downtown Siler City. General Manager Wren Farrar hopes to have both the restaurant and the butcher shop completed in the next year.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

The space on the second level of the restaurant being developed by the Wren Family Estate lies empty in downtown Siler City. The second floor will soon be remodeled into more apartment buildings for residents of downtown Siler City to lease.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

An old sink stands in the center of one of the rooms of the SoCo development that are currently under construction in downtown Pittsboro.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Thick squares of glass create a mosaic window looking out over the town in one of the many rooms of the SoCo development in downtown Pittsboro.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A chair sits in an otherwise empty room, one of many that make up the SoCo development that is currently undergoing renovations in downtown Pittsboro.



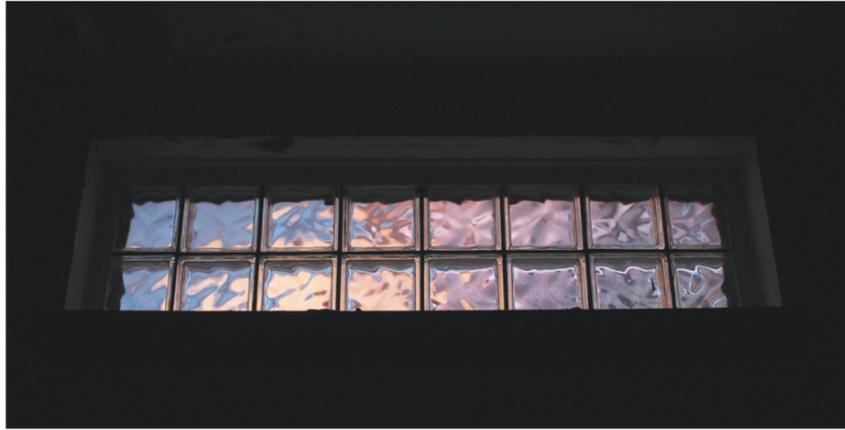
Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A ladder leads up the side of one of the SoCo development buildings and onto the roof in downtown Pittsboro.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Old tile and bright windows line one of the rooms of the SoCo development that are currently undergoing renovations in downtown Pittsboro.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Thick squares of glass create a mosaic window reflecting light into one of the many rooms of the SoCo development in downtown Pittsboro.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

An outside view of one of the buildings that make up the SoCo development, which is currently being renovated in downtown Pittsboro.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A hallway on the first floor of the SoCo development opens up to reveal many of the rooms currently under renovation in downtown Pittsboro.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

The outside of the Pittsboro SoCo development in downtown Pittsboro. (Above and below)



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Old metallic numbers adorn the door to one of the rooms of the SoCo development, which is currently undergoing renovations in downtown Pittsboro.



POLICE REPORTS

FROM CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On June 13, Michael Shane Martin, 49, of 135 Tupelo Circle, Salisbury, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for stalking and Domestic Violence Protection 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 29.

On June 13, Claudia Marcela Martinez, 43, of 1206 South 2nd Avenue, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for stalking, harassing phone calls, and Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. She 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 13, James Filmore Kendall, 32, of 235 Chatham Square, #104, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 29.

On June 13, Jared Todd Richmond, 30, of 5001 NC 87 North, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for assault by pointing a gun and assault on a female. He was issued a 48 hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled

to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on July 12.

On June 14, Nicholas Aaron French, 35, of 65 Henley Road, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Reid Kirkman for failure to appear. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County Court in Hillsborough on July 11.

On June 16, Kevin Jerome Wallace, 40, of 350 Horton Road, Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 18.

On June 17, Tara Michelle Barth, 39, of 1061 Dorsett Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for felony harboring an escapee and possession/receiving stolen property from a construction site. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 6.

On June 17, Drew Ryan Wilkie, 37, of 197 Gees Grove Road, Siler City, was arrested by Corporal Brandon Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$100 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 14.

On June 18, Michael Duane Johnson, 56, homeless, was arrested by Corporal Brandal

Harrington for possession of a firearm by a felon, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, possession of stolen goods/property and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 18.

On June 18, William George Squires, 73, of 179 Mountain View Church Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for violation of a court order. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 18, Adrienne Elizabeth Squires, 38, of 179 Mountain View Church Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Chris Scales for destruction/damage/vandalism of property and burning of personal property. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 29.

