

Chatham News + Record

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A TENANT FOR THE CAM SITE?

1,800 new jobs may be on the way to Chatham County

Proposed N.C. budget includes a \$112.5 million appropriation for an economic development project here

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The proposed North Carolina state budget has opened speculation about a potential occupant for Siler City's 1,802-acre Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) megasite.

Reporting from Axios Raleigh revealed Durham-based semiconductor maker Wolf-speed, formerly Cree, may expand into Chatham County with a boost from a new state incentive package.

Local officials haven't confirmed that speculation, but

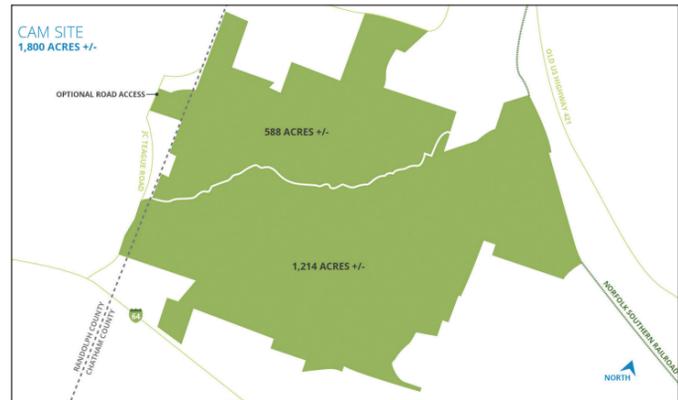
the proposed state budget, released last Tuesday, includes a \$112.5 million appropriation for an economic development project in Chatham County, which includes a stipulation for at least \$4.8 billion in investment and 1,800 new jobs.

The funding would be split between \$57.5 million to reimburse the unnamed business for site work and wetlands mitigation and \$55 million to the city of Asheboro for water infrastructure improvements. The funding is part of N.C.'s Job Development Investment Grant program, which is performance-based and requires

companies to meet hiring and investment targets before the incentives kick in. The money is intended to "significantly help offset the cost of locating or expanding a facility in the state," according to the N.C. Dept. of Commerce.

Similar JDIG funding was instrumental in helping the state and Chatham attract VinFast, the Vietnamese electric vehicle manufacturer which chose the county's Triangle Innovation Point (TIP) site back in March. VinFast plans a manufacturing facility at the TIP site that will

See **JOBS**, page A6



Courtesy Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site
Map illustrating the Chatham-Siler Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) megasite just north of U.S. Hwy. 64.

'KIND OF LIKE MAGIC'

New Down Town Café hopes to become a staple in Siler City

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Last Thursday morning, like most days of the week, Down Town Café was bustling. The smell of home fries and sizzling bacon wafted through the diner as the allure of German chocolate cakes beckoned potential customers inside from the windows.

On that day, open seats didn't stay open long — much to the delight of owner Sherrie Hatfield, who said heavy traffic had been the rule since she opened the restaurant in early June.

Down Town Café opened to the public at 113 W. Raleigh St. in downtown Siler City June 8; the restaurant held its official ribbon-cutting ceremony last Thursday.

"I want to thank everybody that has come out to support me," Hatfield told guests at the ceremony. "This has been a dream of mine for a very long time."

Hatfield has worked in the hospitality industry for more than 30 years in everything from dish-washing, to grocery store



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

The new Down Town Café held its official ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate its opening last Thursday in downtown Siler City. The new café serves a variety of breakfast and lunch foods, along with various desserts.

delis, to waitressing. Down Town Café is the first time she's owned and operated her own establishment. She co-owns the restaurant with her business and personal partner, Jarrod Mashburn. She said they hope to be part of Siler

City for many years to come by providing a comfortable dining experience for people of all ages.

"We plan to be around for a long time," Hatfield said. "We are just



so grateful to be part of the revitalization of downtown Siler City."

The restaurant serves a variety of classic American breakfast and lunch options including omelettes, biscuits, and a variety of breakfast and lunch sandwiches. The café also aims to be affordable with all regular menu items under \$10.

See **CAFÉ**, page A3

Pittsboro to accept 'distressed' community designation

Board votes unanimously to move forward with N.C. Viable Utility program

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town's board of commissioners voted unanimously Thursday to become a part of North Carolina's Viable Utility program, which could provide Pittsboro with grant money — potentially in the millions — to help address issues with its water and wastewater infrastructure challenges.

Town Manager Chris Kennedy and Mayor Cindy Perry received a letter from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality on June 21, stating its water quality department concluded Pittsboro was considered a "distressed community" in regard to its water and wastewater capacity.

The Viable Utility program "provides funding to build a path toward viable utility systems using long-term solutions for distressed water and wastewater units in North Carolina," according to the NCDEQ website.

A distressed unit is defined to be "a public water system or wastewater system operated by a local government unit exhibiting signs of failure to identify or address those financial or operating needs necessary to enable that system to become or to remain a local government unit generating sufficient revenues to adequately fund management and operations, personnel, appropriate levels of maintenance, and reinvestment that facilitate the provision of reliable water or wastewater services."

See **UTILITY**, page A3

Chatham education advocates say Leandro funding is necessary to improve schools

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

The North Carolina General Assembly unveiled its proposed state budget last week, which includes funding for teacher pay raises and an increase in funding for public schools.

Education advocates say, however, the funding doesn't go nearly far enough because it still falls short of the Leandro plan.

Every Child NC, a group which advocates for the multi-year Leandro plan — a court-mandated set of funding and policy recommendations to give all students access to "sound, basic" schools promised by the state constitution — said this budget only funds about half of what is called for in the plan for the fiscal year. At a press conference out-

side the Legislative Building in Raleigh last week, the group said the proposed budget misses the mark by \$443 million.

Local education advocates in Chatham County agree with the concerns raised by Every Child NC about the need to fund Leandro as soon as possible. They say the continued failure to fund the Leandro plan puts unnecessary pressure on Chatham politicians to fill the gaps left by the state.

The Leandro plan deals with a lawsuit initially filed in 1994 by five low-income school districts to get additional state funding. In the original case, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled the state constitution guarantees every child "an opportunity to receive a sound, basic education," and the state was failing to meet that obligation.

"Chatham will continue to have a

choice in how we respond to North Carolina's unwillingness to fund our schools at their mandated level," said Jaime Detzi, executive director of Chatham Education Foundation. "We can continue to supplement the funds the state gives Chatham and add the additional personnel and resources required to meet our student needs or — and this is what we fear — is that at some point, the Chatham tax base will not be able to keep up with supplemental school funding and our students, teachers and residents will suffer the consequences, even more than we are seeing today."

What is Leandro?

In 2020, Superior Court Judge David Lee adopted a multi-year plan from California-based WestEd — an education

consulting firm aimed at improving school equity. The plan from WestEd is designed to provide every student with access to high-quality teachers and principals.

The plan includes expansion of Pre-K, more money for lower-income districts and higher pay for educators. In November, Lee ordered the state to transfer \$1.75 billion to fund the next two years of the Leandro plan, as written by WestEd.

Later, a N.C. Court of Appeals panel blocked the order from being enforced because it found the court could not mandate spending. Superior Court Judge Michael Robinson, a registered Republican, was later named to replace Lee, a registered Democrat, after the

See **LEANDRO**, page A9

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 Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 18, at Wren Memorial Library's multi-purpose room. The meeting will also be available on Zoom.
- **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet for a work session 2 p.m. and regular session at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 18, at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro
- **The Chatham County Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 18, at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro
- **The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 25, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. The meeting will be livestreamed on the town's YouTube channel.
- **THE ART OF SEWING FOR YOUTH** Summer Program is set for July 11 to 21 for youth ages 12 to 16 to be held at the CCCC Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro. Youth will learn the art and craft of sewing, starting with the fundamentals of sewing including understanding and using their sewing machine, selecting fabrics, different needles, threads, patterns, sewing safety, and the best tools to get started. Learn more about this CCCC youth summer camp at www.cccc.edu/ecd/find-classes/. To register or for more information on this program, contact: Beverly Diniz, 919-545-8663, bdini752@ccc.edu.
- **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.
- In recognition of Muslim-American Heritage Month in July, **Chatham Community Library** will host a virtual film screening of *The Mosque of Morgantown* (2009), free and open to the public: Thursday, July 14 and Thursday, July 21, Virtual Program: Access to the virtual screening will be available by visiting: <https://vimeo.com/51630187> -- A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window. Residents may also visit the libraries' website www.chathamlibraries.org or contact the Library at (919) 545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for more information on this and other events and programs.

Wren Memorial Library in Siler City announce new programs and events for the Chatham County community to enjoy. The **Arts & Crafts** will continue 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** will continue 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** will continue 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 Library, individuals may contact wren@chathamlibraries.org or (919) 742-2016.

Chatham County Public Libraries are offering a virtual parenting workshop presented by Kris Hawkins, Parent Educator with Teen Health Connection. Designed for parents of preteens and teens, these sessions will address the basics of parenting teens, plus some in-depth discussion of today's hot topics. The two remaining workshops will take place on the fourth Tuesday in July, and August at 6 p.m. Parents may attend one part only. July 26: Active Parenting: Choice Within Limits - Choice is Power! The idea of collaborative parenting will be explored and how giving simple choices can head off power struggles and prepare teens to be good decision makers. - August 23: Active Parenting: Winning Cooperation - Parents will learn why sharing power with their teens is necessary, how it teaches them the very important lesson of working cooperatively with others and plays a vital role in developing and maintaining strong, positive parent-teen relationships where everyone wins. This virtual event is free, open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Participants should register online to receive the meeting link. Residents may visit the libraries' website, www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact Youth Services at (919) 545-8085 or youth.services@chathamlibraries.org for more information.

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 July 7 and 21 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.

How did you LAND here?



HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?

84 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

LAND (Representing Sellers) 32 Units

- 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)
- 0 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)
- 1456 Hadley Mill Road (28.353 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 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)
- 175 East Salisbury Street (Pittsboro)

COMMERCIAL (REPRESENTING BUYERS) 1 Units

- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 25 Units

- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 52 Gentle Winds Drive (Pittsboro)
- 1475 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 550 Callie Lane (Bear Creek)
- 3871 S. Plank Road (Sanford)
- 76 Millbrook Drive (Pittsboro)
- 5144 Rives Chapel Church Road (Slier City)
- 200 Valley View Lane (Pittsboro)
- 1822 Chandellay Drive (Durham)
- 5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)
- 4233 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)
- 130 Estes Drive (Chapel Hill)
- 117 Foxwood (Sanford)
- 1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Slier City)
- 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
- 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 745 Merl McManus Road (Bear Creek)
- 2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)
- 206 Olympia Street (Slier City)
- 8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)
- 488 NC 87 N (Pittsboro)
- 76 Fox Chapel Lane (Pittsboro)
- 354 A Mountain View (Pittsboro)
- 138 Oakwood Lane (Pittsboro)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 6 Units

- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 4513 Bumphus Road (Chapel Hill)
- 107 Hawks Spiral Way (Pittsboro)
- 85 Herndon Creek Way (Chapel Hill)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Slier City)
- 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

(Representing Sellers) 6 Units

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 0 Old Graham Road (161.97 Acres)
- 0 Moons Chapl Road (86.599 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague Road (23.1 Acres)
- 0 Alston Chapel Road (10.23 Acres)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 2 Units

- 218A Poplar Street (Chapel Hill)
- 390 New Salem Church Road (Pittsboro)

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

NEW TOPIC: Will Rising Interest Rates Affect Real Estate in North Carolina?



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



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For RWCP Property Management Call **Jennifer 919-545-9405**
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NEWS BRIEF

N.C. hemp industry gets reprieve, as legislation gets final OK

RALEIGH — North Carolina's hemp industry appears to have avoided a shutdown, as the General Assembly gave its final approval Wednesday to legislation that would make its products permanently exempt from the state's controlled substances law. The Senate voted 41-2 for a House measure that means the production and sale of industrial hemp and products derived from hemp like CBD can still be lawful. The bill now goes to Gov. Roy Cooper's desk for his expected signature. Without the approved language, North Carolina's industrial hemp program — approved in 2015 as a pilot and now operated through a federal production program — would have to shut down at the end of June. Making the hemp exception permanent would

allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue operating the program. There are more than 1,500 licensed hemp producers in the state, according to the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture. Both chambers had passed legislation containing the language, but House Republicans would not pass a broader Senate farm bill with the conforming hemp legislation. That "Farm Act" also received final legislative approval earlier Wednesday. Many GOP members remain suspicious of hemp and CBD products — as reflected in the fact that more than two dozen Republicans in the chamber voted against the hemp measure that got final approval. The legislation differentiates marijuana, which would still remain unlawful, from hemp and hemp products, which contain a very low amount of the chemical that gives the high to marijuana users. —CN+R staff reports

CORRECTION

A headline in a first-person News + Record story by Chatham County Public Health Department Director Mike Zelek about his son receiving a COVID-19 vaccine ("Here's what led us to decide to get

our 5-year-old son vaccinated," June 30-July 6) mistakenly identified Nico Zelek as age 5. The son of Mike Zelek and Jess Edwards is 22 months old. The News + Record regrets the error.

Chatham News + Record

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CAFÉ

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All of the cooking is done by Hatfield and her daughter, who also works in the restaurant. Hatfield said the recipes come from the food she makes at home.

Down Town Café's location on West Raleigh Street is in a space that has seen a number of different restaurants open and close over the last few years, including Artisan Hub and Hometown Grill.

Despite the space being restaurants in the past, Hatfield said she had to remodel much of the space including adding two new 150-gallon grease traps, additional walls and redoing the back of the building to make it usable for food prep.

"We had no equipment in here whatsoever," Hatfield said. "We basically started from scratch."

She said gutting and remodeling of the space took just six weeks to complete. Hatfield said the speed of the construction was possible because of "determination."

The space had been vacant for the past two years, but Hatfield said she believes she can buck the trend and create longevity in the space through a familial atmosphere.

"Whoever comes in my door will be considered family," Hatfield said. "Come enjoy, see what we're about and see what the differences are."

One of the ways Hatfield is making the space feel like family is by making it relentlessly local. She is employing 10 Siler City residents and took out loans from local banks.

"This is another amazing tool in the box that the town can use for the economic development of the downtown," said Siler City Mayor Chip Price. "It's going to draw people into the area to shop, eat and explore."

Price said it was refreshing to see the revitalization of downtown Siler City and interest in bringing business back to these once vacant spaces.

Hatfield was able to make this restaurant into a reality through her participation in Chatham Spark, an eight-week entrepreneurial program that the Chatham Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Central Carolina Community College, Chatham Small Business Center and Mountaire Farms. It's the first year of the program, and according to her mentors, Hatfield was one of the top participants.

"By the time the program finished, Sherrie was already hitting the ground running," said Cindy Poindexter, president of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce. "She had already secured her space and was ready to get her business open."

The new Siler City restaurant is the first business from the Spark program to open its brick-and-mortar location. Other businesses proposed during the program include a bakery, a clothing boutique and a woodworking shop.

It took Hatfield just three months to go from concept to opening her restaurant — practically unheard of in the hospitality industry, according to Phillip Pappas, the Small Business Center (SBC) Coordinator for Chatham County. Located at Central Carolina Community College's Pittsboro campus, the Chatham SBC offers free

information for commissioners.

"I sent her 13 questions on behalf of the town and board and sought feedback from those," Kennedy said during Thursday's special meeting. "There'll be a conversation of sorts, if needed, and then ultimately, action or action by inaction on a potential resolution for the board, to declare ourselves a distressed utility."

Commissioners originally had questions regarding the distressed designation and whether it would bring a negative stigma to the town. But according to an email sent by Kubaki to the town, the designation

simply allows for the town to become involved in the Viable Utility program.

"I thought one of her (Kubaki's) more poignant answers was that the state is trying to take the stigma away from being labeled, such that they really want to inject resources with grant funding in the millions of dollars," Kennedy said. "They want to see this as a positive — they want to take away the negative perspective of being called distressed. It's more of an injection of resources and support to allow us to potentially better run a utility."

After receiving the

state's explanation, commissioners began to feel more comfortable with voting in favor of the distressed designation.

"I read all of her answers, and those answers were sufficient," Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin said on Thursday. "They were definitely in response to a lot of the concerns I had, so I am pleased with the answers that she provided."

Perry, though, still had some questions. She said the only negative aspect of the designation was the unclear timeline for when the water utility would be seen as viable.

Kennedy said he believed that question cannot be answered since the

Viable Utility program has only been active for two years.

"If it had been enacted in 1986, I think I'd have more concerns about why no one had been removed from that label," he said. "But I suspect anybody who received that letter, maybe last year or the year before, is still working through some of these issues, working with the state ... As we are trying to carve our path and be more creative and more solution-oriented, I hope we can be one of those success stories that gets on and gets off as expeditiously as possible so others can follow our path."

The board asked

Kennedy to send a letter accepting the designation to NCDEQ. Commissioner Kyle Shipp said he was excited for what this program could mean for the future of Pittsboro's water and wastewater infrastructure as the community continues to grow.

"I agree with Commissioner Baldwin," he said. "I appreciate them getting us the answers back so quickly on the questions, and I think this is a unique opportunity for us."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theaden@chathamnr.com and on Twitter at @Heeden-Taylor.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Down Town Café owner and operator Sherrie Hatfield, center, cuts the official ribbon, commemorating the opening of her restaurant on Thursday in downtown Siler City. Mayor Chip Price (right) was also in attendance to celebrate.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Down Town Café's Sherrie Hatfield, left, cleans a condiment bottle behind the counter of the restaurant in downtown Siler City.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Assorted fudge sits on display of the back counter of Down Town Café on Thursday in downtown Siler City. The fudge was made by owner Sherrie Hatfield, who gave out samples to customers during the restaurant's grand opening.

confidential counseling services to anyone who wants to start or grow a small business. It's part of a network of SBCs across the state and the country.

"All the credit goes to Sherrie because she is incredibly hard-working," Pappas said. "I've never seen someone go from concept to opening so quickly. That is extraordinarily difficult."

The feat of efficiency was also accomplished as Hatfield worked full-time and completed her weekly three-hour Spark classes. Those classes included developing a detailed business plan and pitch for a group of business professionals.

"Sherrie certainly came prepared and had the ideas," Pappas said. "Spark just helped her with the business side of it."

According to Hatfield, the classes were eye-opening because they showed her the level of detail and bookkeeping necessary to run a business. After completing the course, she said seeing her efforts and sacrifices pay off was an emotional experience.

"I never thought I would be here, I really never thought I could be here," Hatfield said. "I did this through determination. I knew I wanted it and I had that fire burning. I couldn't do anything else until I got this done."

The new restaurant owner said the grit she put into getting Down Town Café open gave her a new perspective — now she's working for herself. In the future, Hatfield said she would love to see the space expand and pass the ownership of it along to her children.

"We want to carry on the legacy," Hatfield said with her 7-year-old daughter at her hip. "Opening this place was



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Poindexter, restaurant owner Sherrie Hatfield and Phillip Pappas, the Chatham County Small Business Center coordinator, stand in front of the Down Town Café in Siler City.

kind of like magic in a way, it couldn't have happened any better."

If there are other aspiring entrepreneurs out there also hoping to bring their big ideas to Siler City, Hatfield's message is simple: go for it. She said the fear of starting something new is worth it in the end because of the support she and other entrepreneurs received from the Chamber of Commerce and other town staff.

Down Town Café is currently open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday with daily specials and desserts. For more information call 919-542-3428.

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



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Customers sit at the front counter while cooks and servers work during the grand opening of Down Town Café last Thursday in downtown Siler City. The special of the day was pot roast.

UTILITY

Continued from page A1

During Monday's regular board meeting, commissioners were mostly supportive in moving forward with the acceptance of the designation, since it could lead to the town receiving additional funds to help address shortcomings in the municipal wastewater facility's capacity.

But some unanswered questions from Monday's discussion prompted the commissioners to call for, and hold, a special meeting Thursday, which provided time for Kennedy to contact Susan Kubaki of NCDEQ to get additional

VIEWPOINTS

THE CN+R EDITORIAL | THE NEW COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

County's health 'report card' is worth your read

The 300-plus page Chatham County Community Assessment isn't light reading, but perusing it and considering its findings is worth your time. And because it highlights some of the most significant challenges faced by the county and its residents, it's worth paying attention to.

The Assessment is published every three years. It's a collaborative project of the Chatham Health Alliance, the Chatham County Public Health Department and Chatham Hospital and serves, among other things, to document the well-being of Chatham County and its residents.

It's an invaluable tool that identifies pain points, if you will, in the county — areas and aspects of life in Chatham where hardships happen. It helps officials in health-related fields understand the needs that exist in the community, the underlying factors contributing to problems and the availability of resources to make improvements.

The full report can be found on the county's website at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/60843>. We encourage you to read it; in the meanwhile, here are some of the more notable findings in this most recent Community Assessment — most of which, if you've read previous Assessments or have been paying attention to what's happening here, are disappointingly familiar:

- the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the health and well-being of Chatham and its residents in a wide variety of ways
- systemic racism, a historic problem that has persisted in many ways, continues to drive health inequities here
- priorities identified in earlier Community Assessments — key challenges targeted in earlier studies — remain concerns. Among them: access to health care, healthy eating and active living, and economic resilience

Chatham's robust growth and development, while creating a myriad of economic opportunities, will also create its own unique set of challenges

Data findings from research done in preparation for the report plainly show that, despite the high quality of life in Chatham County, too many of its residents face areas of distress. Among the most significant of those:

- 3 in 10 households face barriers to proper health care
- about 1 in 10 residents don't have health insurance. Those numbers are skewed heavily by non- and foreign-born citizens (58% and 39%, respectively) and those living in poverty (25%)
- 1 in 11 adults don't have a health care provider, mostly because of lack of health insurance — meaning, when they got sick, they have no regular provider to turn to for care
- significant financial stresses are real for many residents. One in three say lack of money is a primary source of stress.

Nearly 8,000 live at or below the national poverty line, with Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx residents making up a disproportional number (four times as likely as others) of those

healthy living is still an obstacle, with more than one-third of residents dealing with obesity or weight issues (34%, up from 29% in 2018), and with 32% of high school students overweight. Not engaging in exercise or physical activity is far too common, with two-thirds of residents saying they're either too busy or too tired to do so

That's a lot to be concerned about, and that's just the key findings. The Chatham Health Alliance, according to the Assessment, has identified three areas of strategic focus for its subcommittees right now: mental health and substance abuse, transportation, and employment.

Among those, the mental health indicators in Chatham are the most troubling. Mental

health indicators, perhaps as expected, worsened since the 2018 Assessment. The percentage of residents reporting "high" levels of day-to-day stress and those who report "fair" or "poor" mental health increased marginally, but the number of residents experiencing anxiety or depression jumped significantly, from 20% to a full one-third (33%). Drug and alcohol use is up, as are unintentional overdose deaths, which have jumped "substantially."

Clearly, there are opportunities for improvement, particularly in the gaps between Chatham's "haves" and "have nots," and for those residents who willingly, or through circumstance, make (sometimes exceedingly) poor choices.

The Assessment is in some ways, a health "report card" for the county and its people. As stakeholders, we should all know what it says. The News + Record will be following up on the report with a series of related stories about its findings; stay tuned.

Road trip to Pittsburgh

I drove U.S. Hwy. 15-501 to Interstate 64 to U.S. Hwy. 421 north — all roads that were very familiar to me from growing up in the Tar Heel State and living here for the past four years. In order to break the monotony of this eight-hour drive to Pittsburgh, I decided to go old school and flip on the FM radio. I found a Top 40 station and boogied down the road, chuckling at that part of myself griping about the kids these days who don't play their own instruments. And thinking, "When did grunge music become classic rock?"

I took U.S. Hwy. 52 across the state line into Virginia and past the billboard declaring "Virginia is for Lovers." This is the state where I was married and our three kids were born. At the rest stop, another family's toddler plopped down on the asphalt and refused to go any farther, causing my fellow father to sigh, "But we're almost there!" I was sympathetic to his plight, but unlike him, I still had a long way to go on my trip.

On Interstate 77, still driving north, I let my mind drift east, along the New River in Virginia — ironically the oldest river in the U.S. — and the previous church I served, which was named after the Dublin across the pond. I remembered the babies I baptized in a holy trickle, who are now immersed in childhood, and the older people I still love, now buried in the old churchyard.

After going through a tunnel, I realized I was now in "Wild and Wonderful" West Virginia. I made a game of counting the Jesus and strip club billboards. The tally was even until six signs in a row, all for Jesus, tipped the balance right outside of Craigsville. Ironically, Craig is my father's name. Eight years earlier, he and I drove the same U.S. Hwy. 19 on our way to see the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Chicago Cubs play baseball.

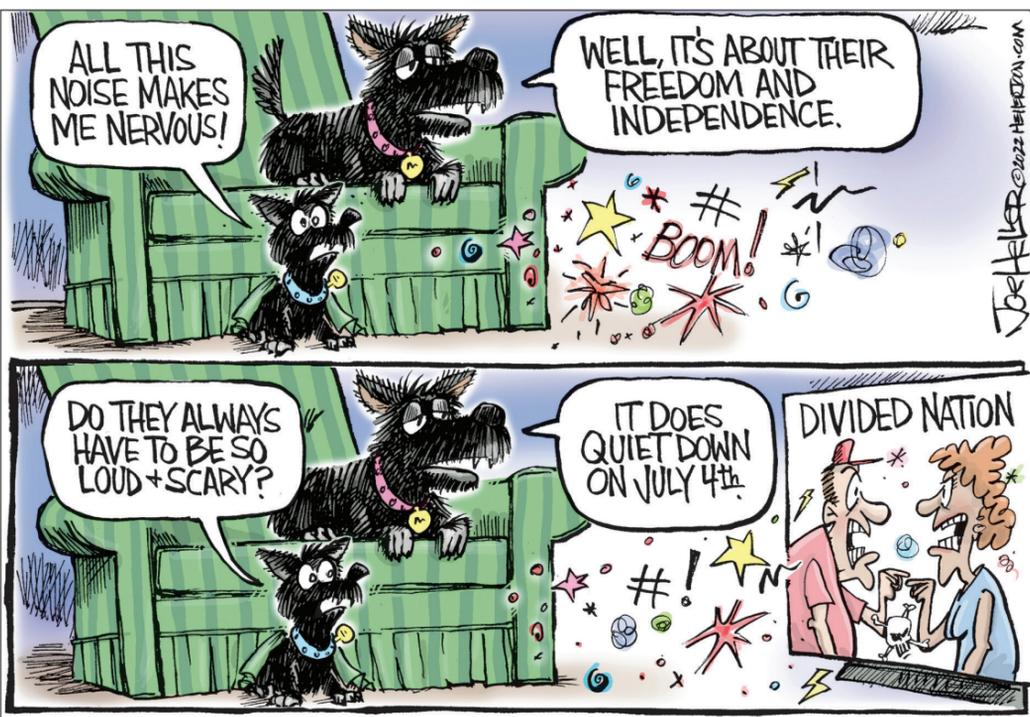
I went back to the radio: "Not everything is beautiful in the world, but there is beauty in it." Even the banal sounds lovely in the voice of Fiona Ritchie, host of "The Thistle & Shamrock" on NPR, which played a wee bit of songs from the old country on one of West Virginia's public radio stations. Then I heard a familiar Beatles tune, but this blackbird flew in Gaelic! The song was written during the struggle for Civil Rights, and I thought about how far our country had come and how far we still had to go.

With the sun setting behind the green hills, I finally crossed the Pennsylvania state line. Heading north on Interstate 79, I thought about my country — this land that I love, from its superhighways to dirt roads, bustling downtowns to busted-down barns. These supposedly united states are now so divided and full of hostility.

Yet, for all its faults and complexities, its contradictions and cruelties, my country is still the grandiose idea of liberty and justice for all. In 1630, John Winthrop caught this vision when he proclaimed, "We shall be as a city on a hill."

Almost 400 years later, I took the North Shore exit under the Fort Pitt tunnel, which opened to a view of the Steel City's towering skyscrapers, all aglow. I was glad for the journey and hopeful for the way ahead.

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."



Holidays and special days come in all sizes

Someone — or several someones — have created a calendar that has a holiday on every day.