On June 18, Edward Russell Pepper Jr., 45, of 197 Country Routt Brown Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Joseph Scott for assault on a female. 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 19, Luis Gomez Sesmas, 21, of 846 Mountain Road, Asheboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for assaulting a detention employee causing serious injury, assault on a government official/employee, and three counts of resisting a public officer. He was issued a \$100,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 6.

On June 19, Tammy Renee Alexander, 51, of 2915 Staley Snow Camp Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy John Beach for resisting a public officer. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 20, Tyler Alan Eoute, 26, of 7842 NC Highway 42 S., Ramseur, was arrested by Deputy Chris Scales for obstruction of justice and computer trespass. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 20.

On June 20, Jimmy Wilber Chavis, 59, of 6214 Goldston Glendon Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Corporal Brandal Harrington for possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a Schedule II controlled substance, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for controlled substances, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a written promise

to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 18.

On June 20, Giovanni Palma Perez, 117 North Adams Street, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Chris Scales for failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Durham County Court in Durham on July 14.

On June 20, Nelson Alejandro Gomez-Perez, 19, of 2920 Chapel Hill Street, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Chris Scales for breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny after breaking/entering, larceny of a firearm, first degree burglary, larceny of a motor vehicle and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$100,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County Court in Raleigh on June 23.

On June 20, Lacy Allen Nall, 35, of 946 St. Luke Church Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for making a false report to a police station. He was issued a written promise to appear in Moore County Court in Carthage on July 13.

On June 20, Christine Hall, 47, of 319 East Second Street, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for breaking and entering and larceny after breaking/entering. She was issued written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 18.

'MAKE CHATHAM A PLACE PEOPLE WANT TO BE'

Chatham leaders discuss growth, future at development panel

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Panelists at a “Corridors of Opportunity” gathering last Thursday emphasized balancing rapid potential growth with a need for adequate affordable housing, saying Chatham County needed to preserve the natural amenities that make it an appealing community.

The Triangle Business Journal hosted the discussion at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center featuring four panelists — three local and one from the state level — addressing a variety of questions related to carmaker VinFast’s impending arrival, population growth from Chatham Park and the future of economic development in the county.

The panelists were Karen Howard, the chairperson of the county’s board of commissioners; Michael Smith, president of Chatham Economic Development Corporation; Bubba Rawl, co-owner of Chatham Park developer Preston Development Company; and Michael Cline, a state demographer for the state of North Carolina.

“We are responsible for setting local policy that can guide development in a way that works for business but also protects the assets of Chatham County that brought us here,” Howard said in opening remarks. “As these jobs and opportunities come to Chatham, those opportunities are available to the people that live here already and make a difference in their lives.”

One of the people in working on fulfilling that vision is Rawl, who with development partner Tim Smith has developed Chatham Park. The 7,000+ acre development project could bring more than 60,000 residents with 22,000 units when fully built. He said Chatham County was a perfect choice for the development because of its natural rural amenities.

“We came to Chatham because of the beauty and the landscape,” Rawl said. “What really



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Bubba Rawl (left), Michael Cline, Karen Howard and Michael Smith made up the panel at the Triangle Business Journal’s ‘Corridors of Opportunity’ event last Thursday at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. The event was held to discuss Chatham County’s recent economic development, education, health care, research and transportation development.

attracted us to Pittsboro region was the downtown and the culture. There’s no way to replicate the history here and it allows us to really have an amenity to make Chatham Park a special place.”

Developments like Chatham Park, according to Cline, are one reason why Chatham County avoided the statewide trend of a declining population over the past decade. “Counties adjacent to major metropolitan urban centers see growth,” Cline said. He said Chatham’s positioning next to the Research Triangle sets it up to be a place of refuge from the hustle and bustle of a metro area, while also booming in its own right.

Aside from the geography, Cline said the biggest reason he expects the growth to continue beyond this decade is economic development possibilities accompanying projects like carmaker VinFast at Triangle Innovation Point and the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) site.

“We’re excited to change lives and we’re using a detailed approach to do it,” the EDC’s Smith said. “When you think about the economic opportunities we have available here it’s amazing. Now the hard part

begins.”

He said one major benefits of attracting a large company like VinFast is the job growth — both directly at the plant, expected to employ 7,500 people, and indirectly through suppliers and other employment. While he didn’t have an exact figure for how many indirect jobs VinFast would create, Smith said he anticipates it will be “dramatic.”