For instance, May 11 might be "National Be Kind to Yellow Cats Day" or Oct. 19 is "Eat a Cheeseburger With Peanut Butter Day." Funny, maybe even silly, but no real harm done.

But those all pale when stacked against "real" holidays — religious, civic or otherwise. There is no substitute for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, or even the Fourth of July, which we just celebrated.

They've taken on different forms and traditions through the years for numerous reasons. For instance, July 4 once was a big deal in many places, especially in Small Town, USA. In my childhood days, we had day-long community celebrations of hot dogs, ice cream, baseball games, games for little folks, political speeches, parades and so forth.

There's not so much of that anymore in our nation — we've become too sophisticated.

Politicians seek to divide us, nutritionists tell us hot dogs aren't good for us, PETA says we shouldn't

chase a greasy pig, and safety experts tell us we shouldn't be climbing greasy poles. Far better is it for us to do all these things virtually or at a Zoom gathering. I always thought "zoom" was what Superman did in the sky or how I rode my bicycle down the dirt road between Allen and Hazel Money's house and the one where Mal and Ruby White lived.

While some things change, we still have those holidays after a fashion. But this year, a new perspective about holidays dawned on me — while all folks have some in common, there are others that are unique to each of us. While they aren't a holiday to the general public, they're important to every individual.

The one I speak of here was 89 years ago — July 1, 1933, to be specific — my parents' wedding anniversary. They were young; Dad was 21 and Mama only 15. Today that would be a crime, especially since they, like so many Depression-era couples, ran off to Bennettsville, S.C., just across the state line where you could do such things. They took another young couple with them as witnesses.

On returning home, Dad knocked on the door of his in-law's place

and inquired of his father-in-law, "Should I run?" To that, the man who would become my grandpa 15 years later said, "I think you've run enough, Frank. Come on in."

He did. And they worked it out for almost 60 years. Today, as I look at old photos, I try to imagine and understand that they were once young, a phase of life I've passed by myself some time ago. When I read through some of the letters between my parents, written when my dad was working in another state, I feel as if I'm eavesdropping. They might blush, but I think they'd forgive me.

It's been said holidays serve as reminders, ways to stay grounded and appreciative. I'm pretty sure that's what July 1 does for me. I hope you've got some "special days" on your heart, if not on the calendar. Celebrating them can be mighty good for a body.

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 bhorne3@chathamnr.com; or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

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VIEWPOINTS

Voter ID should have been settled

Movie sequels are almost always worse than the original films. Notable exceptions, such as this summer's "Top Gun: Maverick," merely prove the rule. For every "Empire Strikes Back," there's a "Highlander 2: The Quickening," "Halloween Kills," and "Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol."

If efforts to enact a voter-identification requirement in North Carolina were a motion-picture franchise, the current box-office bomb would be titled something like "Carolina ID 5: Voters Against Democracy." Its baldly implausible plot is that self-styled defenders of democracy have gone to court to overturn a voter-ID requirement added to the state constitution by a voter referendum. "Let the will



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

of the majority prevail," warns one of the supposed protagonists, "and that will destroy democracy!"

As I have argued many times, an overwhelming preponderance of evidence shows little-to-no effect of ID requirements on voter turnout. In other words, progressives are mistaken when they claim such rules constitute voter suppression. By the same token, conservatives are mistaken when they claim voter fraud would be rampant without ID requirements. (If true, imposing such a requirement should significantly reduce the number of ballots cast. But that has never happened.)

In reality, the types of misbehavior to which voter IDs pose a barrier or deterrent — impersonation fraud, most obviously, but also residency fraud — are rare but hardly nonexistent. Although nearly all electoral outcomes involve margins far too large to be determined by fraud, a handful of illegal votes could be decisive in some local races or extreme circum-

stances. As long as requirements are clearly stated and citizens without an ID receive state assistance to get one, the policy is reasonable. Its modest benefits, in the form of public confidence in elections and greater convenience for those previously lacking IDs, easily surpass its modest costs.

Such arguments should have settled the matter years ago. In 2013, the General Assembly enacted an election-law bill that included voter ID among its provisions. Republican Pat McCrory, then governor, signed it into law.

Progressive plaintiffs sued in federal court. They lost at the trial court. U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder concluded that however debatable the bill's merits might be, there was no evidence of discriminatory intent or other violations of federal laws or constitutional provisions.

The plaintiffs appealed. In 2016, a three-judge panel of the Fourth Court of Appeals tossed aside Schroeder's findings of fact — itself a rare and ques-

tionable act — and famously proclaimed that the bill's provisions "target African Americans with almost surgical precision."

I bet you have heard that phrase many times since. But it never had any basis in fact. And it should never have been the last word.

McCrory, House Speaker Tim Moore, and Senate Leader Phil Berger assumed that the state would appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. They had every reason to expect — and subsequent decisions in other cases have buttressed their expectation — that the Supreme Court would have overturned the Fourth Circuit and allowed North Carolina's voter-ID rule to take effect.

Roy Cooper defeated McCrory to become governor. He and his Democratic replacement as attorney general, Josh Stein, surely agreed with the Republicans that the state would likely prevail on appeal. So they sabotaged North Carolina's case. They refused to appeal. Moore and Berger tried to

do it themselves, using their own counsel, but the justices were apparently unsure who was representing whom and declined to accept it.

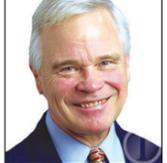
Cooper and Stein have never received the scorn they deserve for their misbehavior. Nevertheless, I also hold the U.S. Supreme Court responsible for failing to sort the matter out properly back in 2017. Fortunately, they've now done so in yet another installment in the franchise — perhaps Carolina ID 6: Disorder in the Court — by recently issuing an 8-1 decision affirming Moore and Berger's right to hire legal representation on the state's behalf in yet another voter ID case.

The justices should have accepted that argument back in 2017. It would have saved us from some truly dreadful sequels.

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).

Smithfield's turnaround

In a colorful full-page ad in North Carolina newspapers last week, Smithfield Foods touted its commitment to the environment.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

It announced that good "doesn't stop with our products — it's in everything we do. From our bold goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 30% across our U.S. value chain and become carbon negative in our U.S. economy-owned operations by 2030, two innovative programs under way to reduce waste and energy use, we're committed to ensuring you not only

taste the difference in Smithfield, but that we make one too."

Is this the same Smithfield that was responsible for hog farms in eastern North Carolina that crowded thousands of animals into extreme confinement and ruined the lives of families who lived nearby?

The answer is yes. This change in Smithfield's approach has been dramatic, but was not automatic.

It took lawsuits — a lot of them — against Smithfield and the operators of the hog farming facilities. These lawsuits were vigorously opposed by Smithfield.

The recent Smithfield advertisement features Kraig Westerbeek, vice president of renewals, who "leads efforts in North Carolina and beyond to lessen our environmental impact."

Ironically, Westerbeek is an important character in a new book about Smithfield and about lawsuits that it thought it could win, but that instead brought about the changes outlined in the advertisement published in newspapers last week.

The litigation is chronicled in "Wastelands: The True Story of Farm Country on Trial" by Corban Addison. The book shows how a small but representative group of plaintiffs with property adjoining or near Smithfield hog raising facilities brought the company to its knees.

In a foreword to "Wastelands," famed author John Grisham writes that the book "is the uplifting, round-by-round true story of a bunch of rural plaintiffs with no money and seemingly little hope, and the lawyers who smelled injustice and went to war on their behalf. In terms of pure storytelling this book has all the crucial elements that writers of fiction constantly struggle to find."

First, according to Grisham, there is the tort, the wrongdoing, the pollution. There is the unregulated, wholesale destruction of property values and quality of life by 2000 commercial hog farms in eastern North Carolina.

Second, there are "the sympathetic victims, the five hundred or so small landowners unlucky enough to have their lives ruined by massive hog farms next door."

Third, there are "the delightfully evil bad guys" of "Big Pork."

Fourth, there are the lawyers, led by Salisbury's Mona Lisa Wallace, "who step into the ring and battle against heavy odds," gaining one big verdict and even bigger settlements.

Grisham continues admiringly, "Never in my most creative moments could I have assembled such a colorful and memorable cast of characters, and then blessed them with so riveting a set of facts, and then guided them through the ins and outs and uncertainties of high-stakes litigation."

"Beautifully written, impeccably researched and told with the air of suspense that few writers can handle, 'Wastelands' is a story I wish I had written."

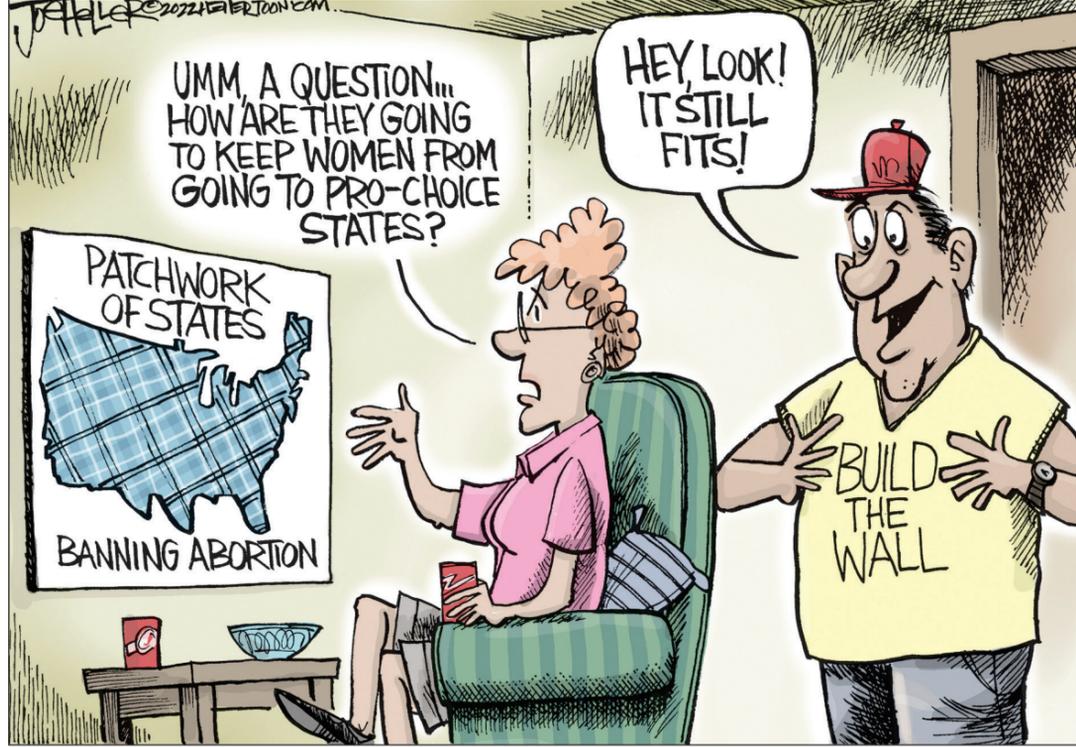
One key piece of the "Wastelands" story is how the group of lawyers that Wallace assembled put together this cast of hundreds of small landowners whose lives and properties had been ruined by the operation of Smithfield and its predecessors.

Another key is how the lawyers turned the landowners' stories into winning lawsuits against Smithfield.

In a later column about "Wastelands," we will see how this was done.

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

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



Elections really do matter

There's not much middle ground regarding the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. I've listened to some praising our justices as well as others, usually louder, vilifying them. But after the rhetoric wanes a bit there is one common ground on



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

which most all can agree: elections matter.

As often as not, the focus turns to the U.S. Supreme Court and the power of a president to nominate potential justices. Donald Trump appointed three, enough to determine the outcome of the latest abortion decision.

Abortion will be on the ballot in North Carolina's U.S. Senate contest between former Republican Congressman Ted Budd and former Democratic N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley. Hoping to parlay current strong emotions against the decision into votes, Beasley proclaims that, if elected, she will join efforts to pass legislation allowing nationwide abortion. Budd is toeing the conservative Republican line in celebrating the court decision.

This race is tight. Recent polling has Budd with a narrow four-point lead. The question becomes who can energize the voters to turn out. November is many months away and emotions may wane. While important, the major issue in this race is control of the Senate. Democrats now hold a razor-thin plurality in the Senate and our contest could be the swing vote. It's already an expensive and nasty fight.

It is unknown how the recent court decision might impact all 14 congressional races in our state. Democrats will try to arouse the abortion sentiment

but the economy will be a major focus by Republican candidates. Again, North Carolina's congressional races could be pivotal in determining which party controls the U.S. House.

We also cannot predict whether the Roe decision will have an impact on critical appellate court elections in our state. Two Democratic justices on the N.C. Supreme Court have terms expiring this year. Judge Robin Hudson chose not to run for another term because she is nearing the mandatory retirement age. Democrat Lucy Inman and Republican Richard Dietz, both judges on the Court of Appeals, will be vying for Hudson's seat. Incumbent justice Sam Ervin IV will be facing Republican Trey Allen for the other seat. Democrats now hold a slim 4-3 plurality on the high court. A single Republican win could result in a tie vote on crucial verdicts and if Democrats lose both seats, partisan control of the court swings Republican. There was a time when party affiliation was not so important in verdict outcomes, but that time has passed.

In addition, four of our 15 Court of Appeals seats are up for grabs. Lower court rulings are appealed to this level, with three-judge panels assigned to consider each case. Partisan rulings on this court are not usually as noticeable, but party affiliations in the makeup of those panels sometimes determine who wins or loses. If Democrats have a strong year it could lessen the current Republican 10-5 plurality.

I cannot pass up the opportunity to once again proclaim that the election of North Carolina appellate court judges is archaic, promotes partisan divisions and does not serve justice. As things now stand, voters readily admit they do not know the qualifications or records of those on the ballot; their primary determi-

nant appears to be party affiliation.

How does this serve justice? It doesn't. Justice isn't blind, no matter how much we want to believe it to be.

Lower down the ballot, but equally important, is the election of all 170 members of our General Assembly. It matters which party has more numbers because that party selects leadership. More significantly, the margin of that plurality is important. North Carolina currently has a governor of one party and the majority of both our House and Senate of another party. In mid-term elections, the party of the sitting president usually loses many seats.

Consider the consequences regarding abortion: North Carolina still allows abortions to take place, but Republican leadership is already indicating that if they retain control of the legislature next year, they intend to revisit those laws. You have to know that Governor Roy Cooper will veto any serious changes, so the numbers of that plurality become the real determinant. If Republicans have veto-proof or three-fifths majorities, they can override his veto. If not, his decision will be sustained. Cooper has issued more vetoes than any previous governor and since 2018, the last mid-term wave election, all have been upheld.

Who will have the passion? Who will raise the most money and get out the vote? As we said at the beginning of this piece, elections matter ... and never more so than this year.

The decisions are in our hands.

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.

2021 Chatham County Community Assessment Report released to public

From Chatham County Government

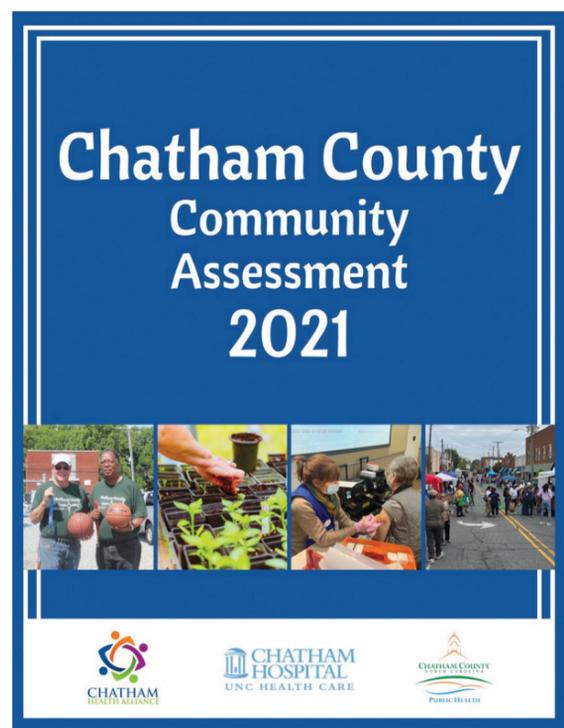
PITTSBORO — After several months of surveys, phone calls, research, Story Circles, writing, and editing, the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment report is now live and available for public viewing.

The report can be found online at www.chathamcountync.gov/healthreports, with the executive summary available in both English and Spanish.

The Assessment is a project of the Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD), Chatham Health Alliance, and Chatham Hospital, and is produced every three years. Previously called the Community Health Assessment, the Community Assessment documents important information related to health and well-being in Chatham County, covering topics including health insurance, affordable housing, internet access, mental health, substance use, transportation, poverty, healthy eating and active living, employment, income, maternal health and much more.

The CCPHD has been posting data from the report online at www.facebook.com/chathamhealth over the last few weeks and will continue to do so in the coming weeks.

“This year’s Community Assessment provides a wealth of information about Chatham County that everyone can learn from,” said Michael Zelek, director of the Chatham County Public Health Department. “Like many organizations and agencies, we



Courtesy of Chatham County

The cover of the just-released Community Assessment.

use this information to direct our focus, plan programs, track progress and secure grant funding. I am grateful to the Assessment team that put together such a wonderful report, centered around equity.

“The Chatham Health Alliance is excited for this report to be published,” said Lara Kehle, Chair of the Chatham Health Alliance. “We hope that community members see this data and respond with action. If they need a place to start, they can join the Alliance and help us make Chatham County a healthier place to live, work and play.”

“Chatham Hospital is thrilled to have worked with the Chatham Health Alliance on this community assessment,” said Eric Wolak,

Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Officer of Chatham Hospital. “As the only acute care facility in Chatham County, this assessment helps us tremendously in understanding what the community needs and wants from us. We look forward to working with the Chatham Health Alliance on finding some solutions to some of these complex issues.”

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



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

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCE HUB
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

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



NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Siler City Police Department makes operational changes

CN+R Staff Reports

SILER CITY — The Siler City Police Department implemented a number of operational changes last Friday, including limiting lobby hours and discontinuing accepting service calls through the Siler City department.

The department will continue to provide police services to the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The department’s lobby will be open to the public for administrative services 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., Monday through Friday, but closed weekends and town holidays.

Additionally, the police department will discontinue being the agency dispatching officers to calls for service. All emergency calls and non-emergency calls are now dispatched from the Chatham County 911 center. Residents should report emergencies by calling 911 and can place non-emergency calls and request informational services by calling 919-542-2911.

“This operational change will streamline methods of reporting, dispatching police services, improving response times while continuing to enhance communications and safety issues,” Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner said.

Wagner said one of the reasons for the administrative change is to ensure officers are able to respond efficiently and quickly.

“People are still using our main number to the police department to request police services and emergency services, which is clearly out of date and not safe,” he said. “If someone calls 911, the dispatch center that we’re going to simply just dispatches to us, and we dispatch to our officers, which adds a level of communication in there, and that decreases our response time. So it’s

all about efficiency and better serving the public.”

Other municipalities in the state have transferred their dispatching services to their respective counties call centers, according to Wagner, and it has had a positive impact on those towns’ response times.

Not only will the transfer to Chatham’s dispatch center help with response times, but it will also save money for Siler City, according to the police chief.

“The dispatch center is very costly and takes a lot to staff it fully,” Wagner said. “In my three years here, we’ve always had a shortage in that area, as far as being able to staff it fully. So there is some taxpayer money that’s been reallocated to other services, which I think is a good stewardship of taxpayer money.”

The police department lobby now will be closed during town holidays and will be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays. Wagner said this won’t impact police services — they will continue to operate on a 24/7 schedule.

“The town is still the primary law enforcement agency for the town, not the Sheriff’s Office,” Wagner said. “We just want to ensure now as we move forward with reorganization in other departments, we want to continue to make sure that we are meeting the needs of our community and the decisions we make are just based upon like jurisdictions and best practices.”

More information about the Siler City Police Department can be found at www.silercity.org and more information about Chatham County Emergency Communications can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/911.

Reporter Taylor Heeden contributed to this story.

OBITUARIES

HAZEL 'PAT' PATTERSON STONE

February 15, 1935 ~ July 1, 2022

Hazel "Pat" Patterson Stone, 87, of Siler City passed away on July 1, 2022 at her home.

Pat was the daughter of Glover K. and Ella Frances Nordan Patterson. Mrs. Stone began her career at Dolly Madison Beauty Shop. Later in life, she became the owner and operator of Pat's Beauty Shop. She attended Troutman Beauty School and was a member of Loves Creek Baptist

Church where she was in the Ladies Sunday School Class as well as a member of the church choir. Pat loved gardening, cooking, going to Windy Hill, and was an avid Carolina Tar Heel fan. In her free time, Pat volunteered at the Coventry House where she would lead bingo. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jim W. Stone Sr.; son, Jim "Jimmy" Stone Jr.; brothers, James C. Patterson, Carl Patterson, and Nelson Patterson; and sister, Lois Allen.

Pat is survived by her daughter Pattie Stone Turner and husband Steve of Jamestown; grandchildren, Justin Stone, Jared Stone, Hannah Rhem (Adam), Leah Turner, Micah Turner; and brother, Lee Patterson of Sanford.

The family received friends on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Loves Creek Baptist Church. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. with Rev. Kenny Black officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

The family would like to specially thank Jeanne Lamb, Alexis Quinn, Crystal Hurlley, Selena Alston, Von Ferrar, Brittney Hart, and several others for the special care that they gave to Pat.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Loves Creek Baptist Church, 1745 E. 11th St. Siler City, N.C. 27344.

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

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is serving the Stone family.

HERMAN RICHARD NEAL

August 18, 1930 ~ July 2, 2022

Herman Richard Neal, 91, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, July 2, 2022.

He was born in Lee County on August 18, 1930, to the late William Henry Neal and Myrtle Eudera Brown Neal. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Mildred Knight Neal; sisters, Beverly McBride, Odessa Neal Oldham; brothers, Roy Neal, Lincoln Neal; and a son, Herman

Richard Neal, Jr. He was a true Christian man who graduated from Deep River School in 1949 and played many sports. He loved the UNC Tar Heels and Boston Red Sox. He never met a stranger. He enjoyed all the people he encountered along the way. He was a member of the Exchange Club and Moose Club. After 28 years, he retired as a Customer Service Manager for the Short Stop Corp.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Juanita Fowler Neal; a daughter, Loretta Neal Poe and James; a step-son, Dan Fowler and Joan; brothers, Clarence Neal and Rosa, Foster Neal and Nancy, Vance Neal and Deloris; sisters, Frances Neal Carter and Ralph Harrison, and Helen Patnode; seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Visitation was held Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 10 a.m. with funeral service beginning at 11 a.m. at St. Luke United Methodist Church. Dr. Calvin Sayles and Rev. Eddie Hill officiated. Burial followed in Lee Memory Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to Bright Focus Foundation for Macular Degeneration at 1-800-437-2423.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, Sanford. Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com

JOSEPH RICKY ST. DENIS

Joseph Ricky St. Denis, 69, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at Duke University Medical Center in Durham.

Celebration of life services will be held by the family.

Joseph was the son of Betty Lou Cavers St. Denis and Joseph Ernest St. Denis. He was preceded in death by his father and his brother, Robin St. Denis. A veteran of the United States Navy, he served in Vietnam; a registered nurse, he had a long career as a psychiatric and traveling nurse.

Surviving is his mother, Betty Lou St. Denis of Wesley Chapel, Florida; his wife, Gretchen Ann Bongort St. Denis of the home; daughters, Raegan St. Denis Ladenburger of Camp Verde, Arizona, and Aleah Salsman of Georgetown, Kentucky; sisters, Patricia St. Denis Forman of Wesley Chapel, Florida, Joanne St. Denis Johnson of Cadyville, N.Y.; and seven grandchildren.

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

PEARLIE MAE THOMPSON

April 25, 1942 ~ June 23, 2022

Pearlie Mae Thompson, 80, departed this life on June 23, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 7 p.m. at Calvary United Pentecostal Church with Rev. Steve Simpson officiating. She will be buried in Pinelawn Memorial Park, Farmingdale, N.Y.

Pearlie Mae was the daughter of the late Pete and Rosa Wright. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by sisters, Rosa Lee and Lorraine and four brothers, Arthur, Eddie, Peter and Wallace, and an infant grandson, Jeremiah and her husband, Gerald Thompson. Pearl worked for Montgomery Wards and later, she worked private care health care.

Survivors include her son, Robert Earl Wright; daughters, Monique Thompson and Unique Heyward; sisters, Ethel, Jeanette, Brenetta and Alberta, all of South Carolina; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JONATHAN BRAYDEN COTTON

October 28, 2000 ~ June 24, 2022

Jonathan Brayden Cotton, 21, of Sanford, passed away Friday, June 24, 2022, at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, July 2, 2022, at 11 a.m. at the John B. Thomas Gathering Place.

Brayden was a graduate of Lee County Senior High School and completed his Associates Degree at Central Carolina Community College. He then chose to enter the Marine Mechanic Program at Cape Fear Community College.

He is survived by his father, Clay DeMent of Wilmington; his mother, Kristy Cotton Frye of Sanford; and grandparents Phil and Brenda Cotton of Sanford.

In lieu of flowers, the family has set up a memorial for Jonathan Brayden Cotton. Donations can be made to Lee County High School (earmarked for baseball) and mailed to Lee County High School, 1708 Nash Street, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

GEORGE DAVID REAVES

April 1, 1936 ~ June 17, 2022

Deacon George David Reaves, 86, passed away Friday, June 17, 2022, in Durham.

His funeral service was held July 2, 2022 at Alston Chapel United Holy Church on Saturday at 1 p.m. with burial following in the church cemetery.

He was the son of the late Thomas and Della Reaves.

BARBARA LEE HILL

March 19, 1947 ~ June 25, 2022

Barbara "Big Sister" Lee Hill passed away on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at SECU Hospice Home in Pittsboro.

She was the daughter of the late James Lewis and Helen Hill.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 1, 2022, at St. Mark United Church of God.

LUCILLE PACE DOUGLAS

March 11, 1943 ~ June 27, 2022

Lucille Pace Douglas, 79, of Broadway, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, June 27, 2022.

There will be a graveside service at a later date.

She was the daughter of the late Howard and Dannie Haire Pace. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Gerald Wayne Douglas; brother Odell Pace, and sister Evelyn Cranford. Mrs. Douglas was the previous owner of House of Lights of Sanford.

Surviving relatives include a son, Jody Douglas of Broadway; a daughter, Jackie Douglas Adams of Wellesley, Massachusetts; brothers, Eldridge Pace, Edward Pace and H.T. Pace of Olivia; and four grandchildren.

There will be a graveside at a later date.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

NINA GRIMES HAIRE

June 23, 1935 ~ July 2, 2022

Nina Grimes Haire, 87, of Erwin, passed away Saturday, July 2, 2022, at the Harnett Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at the Erwin Memorial Park, with the Rev. Donald Haire and Tommy Futrell officiating.

She was the daughter of Everett Denson Grimes and Susie Catherine Barbour Grimes. She was a retired seamstress. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Andrew Haire.

Survivors include her son, Gary L. Riddle of Roseboro; sisters; Rhonda G. Melvin of Erwin, and Linda G. Faircloth of Virginia Beach, Virginia; brother, Stephen E. Grimes of Dunn; three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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

Rotary Club of Pittsboro celebrates year of growth, service

From the Rotary Club of Pittsboro

PITTSBORO — The Rotary Club of Pittsboro held its annual installation banquet on June 22, and had a lot to celebrate.

The club experienced a record year of membership, adding 17 new members since July 2021, for a total of 42 members. Pittsboro Rotary also coordinated and participated in more than 15 service projects throughout the community, including an ongoing Meals on Wheels route, art and school supply drives for local children, quarterly cleanup with Adopt A Highway, food collection and turkey donation to CORA, and participated in the Haw River Cleanup. The club also awarded three Chatham County seniors with \$1,000 scholarships. Fundraisers included the Pittsboro Street Fair Trike Race and virtual Bingo nights. And this year the club will be hosting the Pittsboro Street Fair October 29, which will become its largest fundraising event, for many years to come.