Rawl said he believes Chatham Park and neighboring developments will have some role to play in providing space and homes for the influx of people Chatham will see. While VinFast isn’t accelerating the process of building homes due to supply chain issues, Rawl did say transportation planning has been moved up.

“What we are accelerating is transportation plans to build the Chatham Parkway with a northern station right past the dam over U.S. Hwy. 15-501 to the south section which is a seven and a half mile road,” Rawl said. “We hope to provide a four-lane road in the next five years.”

All this development and economic development, however, comes with negative externalities. For starters, there’s ongoing discussion about the challenges of finding

affordable housing in the area. Rawl said Chatham Park was one of the first times in his career he’s grappled with that question. Chatham Park has agreed to make 7.5% of homes in Chatham Park qualify as “affordable” housing — roughly 1,600 units in the development. Rawl said 40 of those units will be delivered inside Mosaic within the next 12 months.

Chatham Park agreed housing is considered affordable is when a homeowner is contributing 30% or less of their income toward the home. For example, if someone earned \$30,000 annually, then \$9,000 of that would go toward the mortgage or rent payment. Rawl said Chatham Park has also stipulated affordable units must remain classified as affordable for at least 30 years.

The Area Median Income, or AMI of Chatham County, is \$86,400 for a family of four — meaning that same family of four would be expected to contribute \$27,250 per year toward their home, according to the Chatham County Housing Trust Fund.

CCHTF, however, differs from Rawl’s definition of affordable. The organization says affordable housing is defined as being affordable to households with annu-



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Michael Smith, the president of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, speaks to the audience during the ‘Corridors of Opportunity’ panel last Thursday at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

al incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income, meaning that a family of four would be expected to contribute \$69,120 to their home.

The affordable housing crisis is exacerbated when examining the differences between the eastern and western part of the state, according to Cline. He said the eastern part of the county is growing at a much faster rate, and with a higher income.

According to the Census, the median income of areas near Siler City is about \$34,000 while areas near Pittsboro are about \$100,000.

Cline also said 81% of the growth in the county over the past decade has come in the eastern part of the county near Pittsboro. The growth over the past decade now accounts for 40% of the total Chatham County population.

These factors make the question of what is affordable much more difficult in Chatham. And, according to Plan Chatham’s community profile from 2017, that question is only going to get more difficult over time as estimates for 2031 show disparities across the county increasing, with the highest Census tract having median household income 294% greater than the lowest.

With the growth over the past decade showing no signs of slowing, panelists also discussed balancing the needs of both future and current residents. Howard said it is one of the big policy challenges facing Chatham County.

“What brought me to Chatham was that there was a quiet and a calm to life,” Howard said. “There was a community that embraced people and it was a welcoming place to raise a family. In conversations about Chatham Park we told them we wanted to make Chatham County a place people wanted to be.”

She said for a long time, Chatham has been seen as a community for people to live, but then commute to places like Wake and Orange counties — but now that’s changing.

“We need to spend our tax dollars on things that matter to people that are here right now,” Howard said. “We do need long range plans to meet the demand that’s coming, but we also need to be able to serve our current community ... our investment, our conversation, our policies of now will benefit the future.”

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



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

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Courtesy of Warner Bros.

Austin Butler stars in 'Elvis.'

THE CN+R REVIEW | 'ELVIS'

Bloated 'Elvis' isn't perfect, but still a great show

Besides being an uproariously funny film, "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story" is a piercing parody of the celebrity musician biopic, ribbing the rags to riches, ruination, and finally redemption formula found in "Walk the Line," "Ray," "Respect," and innumerable other genre pics. It lampoons an effective yet straightforward narrative approach that makes for serviceable but not necessarily transcendent cinema.

Anything the least bit straightforward is the last thing expected from a Baz Luhrmann film, particularly about a subject as iconic and impactful as Elvis Presley. "Elvis," the Australian director's first feature film since 2013's "The Great Gatsby," is an immersive, bombastic fever dream that relentlessly conveys Presley's immense talent, audacity, and cultural complexity. Yet while the film is sensorily splendid, it is also narratively unambitious, from its linear approach to its framing device. Luhrmann offers a terrific hagiography that, given the filmmakers' aesthetic, also feels like a missed opportunity.