At the banquet, outgoing Rotary President Katie Walker passed the



Courtesy of the Rotary Club of Pittsboro

Rotarian of the Year Roger Saunders poses with Katie Walker, the outgoing President of Rotary Club of Pittsboro.

torch to Patrick Walsh, who will be president for the next year. She credits the Pittsboro business community for the club's successful year, and looks forward to the upcoming year under Wash's leadership.

"Having the opportunity to be part of this amazing team of people over the last year in the Rotary Club of Pitts-

boro has been an honor," said Walker. "Because of the awesome work done by our team of local business professionals, we have seen a year of rebuilding and tremendous growth for our club."

Walker also credits the growth of the club to Roger Saunders, who was honored as Rotarian of the Year. Saunders joined Rotary in February 2021 and hit the ground running — he is co-chairperson of the Membership Committee with past president Eric Williams, and also serves on the Speaker/Club Schedule Committee.

Saunders said that after his retirement in 2020 he was looking for a way to get involved, and after one Zoom meeting with Rotary he knew he'd found the perfect avenue for service.

"The values of Rotary resonate with me," Saunders said. "In the Pittsboro Club, I've found friends, networked with community professionals, and engaged in Club service through committees. I'm honored to be called a Rotarian."

"Eric (Williams) and Roger (Saunders) developed an organized system of attracting and onboarding new Rotarians, and Roger has been the driving

force in helping revive and rebuild our club since the height of COVID," Walker said. "Roger's leadership and dedication was unparalleled in the past year, and so deserving of the honor of Rotarian of the Year."

Cannolly Walker also received the Big Impact Award, for her unwavering passion for Rotary, and ensuring the club is represented not only in the Chatham community, but throughout Rotary's District 7690.

Current President Walsh is grateful for the opportunity to serve the club and the Pittsboro community and looks forward to the upcoming year.

"We are very fortunate to have many of the past presidents continuing to serve in leadership roles," said Walsh. "They have created a solid foundation for our young club, and this form of collective leadership is proving to be a strong asset in reaching our goals of service. I look forward to expanding the reach of Rotary to our community."

The Rotary Club of Pittsboro meets each Wednesday at noon at Postal Fish Company in Pittsboro. To learn more about the club, attend a meeting or visit www.facebook.com/rotarypbo.

NEWS BRIEFS

2 Central Carolina Community College youth camps to start July 11

PITTSBORO — Central Carolina Community College is starting its "Kids Cooking Class" from July 11-14 where kids aged post-kidergarten to 9 years old will learn to prepare simple meals. They will cook snacks, desserts and lunches and eat snacks that come included with the price of the camp. The camp will take place at CCCC Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro. Learn more about this CCCC summer youth camp at www.cccc.edu/ecd/find-classes/.

Another program set between July 11-21 is "The Art of Sewing for Youth" where children from the ages of 12-16 will learn the basics of sewing, understand and learn how to use a sewing machine. They will also learn to select fabrics, needles and threads, in addition to learning how to sew safely. This program will also take place at the CCCC Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro. Learn more about this CCCC youth summer camp at www.cccc.edu/ecd/find-classes/. To register or for more information, contact Beverly Diniz at 919-545-8663 or at bdini752@ccc.edu.

Sharon Dickens gets Edward Jones Award for exceptional achievement

Sharon Dickens of the financial services firm Edward Jones in North Chatham County recently earned the firm's Jack Phelan Award for her exceptional achievement in building client relationships.

Dickens was one of only 1,946 Edward Jones financial advisors to receive the Jack Phelan award.

The award is named after Jack Phelan who, after joining the firm in 1950, became one of the firm's first "TNT"

brokers, traveling the countryside Tuesday through Thursday, bringing investment advice to rural investors and contributing to the well-being of his clients, colleagues and community.

Dickens was presented with the award at the Edward Jones regional meeting at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville.

Edward Jones provides financial services in the U.S. and through its affiliate in Canada. The firm's nearly 19,000 financial advisors serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.7 trillion in client assets under care.

—CN+R staff reports

CHATHAM UTILITIES

Untreated wastewater discharged into Harlands Creek; minimal impact expected

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Public Utilities reported untreated wastewater discharge in Harlands Creek last week, but minimal damage was expected, officials say.

The discharge was reported Thursday morning, June 23. “County staff discovered the discharge at a manhole located along N.C. 64 Highway,” Chatham County Utilities said in a statement, “approximately 800 feet east of Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro.”

Utilities officials said the discharge was about 2,000 gallons, but the damage was lessened later that morning. Officials told the News + Record the pipe has since been completely repaired.

“The cause of the discharge was due to a pipe failure inside the manhole that overflowed,” Utilities officials

said in a statement. “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.”

Harlands Creek is a more than 10 mile-long tributary outside of Pittsboro which flows south to the Rocky River.

Chatham County previously had one other sanitary sewer overflow into a tributary of Harlands Creek, back on September 11, 2020. The discharge was about 3,000 gallons and was caused by pipe failure inside a manhole.

“The potential impact of this sewage discharge of 2,160 gallons to Harlands Creek is very minimal considering the low volume,” Chatham County Utilities Director Blake Mills told the News + Record. “The discharge was not directly into Harlands Creek. It was through

the top of the manhole, which entered a dry ditch that has to travel at least 1,200 feet to get to a tributary of Harlands Creek.”

Mills said the impact is measured using the potential number of gallons of sewage that would reach Harlands Creek as a result of the sanitary sewer overflow.

He said when utilities services found the overflow, it was immediately blocked with dirt.

“[We] used a vacuum pump to remove the standing water, removed from the site dirt that was exposed to the sewage and spread lime on the impacted areas which will act to neutralize the sewage,” Mills said.

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, contact Mills at



Photo via U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ESRI Project

A map showing Harlands Creek, the site of a recent raw sewage spill in Pittsboro.

919-542-8238.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can

be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.

Hispanic Liaison, other advocates file complaint over NCDDES language access discrimination

CN+R Staff Report

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Justice Center, American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, and Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy filed an administrative complaint June 29 on behalf of the Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County/El Vínculo Hispano.

The complaint, filed with the U.S. Dept. of Labor’s Office of Civil Rights (USDOL) against the N.C. Dept. of Commerce Division of Employment Security (NCDES) alleges inadequate language access for unemployment benefit claimants in North Carolina. The organizations request that USDOL investigate NCDES for violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI guarantees that persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access to federally funded services such as unemployment benefits. Failure to provide language access services is a form of national origin discrimination.

The complaint alleges that NCDES failed to provide a way for LEP unemployment benefits claimants to identify and request services in their primary language. According to the complaint, NCDES failed to provide equitable service for LEP claimants through their online, telephone, and written communication systems, failed to provide adequate staff training, and did not efficiently manage the claims process



CN+R file photo

Ilana Dubester, the founder and executive director of the Hispanic Liaison in Siler City.

for LEP applicants.

“Failure to provide meaningful language access has critical effects on the lives of people who need unemployment benefits and puts our immigrant communities at risk, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Michele Delgado, Staff Attorney with the ACLU of North Carolina. “We urge the North Carolina Division of Employment Security to completely translate all vital unemployment insurance documents and ensure processes are more equitable for all North Carolinians, regardless of the languages they use. As a state, North Carolina can and should do better.”

Although the significant increase in unemployment benefits applicants

during the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated language access barriers at NCDES, this is not the first time advocates have called attention to the agency’s failure to abide by Title VI. NCDES was formerly subject to a 2016 settlement agreement resulting from a Title VI investigation by USDOL.

After entering into the settlement agreement, NCDES later transitioned to a new online claimant portal that has yet to be adapted for LEP claimants, resulting in a failure to comply with many of the underlying issues identified in that settlement. The new online portal does not provide a way for individuals to complete tasks necessary to receive unemployment benefits in any language other than English. As a result, LEP clients must use the telephone line to conduct necessary business related to their unemployment benefits. Claimants experienced significant delays and holds when calling the telephone line, and received inconsistent services due to NCDES outsourcing its call center during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the telephone line still involves considerable delays while LEP clients await interpreters, and the automated phone system has limited menu options for non-English speakers.

Additionally, NCDES does not mail out documents in languages other than English, despite having translated copies of these documents. Clients who need a document in a language other

than English must seek it out on the NCDES website or call NCDES and wait for an interpreter to receive individualized information.

NCDES services are only provided through the online portal or phone system. LEP clients do not have the opportunity to go to a local office for in-person assistance.

The organizations involved with the complaint made repeated efforts to ensure that NCDES provide the legally required language access services, but the state agency has yet to rectify or expand its services for LEP claimants.

“NCDES has long been aware of their obligations to provide adequate language access,” said Carol Brooke, Senior Staff Attorney with the North Carolina Justice Center. “While under a settlement agreement with USDOL, NCDES revamped its online system without considering the needs of LEP individuals. We hope that this complaint will result in online and telephone systems accessible to speakers of high-frequency languages, training for staff, and complete translations of vital documents to ensure reasonable access to these vital benefits.”

For more information, contact Carol Brooke, senior attorney, North Carolina Justice Center, at carol@ncjustice.org, or Ilana Dubester, executive director, Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County/El Vínculo Hispano, at ilana@evhnc.org or 919-260-6210.

LEANDRO

Continued from page A1

panel ruling.

Robinson stepped back Lee’s ruling slightly last year by ruling last year’s state budget left the plan \$785 million short of being fully funded. Robinson also removed Lee’s requirement that the state treasurer, state controller and state budget director transfer the money to fund the plan.

The next step in the case is the state Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the case on August 29, including whether the courts can order the additional funding.

‘Disheartened’ by state budget

While Chatham County is not designated as one of the low-income districts to receive additional support, that doesn’t mean funding from the Leandro plan wouldn’t help the district.

According to EveryChild NC, Chatham County Schools would gain an additional \$18.7 million over three years. The advocacy organization has a calculator to examine the impact the additional funding could have on each district. For CCS, it would mean 46 more teacher assistants, five community school coordinators, 62 more nurses, psychologists, counselors and social workers, 140% more in textbooks, supplies and instructional materials and \$1,286/teacher

for professional development.

Overall, the funding from Leandro would represent a 32% increase in annual funding to CCS from the state.

CEF’s Detzi said the impact of the plan is clear, but the state is running out of time to make the necessary changes.

“Unless N.C. makes a quick and enormous investment in teacher pay, support personnel pay and increases the number of students entering N.C. colleges for the teaching profession, these funds will be worthless to districts,” Detzi said. “N.C. will have lost too many educators to other surrounding states and other professions that pay more for bachelor-level positions.”

According to the 2022 Teacher Working Conditions Survey, about 7.2% of teachers, librarians, school counselors, social workers and psychologists said their immediate plan was to quit education altogether, up from about 4% in 2020 and in 2018.

In Chatham County, 7.4% of the more than 750 educators who responded to the survey said they are considering leaving education. That’s part of why Detzi said it’s so important for the state to act and fund this plan.

“By continuing to decrease the importance of the role public education plays in the N.C. economy and society at large, the state will continue to lose teachers to surrounding states and families to states where public education is higher funded and of higher importance to the legislature,” Detzi said. “The

Chatham Education Foundation is disheartened that the state of N.C. refuses to fully fund the court-mandated Leandro plan and continues to underfund and undermine the public schools system in N.C. This year, the state has underfunded the Leandro plan by \$443 million on top of last year’s \$200 million.”

Beyond the numbers, Mary Kolek, the chairperson of CEF’s board of directors, said she believes the new budget is troubling because it doesn’t move the needle forward on any one particular issue.

“If your entire house infrastructure is old, outdated and has been neglected or patchworked, it is unwise to keep ordering cases of duct tape,” Kolek said. “Especially if you have more than enough in the coffers to make all the updates needed, as does N.C.”

The coffers Kolek is referring to are the estimated \$6 billion in cash reserves the state has on hand. She said the new budget underfunds education while placing increased emphasis and eligibility on voucher programs for charter schools.

Detzi said underfunding also puts more pressure on local legislators to fill in the gaps. While state accounts for most of the funding to public schools, anything not provided by the state is up to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

‘Do more if they have more’

The new Chatham County

education, but that’s because it generates higher than average tax revenues. Last month, the commissioners affirmed their dedication to funding public education by signing a resolution from EveryChild NC urging the General Assembly to fund Leandro.

Later in June, Karen Howard, the chairperson of the Chatham Commissioners, reaffirmed the board’s commitment to the cause by signing an amicus brief from the North Carolina Early Education Coalition.

“Leandro is an opportunity for our state to advance equity, change systems, and deliver on the promise of an opportunity for every child to fulfill their potential,” the brief said. “This is an investment that we can’t afford not to make. We stand in support of the court’s order to fulfill the obligation to provide every child with a sound, basic education beginning in early childhood.”

Logan said local tax revenues end up being the main determinant of how much locales are able to fund their respective school districts. He said he believes this ends up inhibiting access to a “sound, basic education.”

“Chatham is fortunate in what it is able to do,” Logan said. “But all school districts can use more, all school districts can do more if they have more.”

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

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FURNITURE UPHOLSTERERS NEEDED, Charter Furniture, Liberty, NC - \$2500 Signing bonus to those candidates who have a min. of 2 years furniture Upholstery 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. -- Position Summary: Upholster inside sections of furniture such as chairs and sofas, utilizing knowledge of upholstery materials and methods. Fit, install and secure material on frames, using hand tools, glue, cement, and/or staples. -- Duties/Responsibilities: Lists frame to be worked on and places it on workbench. Tack material along front rail. Place padding and material over seat springs and tack material onto frame to complete seat upholstery. Repeat operation to upholster arms. Place and shape layers of padding over inside back and tacks material to complete inside upholstery of product. May use grooved foam rubber padding and work excess material into grooves to produce channeled effect securing material with buttons using needle, thread and cotton. Inspect the overall quality of assembled product. Comply with all Health and Safety guidelines within the work place.. Maintain a clean and orderly work area. Perform other duties as required or assigned. -- Job Type: Full-Time, Pay: \$18.00 - \$35.00 per hour. Jy7,14,21,28,4tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY - POLICE OFFICER RECRUIT - Attends and successfully completes the Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) certification course at an accredited and approved educational institution of the Town of Siler City's choice according to the time-frame required. - Minimum Qualifications: Must be 20 years of age by the completion of Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET). Must have a high school diploma or high school equivalency and provide transcript. Must have a valid North Carolina driver's license and provide copy. Must be a US citizen and provide birth certificate or naturalization certificate. Must pass thorough background check, polygraph, physical, drug screen, and psychological. Must meet BLET Training program standards as established by the training institution. -- Minimum Requirements for Promotion to Police Officer, Must pass BLET course, Police Officer Physical Agility Test (POPAT), and state exam. Must pass in-house firearms qualification. Must meet requirements of the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. - Hiring Salary: \$16.95/hour to attend and complete all BLET requirements, Hiring Salary upon promotion to Police Officer: \$42,861 (plus education and bilingual incentives). Please visit www.silercity.org for a complete job description. -- To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required for consideration. The application may be found on our website at www.silercity.org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, psychological, polygraph, and thorough background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. - The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other

legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. - The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. -- This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. -- Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Jy7,1tc

HOMECARE SEEKING - Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides and Personal Care Assistants - Competitive Weekly Pay, CNA's start at \$12.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total Life Care, Call (919) 799-7275 or visit 106 Village Lake Rd., Ste. A, Siler City for more info or to apply. Jy7,14,21,28,4tc

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 \$2,500 payable in three installments as per the following: \$500 paid after 3 months of continuous employment, \$1,000 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, loveseats, and chairs; Assembles wood frames or sofas, loveseats and chairs using pneumatic staple guns; Positions pre-cut 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 pre-cut 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,Jy7,14,21,4tc

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 and Personal Care Assistants - Competitive Weekly Pay, CNA's start at \$12.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total Life Care, Call (919) 799-7275 or visit 106 Village Lake Rd., Ste. A, Siler City for more info or to apply. Jy7,14,21,28,4tc

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 \$2,500 payable in three installments as per the following: \$500 paid after 3 months of continuous employment, \$1,000 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, loveseats, and chairs; Assembles wood frames or sofas, loveseats and chairs using pneumatic staple guns; Positions pre-cut 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 pre-cut 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,Jy7,14,21,4tc

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

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 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 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

MISCELLANEOUS

LEGALS

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 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Samantha

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

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

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 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, 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Samantha

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Samantha

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Samantha

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Samantha

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.

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 persons 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 All persons having claims against **SANDRA M. ELIXSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are

Southern Supreme FRUITCAKE & more

Southern Supreme Fruitcake Co has openings for full time temporary positions in production areas. These positions are from August 2022 - December 2022. Interested applicants may apply between 10:00am - 4:00 pm Monday-Thursday at 1699 Hoyt Scott Road, Bear Creek NC 27207

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Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm for appointment to complete application and interview.
Pittsboro Christian Village
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

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

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 Whatley Law, PLLC PO Box 904 Kernersville, NC 27285 Jn30, Jy7, Jy14, Jy21, 4tp

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 27312
(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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 165

All persons having claims against **WILMA M. ROBINSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of July, 2022. Jamie Robinson, Executor 1513 Duet Dr. Siler City, N.C. 27344 Jy7, Jy14, Jy21, Jy28, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 371

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SHIRLEY C. STROWD**, late of Chatham County, North

Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 4041 Mt. Gilead Church Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 7th day of October, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 29th day of June, 2022.

John Wayne Strowd, Jr. 4041 Mt. Gilead Church Road Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC P. O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880 Jy7, Jy14, Jy21, Jy28, 4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 327

Having qualified as Executors of the Estate of **MARGIE LEE COLLINS HALLMAN** aka **MARGIE LEE HALLMAN**, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and

corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 7th day of July, 2022 Ira A. Hallman, Sr. and Timothy Lee Hallman, Executors of the Estate of **MARGIE LEE COLLINS HALLMAN** aka **MARGIE LEE HALLMAN** c/o Samuel Gray, P.O. Box 1381, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526 Jy7, Jy14, Jy21, Jy28, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ESTATE OF ALLEN MARK FEINBERG, 22-E-347

All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **ALLEN MARK FEINBERG**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on

or before October 7, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. Matthew Jon Feinberg, the fiduciary, is fully authorized to receive and administer all assets belonging to the estate. C/O Pierce Law Group PLLC 3020 S Miami Blvd, Ste 201 Durham, NC 27703 Jy7, Jy14, Jy21, Jy28, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 357

All persons having claims against **NANCY W. MCCOY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of July, 2022. Teresa M. Crumley, Executrix 759 Newbern Ave Asheboro, NC 27205 Jy7, Jy14, Jy21, Jy28, 4tp

‘YOU ARE SAFE HERE’

Chatham Hospital holds first Pride walk

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — As part of an ongoing effort to increase inclusivity, Chatham Hospital hosted its inaugural Pride walk last Thursday to show support for the LGBTQIA+ community.

A small group of 13 hospital staff members from various departments gathered in the lobby then walked outside in the sweltering heat around the perimeter of the hospital. As they marched, staff members held up signs with messages of support like “You are safe here,” “LGBTQ allies are the best” and “Trans lives matter.”

Although the turnout may have seemed small, participants said it gave them something to build on for the future.

Scott Wood, the healthcare system manager of patient access for Chatham Hospital, leads the hospital’s inclusivity and equity committee. He said he organized the march because he believes June — designated as Pride Month — provides dedicated time to be vocal about the support of the LGBTQ+ community.

“We are here to show solidarity with our fellow LGBTQIA+ coworkers, patients and community members,” Wood told his coworkers. “At Chatham Hospital our message is simple: you are safe here. Regardless of your age, race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or socioeconomic status you will receive equitable and passionate care that will be provided with dignity and respect.”

Wood said he wanted the hospital to do its part to support and uplift members of the LGBTQ+ community by spreading love.

According to estimates from the UCLA Williams Institute, more than 382,000 North Carolinians identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Last year, Chatham County voted to approve LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinances, becoming the 12th county in the state to do so. The ordinances ensure protections in private employment and places of public



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Chatham Hospital employees, led by Scott Wood, the healthcare system manager of patient access, take part in a Pride walk around the hospital buildings on Thursday in Siler City. Signs and ribbons supporting the LGBTQ+ community were handed out to participants.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Chatham Hospital’s Scott Wood poses for a photo with his pride sign after the hospital’s Pride walk on Thursday in Siler City.

accommodations — such as restaurants and businesses — from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

“Chatham Hospital is honored to outwardly demonstrate our full support and commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community,” said Eric Wolak, Chatham Hospital’s chief operating officer, in a statement. “Whether it is our LGBTQIA+ staff, our LGBTQIA+ patients, and/or loved ones of the



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

An LGBTQ+ pride flag is held by Scott Wood, Chatham Hospital’s healthcare system manager of patient access, as he speaks to participants of the Pride walk on Thursday in Siler City. Wood was one of the key organizers of the event and led the group in its walk.

LGBTQIA+ community, we want all to know that Chatham Hospital welcomes you and supports you.”

Earlier this year, Chatham Hospital and UNC Health Care were awarded for outstanding performance in health equity. Health equity means ensuring every person in every community can get the same

high-quality care regardless of individual characteristics, such as ethnicity, gender or geographic location.

UNC Rex Hospital was recognized as an Equality Leader and UNC Hospitals as a Top Performer in the Healthcare Equality Index measuring equity and inclusion of LGBTQ+ patients, visitors and

employees. Chatham Hospital earned a score of 90 out of 100 and was recognized as a 2022 Healthcare Equality Index participant.

Wood said hosting the Pride walk was about continuing those inclusivity efforts and creating a visible show of support.

“Across UNC Health Care, we all celebrate people for who they are, no matter their background, everybody is welcome,” Wood said. “UNC Health Care does an amazing job with diversity, equity and inclusion. They make sure everyone is represented.”

Following the march around the hospital, rainbow-themed refreshments were provided to those who participated. Wood said he believed it was a necessary way to take intentional time out of the work day to be together and show passion for this issue.

Alison Bolin, director of clinical business operations, was one of the participants in Thursday’s Pride walk. She’s worked at Chatham Hospital for 12 years, so seeing the hospital’s first-ever Pride event meant a lot to her.

“It’s important to show we are here for our community, employees and that we really are engaged in diversity and equity activities,” Bolin said. “More and more it’s important to embrace the communities we serve and give people an opportunity to be heard and be seen.”

She said working in healthcare makes equity work especially important because much of the hospital’s role is to care for people who begin as strangers to them. That means creating a space where everyone feels safe and cared for, regardless of their background.

“Our job is to care for anybody that comes through these doors,” Bolin said. “Each person has their individual care needs, our job is to be inclusive of all those aspects of a person’s life.”

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

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- ◆ No deductible, no annual maximum

Call today for all the details.
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Call now to get this FREE Information Kit!
dental50plus.com/chatham

Here's the information you requested on Dental Insurance

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438/B439. 6154-0120

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Seaforth sees more than 75 register for women's basketball camp aimed at learning skills, elevating voices



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Seaforth head women's basketball coach Charles Byrd walks around the gym as campers stretch during the final day of Seaforth's women's basketball youth summer camp last Friday.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — If you blinked when registration went live for one of Seaforth's most popular youth summer camps, there's a good chance you ended up on the waitlist.

That was the case for many people interested in signing up for the school's first-ever women's basketball summer camp, which became the first Seaforth youth camp to sell out during May's registration period.

"We really wanted to push it and we had all of the girls involved," Charles Byrd, Seaforth's second-year head women's basketball coach, told the News + Record. "We really

worked hard on the marketing and getting the word out to people because it's important to me that we get the camp filled up."

The camp, which took place in Seaforth's gymnasium from June 27-July 1, was a weeklong skills development workshop for children aged 6-14, led by most members of the school's basketball coaching staff, including Byrd.

"I think it was awesome," Byrd said. "I really, really wanted to hone in on the girls having a ton of energy. I wanted them to have a ton of fun, but I also wanted them to learn skills and drills that they could do. ... I think there was great energy around it."

To make things more enjoy-

able for the younger groups of campers, the counselors brought in a smaller basket and lowered some of the goals in Seaforth's main gym, but kept three goals at their standard 10-foot height for the camp's older attendees.

At the start of each day, campers would be divided into groups, where they'd go through a plethora of form drills, including ball-handling and passing, and then they'd move into what Byrd called "Skills of the Day," drills focused on specific skills like jump stops, one-dribble pull-ups and jab steps, each lasting about five minutes.

Following skill-based drills,

See **SEAFORTH**, page B2

Did the Big Ten just kill the ACC?

On the eve of a lengthy Independence Day weekend, a pair of universities and an overtly greedy conference made a decision that sent shockwaves across the college sports landscape.

Now, as a result, dozens of schools — including those in our own backyard — are about to feel game-changing repercussions.

Last Friday, California's two most prestigious athletic institutions, Southern California (USC) and UCLA, announced their intent to leave the Pac-12 Conference, their home for more than 90 years, in favor of the Big Ten.

It was a move that my colleague and the News + Record's resident California native, Ben Rappaport, discussed in detail in his column this week, giving his perspective as a USC fan vehemently against the financial gluttony of the schools' higher-ups.

On the surface, the Big Ten acquiring some of college basketball and football's most storied programs seems like it'd primarily affect only the parties that are directly involved:

- USC and UCLA, who get richer by getting a cut of the Big Ten's upcoming media rights deal that Sports Illustrated's Pat Forde likened to a "money geyser raining down on member schools"
- the Big Ten, which benefits by acquiring two of the most lucrative brands in college athletics
- the Pac-12, which is on the precipice of doom after losing its two most coveted members

However, USC and UCLA's departure — along with last summer's announcement of Texas and Oklahoma moving to the SEC, leaving the Big-12 Conference in the dark, too — has a ripple effect that spreads much further than the West Coast.

See **ACC**, page B2



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

'UP TO THE TEST'

Chargers making most of extra reps in latest 7-on-7 scrimmages



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood senior quarterback Will Smith tosses a pass, with assistant coach John Shaner watching, during the Chargers' 7-on-7 event last Thursday in Pittsboro. Smith is involved in what Head Coach Chris Kenan called 'one of the hottest quarterback battles in the state,' alongside junior Carson Fortunes.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — We're a little over a month away from Northwood's season-opening clash with Lee County on Aug. 19, but the Chargers aren't waiting until the Yellow Jackets come to town to take the gridiron.

Last week, Northwood hosted a pair of 7-on-7 scrimmage events, allowing Chargers players an opportunity to test their skills against schools from across the region and giving coaches an early look at their squads well before the season begins.

"I thought everything went well, it was good to see the guys compete against students in other uniforms," Chris Kenan, the Chargers' head coach, told the News + Record. "It was a good first look for our guys. It just gives us a measuring stick before we get into the nitty gritty of the summer."

Included in their opponents on June 28 were the Clayton Comets and the Fuquay-Varina Bengals, followed by the Pinecrest Patriots, Northern Durham Knights, Cary Imps and Bengals last Thursday.

Unlike normal organized games, 7-on-7 games are exactly what you'd expect: seven players from each team going head-to-head.

Games are 21 minutes long, with each offense starting at the 40-yard-line equipped with four downs to try and get a first down — which, unlike typical football, is 20 yards away from the original line of scrimmage instead of 10 — and then are given an additional

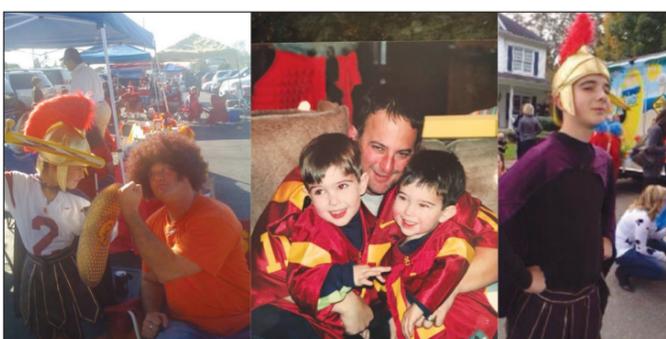
See **CHARGERS**, page B3

USC and UCLA to the Big Ten is the wrong move for college sports

Last Friday, the University of Southern California and the University of California-Los Angeles made a historic switch in their athletics programs from the Pac-12 Conference — a conference they've been part of since the 1920s — to the Big Ten Conference beginning in 2024. It's a decision based on greed that further harms the cultural greatness of college sports.