"Elvis" is cursorily rendered from the perspective of an aging Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks), Presley's longtime and (in)famous manager, while on his deathbed. It is a half-hearted perspective held together by an even more regrettable reliance on the Dutch-born Parker's clipped voiceover narration throughout the film. Still, while Hanks is not the showy headliner, his performance ably marries Parker's charming whimsy with his endemic deceit.

The film's chapters open with Parker's discovery of Presley (Austin Butler) while managing a 1950s circus and Hank Snow roadshow. Sporting a pink suit, pout, and pompadour, Presley's powerhouse voice and hip gyrations transform as an audience of proper Southern Belles into an orgasmic throng, overtaken by impulses even they do not seem to grasp, to the visible re-approval of their men. It is the film's most audacious and breathtaking scene, a peek at Luhrman's storytelling aplomb.

The screenplay by Luhrman and Jeremy Doner settles longtime accusations of cultural appropriation by presenting Presley as a product and ally of his hometown black community in Tupelo, Mississippi, from its clubs to its churches. It shows Presley as reverential of rhythm and blues and holding sincere friendships with Memphis contemporaries like B.B. King (Kelvin Harrison Jr.), Sister Rosetta Tharpe (Yola Quartey), and Little Richard (Alton Mason), who see in Presley a white man who can take their music further than they will ever be allowed. It is here that Luhrman also briefly blends classic soul with hints of modern Hip Hop, evoking his approach to the soundtrack for "Moulin Rouge!"

Parker is credited with elevating Presley from a regional sensation to international acclaim, brokering his record deal with RCA Victor in 1955. From there, "Elvis" dutifully proceeds through Presley's run-ins with the moral police and Parker's consequential effort to transform Presley into an All-American boy, including enlisting in the Army, his marriage to Priscilla Wagner (Olivia

ELVIS

GRADE: B

DIRECTOR: Baz Luhrmann

STARRING: Austin Butler, Tom Hanks, Olivia DeJonge, Helen Thompson, and Richard Roxburgh

MPAA RATING: PG-13

RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 39 min.

DeJonge), and a string of popular but milquetoast movie projects. Beginning with his 1968 TV comeback special, Presley forces his way back onto the stage, a move that a disapproving Parker eventually parlays to his financial benefit. It proves a Faustian bargain that allows Presley to return to acclaim and his musical roots, but at the expense of an increasingly shopworn Las Vegas residency and a descent into exhaustion and pills that will ultimately kill him, all enabled by Parker's duplicity and Presley's weak-willed father, Vernon (Richard Roxburgh). Luhrman's overemphasis on Parker is amplified by a surprising lack of development around Presley's complicated relationship with Priscilla and his daughter, Lisa Marie.

For all its peaks and ebbs, one unassailable highlight of "Elvis" is Butler's lead performance. Butler channels the King's countenance, dance moves, and early singing voice. He effectively captures Presley's youthful exuberance and rebelliousness, and then his metamorphosis into a talented, yet world-weary and anachronistic showman. While "Elvis" doesn't realize its full potential or choose the proper context, its emotional resonance sneaks up on you, culminating with a visual segue from Butler into footage of the actual Elvis powering through a rendition of "Unchained Melody" during one of his final stage appearances.

Like Presley's latter day Vegas concerts, "Elvis" isn't perfect but is still one heck of a show.



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

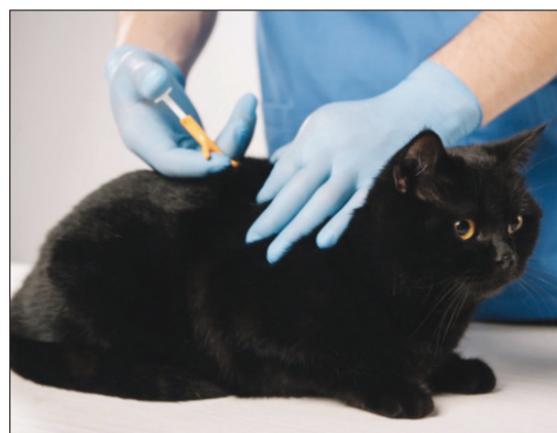
Key to the city

Kirk Bradley poses with his mother, Patricia, after receiving the key to the city from Sanford's mayor and city council on June 21. Bradley, who developed Governors' Club and Pittsboro's Mosaic project, was reconized for his contributions to Sanford's growth and development.