My father was an alumnus of USC and I grew up going to many football games at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Some of the first songs I ever knew were the So-Cal callout

BEN RAPPAPORT
Columnist



As a lifelong fan, Ben Rappaport donned USC Trojan garb throughout his childhood.

and the USC fight song. I used to show up to the games with my hair spiked in a mohawk and sprayed red while decked out in trojan armor to look like the mascot, Tommy Trojan.

I am and always will be a USC fan. That's part of what makes this move so disheartening to me.

Each school released lengthy statements explaining their logic behind the decision to move from the conference based on the Pacific Coast to one historically centered in the Midwest. Both touted name, image, likeness opportunities for incoming players. The schools said it would make

them more competitive in recruitment. But it doesn't take a genius to figure out the real driver of the decision: money.

Big Ten football alone currently has a \$2.65 billion TV deal; meanwhile, Pac-12 has seen declining ratings for the past decade.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the Pac-12 distributed only \$33.6 million to each of its member institutions in 2019-20. The Big Ten offered, on average, \$49.2 million that year to its 14 members, with the 12 longest-tenured institutions receiving on average \$54.3 million.

USC and UCLA see an opportunity to reap some of those benefits with each school estimated to make upward of \$80 million per year. After all, who doesn't want to watch a USC vs. Ohio State football

game every year? Or UCLA vs. Indiana in basketball? The conference switch sets up historic programs against one another every year, which means big ticket sales and TV deals.

But that's exactly the problem. The whole decision rides on the namesakes of these schools attempting to use that weight to make themselves richer.

The move is also entirely driven by the sports that generate the most revenue — basketball and football. There's been little discussion of what this sudden switch does to other sports. For example, USC has elite water polo and beach volleyball programs, but few if any schools in the Big Ten even compete in these sports. Not to mention the travel necessitated

See **SPORTS**, page B2

SEAFORTH

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the campers would take part in a skills competition and a “coach’s clinic,” where Byrd taught them different drills that they’re able to do at home on their own.

Then, when all of the drill work was over, they’d play scrimmage games.

As part of Byrd’s desire to make the camp more fun — and put everything they’d learned to the test — the camp’s final day featured the campers putting on multiple exhibition games, where parents could sit in the stands and spectate.

And the older group of players not only got to play in their own game, but do so on the school’s main court, wearing Seaforth’s basketball jerseys as they immersed themselves into the Hawks’ culture.

“It was a really great experience,” Byrd said. “I wanted the younger girls, the girls that are coming up, to see what it looks like to be a Seaforth Hawk.”

Byrd had help from an impressive group of assistant counselors, in-



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Everyone that made the Seaforth women’s basketball youth summer camp — players, coaches and other volunteers — pose for a group photo in the school’s main gym on the final day of camp last Friday.

cluding Hawks J.V. men’s basketball head coach John Berry — a coaching and youth camp veteran — who Byrd said helped him with his knowledge of structuring, preparing for and running a camp of this magnitude.

It was important to Byrd to have as small of a coach-to-player ratio as possible, allowing players to get more hands-on instruction that they may miss out on at larger basketball camps.

The final registration

tally, according to Byrd, was 76 — 51 attendees and 25 on the waitlist — a promising sign for the future of women’s basketball in Pittsboro.

“I tell parents that I really appreciate them buying into what we’re trying to do here and helping build a foundation, a stepping stone, for the girls that need their voices to be heard,” he added. “I really think it was big time, especially with a sport like basket-

ball. ... For that many girls to come together and play basketball, that was the biggest thing for me.”

While there was initially some worry about fitting so many campers into the gym and still keeping things structured, Byrd said he and his coaching staff got together a game plan that “worked out perfectly.”

Part of that game plan were the breaks in the action lasting anywhere from three to 15 minutes, where campers could not

only lay back and take a breather, but play games like Knockout, have free-throw competitions and even watch their lead counselor throw down a dunk or two.

“Pretty much every day, when I was showing them the drills, I would go up and dunk. I would show them the basics and I was like, ‘OK, you’ve got that, now you can do this,’ and just dunk,” Byrd said, laughing. “Then the girls of the camp would

get one of the girls from our program and say, ‘Hey, you do that now,’ so I thought that part was funny.”

Byrd said he sees the youth camp as just another way for him to keep forming a family-oriented culture around Seaforth basketball, namely within the women’s program.

“(We’re building) strong, driven women to become fierce athletes and community leaders through communication, culture and commitment,” Byrd said. “This year, we’ve developed this philosophy called ‘Empty the Bucket,’ which means that they maximize everything, each and every play. ... I’m really just trying to get them to buy in to the culture that I’m trying to set here.

“I’ve tried to keep everything basic (this offseason) because I’m trying to build this team mentality,” he added. “I’m trying to get them to understand that we’re a big family. ... It’s been awesome to have such a big turnout this summer.”

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

ACC

Continued from page B1

In fact, waves are starting to appear right here in North Carolina.

Is the ACC finished?

I grew up in northwest Randolph County, just 16 miles from the Greensboro Coliseum, now the occasional home of the ACC Men’s Basketball Tournament.

In my hometown during the 2000s, the week of the ACC Tournament was akin to Super Bowl week or the first weekend of March Madness — it was a BFD (big freakin’ deal).

Sometimes, our class would take field trips to either the men’s or women’s ACC Tournaments, spending valuable education time watching a first-round matchup between Maryland and Virginia Tech. And it was way better than being in class.

When we weren’t able to attend — and if we happened to be in one of the “cool” teacher’s classrooms — then we convinced our teacher to wheel out a small box TV on an old-school AV cart, where we’d get to spend class time watching Carolina or Duke or N.C. State play 11 a.m. basketball games just 16 miles down the road.

Truth be told, I owe a lot to the Atlantic Coast Conference. As a young sports reporter — if you could call 15-year-old Victor that — the first events I covered were ACC-related.

I spent three years eating free food at the Coliseum

during ACC Women’s Basketball Tournaments, trying to get the hang of press conferences, media rooms and the nerves a young sportswriter gets interviewing players.

Then, I spent two days as a high school sophomore at the ACC Football Kickoff event at Greensboro’s iconic Grandover Resort, where I was too stunned to ask questions to Florida State’s Jimbo Fisher and Jameis Winston during their press conferences after winning the national title earlier that year.

Sadly, as a result of Friday’s announcement, students in North Carolina may not have those same experiences as I did.

Because, the harsh reality is, the ACC could be on the brink of a breakup. And that’s a tough, unfair pill for North Carolinians to swallow.

With the recent announcements of Texas/Oklahoma to the SEC and USC/UCLA to the Big Ten, its beginning to look like the SEC and Big Ten — already the NCAA’s wealthiest conferences — are just getting bigger and richer, while the nation’s other three Power 5 conferences, including the ACC, are left out in the cold.

In reality, the ACC can’t financially keep up with the likes of the SEC and Big Ten, namely because of their less-than-ideal TV rights deal with ESPN, which lasts until 2036 and pays significantly less than the SEC’s deal with the same company (the ACC’s \$240 million annually to the SEC’s \$300 million).

Inside Carolina’s Greg

Barnes reported that in 2029, if the College Football Playoff expands to 12 teams — the CFP’s contract runs through Jan. 2026, meaning the playoff may not even make it to 2029 — then the SEC is expected to pay out \$117.8 million to each member school, compared to the ACC’s suggested payout of \$61.5 million per school.

That’s a massive gap of nearly double the ACC’s amount. Could you blame schools for wanting a cut of that cash cow? Revenue is only one piece of the puzzle, though.

Competition is another whole can of worms.

There’s a strong sentiment that, eventually, the SEC and Big Ten may form “mega-conferences,” breaking up the current FBS landscape in college football in order to primarily compete between the two conferences, where national champions could only be declared from either the SEC or Big Ten.

While that would inherently ruin everything people love about college football, morphing it into some sort of undergraduate NFL, the next few years could see schools from other conferences, like the ACC and Pac-12, trying to fight their way into one of the megaconferences so they aren’t left on the outside looking in, no matter what happens down the road.

Rumors are swirling that UNC/Duke may be a package deal for the SEC or, thanks to their ties in basketball, they could jump ship from the ACC to join USC, UCLA and a plethora of historic programs in the

Big Ten.

Others have popped up saying that Clemson, Florida State and Miami — the ACC’s only legitimate football powers — could get poached by the SEC to make it an even more unstoppable force on the gridiron.

No matter where you look, bloggers from just about every non-SEC/Big Ten Power 5 school are discussing what their respective schools should do. There have been suggestions that UNC, Duke, Florida State, Miami, Clemson, N.C. State, Virginia, Virginia Tech and Louisville from the ACC; Oregon, Washington and Arizona from the Pac-12; and Kansas and Oklahoma State from the Big-12 will all somehow, someday find their way into one of the NCAA’s inevitable megaconferences. Or at least that they should try to make it happen.

As of now, though, nothing is clear other than the fact that in the coming years, thanks to the poaching tactics of the SEC and Big Ten, things are bound to change in a chaotic frenzy of conference realignment.

And, truthfully, whatever happens is destined to be a negative thing for the majority of schools, student-athletes and fans.

Missed in all of the hullabaloo is the way this affects non-revenue athletes, including but not limited to the travel concerns of having to fly across the country from New Jersey (Rutgers) to California (USC, UCLA) just because the schools are now in the same

conference despite their geographical separation.

I don’t want to sugarcoat it. This entire situation stinks.

As a UNC fan and alumnus, I feel confident that, even if the ACC falls apart, the Tar Heels will find a home somewhere due to their massive brand and competitiveness in plenty of sports besides basketball.

But when it comes to other schools such as Boston College, Wake Forest or even Duke to a certain extent, it worries me that this may be the beginning of the end for their place in major college athletics.

In the coming years, we may see the splintering of conferences like the ACC, the destruction of rivalries like Carolina-N.C. State, the near-complete exclusion of schools outside of the Power 2 and a whole lot of other changes to the way we consume college sports.

There are way more questions than answers out there, including: Will Notre Dame forego its football independence and decide to fully align with the ACC in a move that would potentially save the conference? What will happen to sports outside of football if megaconferences begin to take shape? How will this affect history and tradition in sports like football and basketball?

Buckle up, because it’s gonna be one helluva ride. There’s no going back now.

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

SPORTS

Continued from page B1

when sports other than football and men’s basketball have to go to the midwest or all the way to New Jersey for every road game.

The magic of college sports lies in the divisional rivalries and the geographic cultures of each conference — this move adds to the crumbling of that magic.

Earlier this year, Texas and Oklahoma announced a similar money-based move to leave the Big 12 Conference and join the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in 2025. These four teams leaving their respective conferences accounts for millions of dollars lost in the Big 12 and Pac-12, and harms the concept of the Power Five.

The Power Five conferences — the ACC, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-12 and SEC — are considered to be the elite contenders of Division I athletics. But with these moves, other divisions will likely struggle to stay in conten-

tion. It creates an unjust balance of power where rich universities pool their resources to compete against one another and become wealthier, leaving geographic and historic rivals in the dust.

Perhaps a better way to illustrate my disdain for this decision is through something more familiar to Chathamites — Duke and UNC.

I would argue there isn’t a more perfect parallel for USC and UCLA than UNC and Duke. One private school, one public in a historic crosstown rivalry dating back centuries. It’s a similar storyline of two evenly matched schools battling year after year in every sport by some of the

best college athletes in the country.

Now imagine, UNC and Duke suddenly decided to leave the Atlantic Coast Conference and join the Big Ten. Sure, at least they are moving together so the fiercest rivalry is preserved, but what about every other game on the calendar?

UNC would never play Virginia or Wake Forest; Duke wouldn’t play Syra-

cuse or N.C. State. Those games are fun to watch because of the history and culture behind each rivalry. UNC and Duke leaving the ACC would also crush the credibility of the conference. They are the blueblood programs that have seismic impact when measuring the ability of the conference in any sport.

USC and UCLA carried the exact same weight in

the Pac-12. They are the bluebloods that the rest of the conference was measured against, without them the conference will likely struggle to stay financially and culturally afloat.

I will mourn the slow, impending downfall of the Pac-12 and I’m

ashamed the university I loved has fallen prey to a money grab that does nothing but harm the integrity, beauty and culture of college sports.

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

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Household Hazardous Waste Events 2022
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Chatham County residents can bring household hazardous items such as

- chemicals • cleaners • solvents • paint
- pesticides • gasoline • antifreeze • electronics

For a complete list of items visit www.chathamcountync.gov/hhw

The Chatham County Sheriff’s Office will provide a free take back of unwanted medicines during this HHW event. No needles, sharps, or liquids will be accepted.

No trash or empty containers.
No business waste.
No decal required.
Must show proof of address.

Questions? Call (919) 542-5516

THE CLIPBOARD | BRETT WALDEN, CHATHAM CENTRAL BASEBALL

Nearly 2 months after season ends, Walden reflects on Bears' deep playoff run, youthful nucleus

Early in the 2021-22 baseball season, Chatham Central looked as if it were destined for another slightly above-average year, starting 3-5 with narrow losses the Bears felt they could have come away with. But as the spring progressed, the Bears' young core improved, its senior leadership strengthened and its record proved it, leading the team to a postseason berth as the second-place team in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference.



Walden

but there were some winnable games in there that we let get away. First game of the year at Asheville, we needed to get two outs and made a couple of mistakes defensively, flipped the lineup over and then the best part of their lineup comes up and that hurt us. But really, through 6 1/3 innings, we outplayed them. We talked after the end of the North Moore series down there (which we lost) and we had a long talk in right field about finishing games — because we led a lot of that game — and we talked about mental toughness and all of that and then they really just came on late.

There were still some moments after that. We lost the Jordan-Matthews game at our place in extra innings having had lots of chances to win before extras, but we left a lot of guys in scoring position. We had a couple of freshmen that really felt like it was on them that we didn't win that game, so for them to take that kind of ownership that early in their career is a good sign for later.

You guys went on to not only earn a postseason berth, but make it all the way to the Elite Eight (fourth round) as a No. 21 seed. What fueled that run?