It's important to microchip your pet. Here's why.

From Chatham Animal Rescue & Education

Microchips are a common form of permanent identification for both dogs and cats. Collars and rabies tags help identify your pet. But they can fall off or become difficult to read over time. Therefore, having your pets microchipped greatly increases the chances that they will be returned to you if they are lost or stolen.



Courtesy of CARE

A microchip being inserted between the shoulder blades of a cat.

Microchipped dogs are more likely to be returned to their owners. A research study was conducted

with 7,700 stray animals at animal shelters. For example, dogs that did not have microchips were



Courtesy of CARE

A dog is scanned for a microchip.

returned to their owners only 21.9% of the time. Dogs that were microchipped were returned

home 52.2% of the time. Pets may be microchipped at your local veterinarian. Chatham

Animal Rescue & Education (CARE) periodically offers low-cost microchipping clinics. More information about upcoming clinics can be found by visiting chathamanimalrescue.org.

CARE also offers low-cost (\$20 co-pay) spay and neuter surgeries through its program, Lillie's Fund. The co-pay includes the surgery, pain medications, vaccines and microchipping. For an application to spay or neuter your pet, visit chathamanimalrescue.org or call 919-542-5757. Please note that until July 31st, three female pets per household may be spayed for free (no co-pays required).

What is a microchip?
A microchip is a small, electronic chip about the size of a grain of rice. Each microchip has a unique identification number that is detected when a scanner is passed over the microchip. It does not require power or a battery.

What happens when my pet has a microchip inserted?
A microchip is inserted under the skin between the pet's shoulder blades by a veterinarian. It is similar to a usual injection and does not require surgery or anesthesia. Microchipping your pet also does not change their appearance.

How does a microchip help my pet if he or she goes missing?
Microchips only contain identification numbers and are not GPS or tracking devices. If your pet is found and taken to an animal shelter or a veterinary clinic, he or she will be scanned for a microchip. A pet who has a registered microchip with updated contact information is more likely to be identified and returned to their owner. Instructions on how to register your pet's microchip are provided when your pet is microchipped.
According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), mi-



Happy Independence Day

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Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

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SURE, THAT'S BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG YOU STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.

WELL, YOU ARE SUPER OLD, SO YOU MUST UNDERSTAND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING!

ACTUALLY, AT MY AGE THE WORLD JUST Baffles ME.

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

BORN TO RUN BUT STUCK IN TRAFFIC!

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN'S TOUR BUS SOMEWHERE ON THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

I WAS ONCE KIDNAPPED BY A BUNCH OF MIMES.

HOW'D THEY TREAT YOU?

THEY DID UNSPEAKABLE THINGS TO ME.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

THE GOOD NEWS IS BASED ON WHAT I SEE HERE YOU DEFINITELY WON'T HAVE TIME TO RETURN TO WORK TODAY.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

INITIAL CONDITIONS

ACROSS

1 Nineveh's empire
8 Its capital is Kampala
14 12-step affiliate group
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22 Ketchup ingredient
23 It's used for outlining designs in embroidery
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58 Oman locale
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72 "Finally finished!"
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77 Ares or Eros
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79 Misfortunes
83 The U.S. State Department, informally
85 Sultry
86 Puffer
87 Casual tops
88 Fancy playing marble
89 Even break
91 "... — do say so myself"
93 "In all probability ..."

96 Warned
97 Bird that flies near the ocean's surface
102 Utter failure
103 Military base
104 "The best is — come"
106 Ancient rival of Athens
111 Became inseparable
112 Apt question for this puzzle
115 Northern Spanish city
116 Actress de Ravin of "Roswell" and "Lost"
117 Pain greatly
118 Person ripping things
119 Key in anew
120 Dwellers around Peru's peaks

12 Yuletide mo.
13 "Harold and Maude" director Hal
14 When it's 1600 hours
15 "Blaze" actress
16 "Scenes From —" (Bette Midler film)
17 "And Bingo was his —"
18 New Mexico county
19 From Oslo's country, to its natives
24 Toll rd.
29 "Number 10" painter Mark
31 Stockings, say
33 Classic soda
34 Jr.-year exam
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36 — -Rooter
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38 Dinosaur in "Toy Story"
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44 Fizzy wine, in brief
45 Walt Whitman's "— the Body Electric"

46 Fencer's attack
47 Jason of "Bad Teacher"
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51 Doughnut or bagel's shape
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55 Place to dissect a frog
56 Blue shade
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60 Caesar of old comedy
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64 Crusoe creator
65 Platoon VIP
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68 Idling position
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91 Hinder
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95 "The Office" character
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86																	86		
87																		88	
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120																			

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

B	A	S	T	E		F	B	I		C	L	O	G	S		A	T	S	E	A		
O	C	H	E	R		A	R	M	S		D	E	P	O	T		P	O	E	M	S	
W	H	E	N	A	P	R	O	D	S		U	C	T	I	S	A	T	O	N	E	S	
L	Y	E	S		A	R	O	O	M		O	F	T		B	A	R	E				
P	E	A	R		K	N	O	C	K	O	F	F	T	H	A	T	I	S				
E	N	D		P	R	O	L	E		A	L	I	T		Y	O	D	E	L	S		
L	O	O	K	H	E	R	E		J	U	L		S	L	Y							
S	O	G	O	D	I	T	S	A	L	M	O	S	T		A	S	S	A	Y			
E	N	S	O	R		S	L	R		F	O	O	L		E	H	L	E				
I	A	N		A	F	T	A		S	P	Y	G	L	A	S	S						
I	N	D	I	S	T	I	N	G	U	I	S	H	A	B	L	E	F	R	O	M		
P	A	L	O	M	I	N	O		L	E	I	A		Y	E	T						
A	M	I	N		T	E	A	M		T	I	N		S	O	R	T	S				
D	E	I	S	T		T	H	E	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	W	H	A	T		
R	E	Y		D	O	E	S		G	A	S	O	L	I	N	E						
S	T	E	P	O	N		S	I	N	E		C	H	E	W	S		N	S	W		
M	I	G	H	T	Y	O	U	C	A	L	L	I	T		I	T	B	E				
A	R	G	O		A	P	O		U	R		U	N	G	A	R		E	L	M	O	
C	A	N	E	S		A	F	O	R	M	I	D	A	B	L	E	F	A	U	X		
K	N	O	B	S		R	E	L	E	A	S	E	M	E		M	O	N	T	E		
S	A	G	E	T		T	R	E	A	D		R	E	D		O	G	D	E	N		

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Pictured: Cathy Baker



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MAGIC MAZE

WORDS WITH ACHEs AND PAINs

J R O L J B G D P A X V S P N
 K D I S S E L N I A P A P F C
 A X E V S L Q E O O I L J H E
B A C H E L O R A S D N C A X
 V E T R C Y P P N C E L E J H
 F D A B Y A X V N T H H R D P
 O M K C I C O I G I C E C E D
 B Z X N H H W R U A A T D A R
 Q O F N L E J I P G T P F D C
 A U Y X W V S A T P T S S R P
 L O S T N I A P E C A F N L K

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: **Five-Letter European Country**

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Acheson | Bachelor | Face paint | Painless |
| Apache | Beaches | Paine | Paints |
| Approached | Bellyache | Pained | Papain |
| Attached | Bleached | Painful | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9	7					5
6				1				4
8	4				3	7		
		3		2			9	1
1			4			5		
	6					5		8
		8				7		4
	9		3	5				7
2				8			6	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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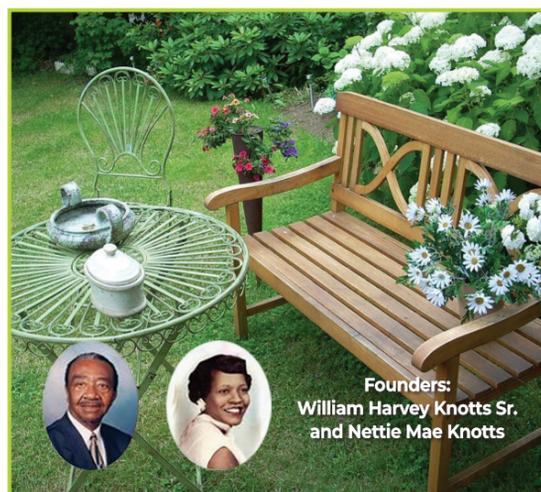
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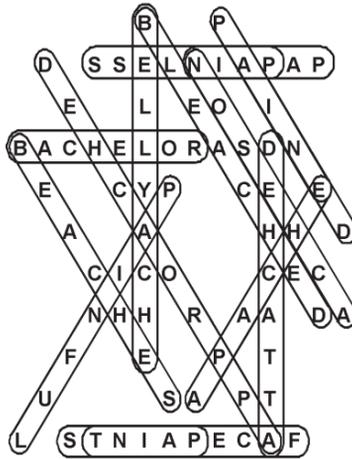
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WORDS WITH ACHES
AND PAINS



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	2	9	7	4	6	1	8	5
6	7	5	8	1	2	3	4	9
8	4	1	5	9	3	7	2	6
7	5	3	6	2	8	4	9	1
1	8	2	4	3	9	5	6	7
9	6	4	1	7	5	2	3	8
5	3	8	2	6	7	9	1	4
4	9	6	3	5	1	8	7	2
2	1	7	9	8	4	6	5	3

Chad's Lady Visitor's Cake

Gentle Reader, the other day I yelled at a co-worker in the middle of our show-room. I know; it surprised the heck out of me, too. I have never, in all the co-workers I've had, yelled at a colleague in lo, these many centuries I've been alive.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Unless it was something like, "Over here, I'm open!" or "Over here, I've found your car keys!" Before I tell you what or why, I'll tell you how. This was with a co-worker I've never mentioned before to you, Chad. Chad and I had an encounter that made me angry. I had walked away from it, doing that thing. (You know, that thing where you keep getting angrier, and begin crafting the perfect response, that if you're like me, takes a couple of minutes after the walking away. In France they do it too, and



Chad's lady visitor coffee cake.

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

call it "Staircase wit.") So, here's where the problem starts. I walked upstairs and then came back down, which took a couple of minutes. And guess who, just as I polished the last, shade-filled, tea spillin'-ist syllable, did I run into? Yup. Chad. And I wound up, and — well, not really yelled, but spoke loudly and firmly, just like you do in your head 10 minutes later — "Why don't I give

you half of my cars this month, so that you don't have to waste time figuring out how to get them from me?" It was true, unkind, but devastatingly witty. And it felt just as good as it's does in your imagination. Still does, frankly. And, I think, among my co-workers, it conferred a modest amount upon me something known as "street cred." He didn't look at me or speak to me for a week. Then he began speak-

ing, but kept his eyes averted. He has been *extreeeeemly* polite to me since. Chad has a friend staying at his place. Turns out she made him a cake. Didn't seem right to have a piece, since we just had a beef. People were raving. I looked at that cake for 11 hours Gentle Reader, IT. WAS. CAKE. So here it is. Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

Coffee Cake. Literally.

Chad's lady friend doubled the frosting, and sprinkled salt with a heavy hand, which was perfect. Recipe from Ree Drummond
12 servings
PREP TIME: 15 mins
COOK TIME: 20 mins
TOTAL TIME: 35 mins

1/4 tsp. Salt
2 sticks Butter
3 tbsp. Instant Coffee Crystals
1/2 c. Buttermilk
2 whole Eggs
1 tsp. Baking Soda
2 tsp. Vanilla

FOR THE CAKE

2 c. Flour
2 c. Sugar

FOR THE ICING

1 1/2 Stick Butter
1 lb. Powdered Sugar
2 tbsp. Instant Coffee Crystals
1/4 tsp. Salt
4 tbsp. Heavy Cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two round baking pans. In a large bowl, mix sugar, flour, and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Set aside. Melt 2 sticks of butter in a pot over medium-low heat. While that's melting, add 3 tablespoons instant coffee to 1 cup boiling water. Set aside. Once butter has melted, add coffee mixture to the butter in the pot. Let it come to a boil for about 10 seconds, then turn off the heat. Set aside for just a minute. In a separate bowl, add buttermilk, eggs, baking soda, and vanilla. Mix until well combined. Pour the butter/coffee mixture into the flour mixture. Stir the mixture together gently. The purpose here isn't to mix it together perfectly, but to cool down the heat before adding the egg mixture. Add in the egg mixture and stir gently until well combined. Then pour into pans. Bake for 20 to 22 minutes or until set. Allow to cool completely. Combine all icing ingredients, then ice the cake. Chill for an hour before serving.

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

LAFF - A - DAY



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