I thought we were better than a No. 21 seed. Once I saw the RPI during fall and winter sports last year — I thought it would be kind of in line with MaxPreps and it really wasn't — then I thought there were some issues with the RPI, but that's the system we've got. I thought we were better than a No. 21 seed, I thought we prob-

Brett Walden
Role: Head Coach, Baseball
Experience at Chatham Central: Fifth season
Career record (Baseball): 52-37

Chatham Central Bears (2021-22)
Conference: Mid-Carolina 1A/2A (Second-place finish)

- Record:** 14-11 (5-3 in Mid-Carolina 1A/2A)
Playoff run:
- Rd. 1: W vs. (12) Northwest Halifax, 17-0
 - Rd. 2: W vs. (5) East Wake Academy, 11-8
 - Rd. 3: W vs. (13) Roxboro Community, 11-3
 - Elite Eight: L vs. (1) Perquimans, 7-0

ably should have been somewhere around No. 12, 13 or 14.

The team we drew in the first round, Northwest Halifax, they weren't really strong, but they had a decent record. We were able to beat them pretty easily, but I knew the East Wake Academy game would be really, really tough in the second round. And it was. We were down for most of the game and had a big sixth inning and then got a few insurance runs in the seventh. Collin Lagenor pitched 5 1/3 innings in relief, I think, that game. We initially were just going to put him in to stop the bleeding and then probably go to Zane Overman, but he just kind of dialed it in and kept us in it and we kind of chipped away and were able to take a late lead and win.

Then, with Roxboro Community's No. 1 pitcher, we didn't really know what to expect. The scouting report I'd gotten was really helpful. We knew we were going to get the sidearmed right-hander, so we got Coach Derrick Scott from Bennett to come — he was a sidearmed right-hander — and get the L-screen up close and throw some sidearmed stuff and teach our guys how to approach sidearm. He said, "I'm happy to come and get

on top of them with the L-screen and throw it to take the novelty off of it a bit." I think that really prepared us for what we saw.

All things considered, your team last year was incredibly young with only three seniors on the roster and a boatload of freshmen and sophomores, yet they were able to win three straight road playoff games. What gave them the ability to brush off where they're playing and how good their opponent is and still get the win?

Most of the younger guys, I think they just don't like to lose. I don't like to lose, so I like guys that don't like to lose. Joaquin Gordon, for example. He's a tough kid and he doesn't like to lose.

It's pretty cliché at this point, but we kept saying, "Control what you can control." We were a No. 21 seed, so odds are, we weren't going to get to play at home, so the reality is that we've got to go play on somebody else's field. What we can control is staying in our routine, which we did. We ate at Crossroads Grill in Siler City on the way out of town, we made sure that we had the same amount of time before the game and on the bus ride. We just tried to try to stay in a routine as

much as possible and I guess it worked for us. Some of the guys joked that with the Perquimans game in the fourth round, we didn't get to stop at Crossroads Grill just because it wouldn't time out right, we would've been eating breakfast. But even with home games, we have a time we have them back at the field if it's a 7:00 start or a 6:00 or whatever, and I think you see it in the classroom teaching or in coaching. Teenagers need structure and routine.

You obviously lose a little bit of experience this off-season, but you've still got a young nucleus that I'm sure you're excited about, right?

We've got pretty much all of our pitching back this season. Collin Lagenor didn't pitch much, but when he did in the playoffs, he did a great job, but as far as guys that pitched a ton, the vast majority of our innings pitched are back. Collin hit over .400, had a couple of home runs and led us in RBIs, so he'll be tough to replace, just the leadership and the toughness behind the plate. Nick Jourdan in right field, he was perfect. I didn't realize it until I looked at his stats at the end of the year, but he didn't make a single error out there out of 37 opportunities. And then Colby Williamson, in the last half the season was really good defensively at third base, so we do lose some important pieces, but we do return a lot of production, too. I'm definitely excited to see how they grow over the next couple of years.

You look at Anthony Lopossay, a sophomore, he was 7-1 on the mound and he gave up just a couple of earned runs at Roxboro Community and his ERA went up. Sta-

tistically, he was one of the better pitchers in the state this past year. He was right dominant for us and I'm interested to see how much better he gets. It's the same thing with Matt Murchison. We moved him around a little bit. He played some left field, some second base, he caught a little bit, but we kind of settled on him being the shortstop a little later. I would've liked to have had things set earlier, but really it was the second J-M regular-season game, we settled on Matt being the shortstop and he's probably going to be our shortstop going forward, most likely. He really hit it well, and he's probably going have to hit in that 2-hole next year, where Collin did this past year. He batted fourth last year, but we're going to have to have people get on base at the top of the lineup.

With the amount of experience that your young core got last season, do you see this team making it that far again this upcoming season?

I think we're capable of it. The reality is, the way the playoffs are in North Carolina, the way they're set up with one game and done, anything can happen. There's evidence. North Moore was really good all year, but then it lost to the No. 29 seed in the first round. Anything can happen. I think we're good enough and talented enough and I think we've got the pitching to make another run, it just remains to be seen how we react with the target on our back a little bit next year. Returning what we're returning, on paper, I would think that we've got some people's attention, they know we're returning a lot, so we'll just see how we react to that.

CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

four downs to score a touchdown.

On offense, teams are allowed to have six eligible players — a quarterback and five skill positions, usually running backs or wide receivers — along with an additional ineligible player who's used to snap the ball. On defense, teams can have seven skill players to defend.

While 7-on-7 games are much different from your average 11-on-11 contest, Kenan said they still provide value for determining benchmarks and evaluating talent.

"We use it as a time to practice our coverages and our quick game and some of our passing game that we'll be using mixed with our running game," Kenan said. "I think we finished 2-2 (last Thursday). We don't put a lot of weight into those outcomes in 7-on-7s. ... It was just good to see guys in the beginning stages of the install put it to use in a competition."

All of five of Northwood's opponents last week were in the NCHSAA's 4A classification, a step above the Chargers at 3A. That may have had an impact on the final results, with Northwood being forced to play against schools bigger than it, but Kenan said that his team facing off against tough competition in the preseason is the best way to get better.

"It's just good to see our guys progress and learn certain skills as the summer is starting to grow," Kenan said. "I thought our guys got better from Tuesday to Thursday. We've got a mantra, 'Get 1% better every day,' and in looking at the tape from Tuesday to Thursday, our guys are moving faster, you can tell they're getting a better understanding. They asked questions after Tuesday's games to have



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood defenders attempt to corral a Pinecrest ball carrier during the Chargers' 7-on-7 event last Thursday in Pittsboro. Pinecrest was one of three opponents Northwood faced on the evening.

a better understanding for Thursday and you can see it in their play.

"The quarterbacks had trouble reading coverages on Tuesday and then Thursday, they came back and played a little better," Kenan said. "Not all the time to my liking, but they saw certain things that were missing on Tuesday that we saw them hit on Thursday in the film."

Last week marked the first time all offseason that Northwood had nearly every player in attendance, too.

Despite a couple of notable players being absent due to other workouts, the Chargers dressed 25 players last Thursday, around 80% of the team's total roster.

That was a far cry from a couple of weeks ago, when the Chargers spent a day trekking across the Triangle — for 7-on-7 games at both UNC-Chapel Hill's Kenan Stadium and N.C. State's Carter-Finley Stadium — with only 12 players.

"When we went to UNC and N.C. State, we went with 12 people and didn't have anywhere near what we had (last) week," Kenan said. "(Last week), we had double what we're used to

having. Some chemistry needs to take place and us playing together we're going to have to get used to, but I'm confident in this group that they're coming along."

Northwood faced competition like Richmond, Heritage (Virginia) and Page at UNC before noon, then made the journey to Raleigh where they played Corinth Holders, Overhills and Sanderson, which was cut short in the afternoon due to storms.

In total, with just 12 players able to take the field, the Chargers played six games in one day at two of the state's most iconic football venues.

"It was a great atmosphere that the guys got up for even though we were undermanned," Kenan said. "The guys were up for the test."

It was a test in resiliency, said Kenan, and his team passed with flying colors.

"They didn't back down and it showed me a lot about my team," Kenan said. "I know the guys were tired and we were shorthanded, but to win the first one and win the last one, I thought told me a lot about my team and the nucleus of guys. You can't ask for much more



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood assistant coach Freddie Dale coaches up junior Ryan Brinker (right, in green) during the Chargers' 7-on-7 event last Thursday in Pittsboro.

going through schedules like that with 12 guys during a hot day on the turf. ... They never complained. They did it with a smile on their faces."

All of Northwood's offseason workouts and scrimmages up to this point, despite not being at full strength, has Kenan excited about what he sees heading into his first season as the Chargers' head coach.

"It's just the competitive nature and competitive spirit of the guys. You're going to have to beat them every time," Kenan said. "It's impressive to see the guys going to compete every day, every rep."

Heading into the athletic dead period, however — which lasts from July 4-17 — there are still plenty of things the team needs to clean up, along with crucial decisions that still need to be made by the coaching staff.

Namely, the team's starting quarterback.

"We have one of the hottest quarterback battles in the state right now between [junior] Carson Fortunes and [senior] Will Smith," Kenan said. "They have to beat each other, literally, every single snap. One guy comes out one drive, he's sharp

and goes down to score. The next guy throws a pick, but doesn't tuck his tail and comes back and throws darts. It's just an every day battle."

When asked whether he's leaning more toward either one of the quarterback candidates, his answer is simple: Nope.

"It's a rep-by-rep basis, you just never know," Kenan said. "You close your eyes and you won't know which one it is right now. Nobody's took off and owned the job like I would want them to."

For Kenan, one thing is for certain, though: this Chargers team has "bounce-back season" — from last year's 4-6 finish — written all over it.

"It's exciting to see. We've got a lot of options, and they're good options to have ... just seeing guys emerge on different drives and just battle for that ball and battle for that right and earn everything," Kenan said. "We have some guys that may not have big names yet, but the state will know about them come December."

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

Group hopes Early Childhood Action Plan pays off for Chatham children

Parents have many tools at their disposal when it comes to raising and developing their children, and there's a new one coming soon. This week, we speak with Genevieve Megginson, the executive director of the Chatham County Partnership for Children, and Lara Kehle, the director of KidSCOPE and the chairperson of the Chatham Health Alliance, about a new tool being developed: Chatham County's Early Childhood Action Plan. The two are helping take the lead in the plan's creation and spoke last week as guests on "The Chatcast," the podcast of the News + Record and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina. The interview, with CN+R Publisher Bill Horner III, has been edited for clarity and length. To listen to audio of the entire conversation, search for "The Chatcast" on your favorite podcast app.

time, and look ahead to what are the most effective things that we can do. Where are our biggest resource gaps now?

Lara Kehle: Just highlighting something you've said ... we're hopefully coming out of this pandemic, in this time that has had such higher stress. It's had such an impact on the mental health and the well-being of everybody — whether we're talking about the parents, the families, the childcare providers, and all of that impacts the children. So looking from that side, this is such an opportunity to say, "What are we going to do from here? Where are we going from here?"

We have this early childhood education system, we have this mental health system that really needs support ... it needs an overhaul. This is our opportunity here in Chatham to say, "We want to do this right." Let's get the data, let's hear from everybody that we possibly can. There's a lot of data out there. Let's pull it together, let's get our community voice together. Let's look at what's been happening in our childcare centers, in these classrooms, in these childcare homes ... that's been happening for so long, and is creating more stress, creating some of these issues as the children move into elementary school, into college, into the workforce.

This is the foundation, this is the opportunity to get it right. And now we have this great opportunity to create a plan to help make it right, to help say, "These are the things that we need. These are the things our community is saying we need. How are we going to do this?" And then do it.

When the plan is completed, what form will it take? And how will you share the plan across the county to the people who need it the most?

Megginson: We're hoping the plan development will be an interactive process with our community where we collect voices through surveys and all the usual ways. Then we'll bring that back to the community and have the community reflect with us on it. And what the plan will look like will be more than just a book or a piece of paper — it'll be a live plan. And I'm hoping it



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Genevieve Megginson (left) and Lara Kehle during last week's Chatcast podcast recording. The two are integral members of the group creating Chatham's Childhood Action Plan.

will be something we can share through our print media, video, multi social media, etc.

What's the timeline for the plan?

Kehle: We are hoping to have it start this month, in July. And we're hoping to have at least a piece of it done by December. As Genevieve said, we don't want this to be a book that sits on some shelf. This needs to be a live plan with action happening to help make our community better.

What's your message to parents of young children about this plan?

Kehle: We can't do it without them.

Megginson: It has to be a partnership, right?

Kehle: Children don't exist in a bubble. If the family and the parents are not involved and not sharing their values, their understandings, their beliefs, their traumas, everything that's been going on in their lives that impact those children ... it's like we're putting a Band Aid on a gaping wound. It has to be that partnership, it has to be a team; we have to do this together. One person cannot do everything. And yet, very often, the mental health provider, that consultant comes in, they're seen as that expert, you know, with all the answers ... you're gonna solve all the problems. The mental health professional, the consultant, the thera-

some moments where you can just stop and focus on your child. We are all working together to do our best to create the safest environments we can, and there's a lot more we can do. So just being as intentional as you can, and reaching out for supports. And there are lots of supports.

You've each mentioned that you did not want this plan to be something that's put on a shelf that gathers dust. So let's play "what if" — let's assume that this plan is developed the way that you envision and it's implemented, and it really takes root within families in Chatham County. What are the outcomes? What are the deliverables that we'll see five years from now?

Megginson: Well, you know, that's a great question, Bill. And I could answer it with all the things that I envision, but what it will be is what our community says we need it to be. So I do envision that there will be broadly offered and utilized programs for families to come together to help each other be stronger. I envision that there will be really high quality beautiful early childhood classrooms available all across the county — for all the families, for young children, infants, for toddlers — and that businesses will value that when they look to come to Chatham County. They will come because they see that their workers' families will be supported in the community.

Kehle: And there will be a variety of childcare options based on what those families need. So not only classrooms like you would see in the pub-

lic schools or even in a private center, but family childcare homes as well.

Megginson: A very important point — and good diversity, because every family needs something different. And every child needs something different.

Kehle: Yes, and that's definitely been highlighted the past few years. Absolutely.

So how can individuals, organizations, and businesses partner with you in the development of this action plan? What advice or what guidance would you give?

Megginson: Well, volunteer opportunities abound. We're nonprofits, and so volunteers are our lifeblood. We'll have a community collaborative where people can come on and share their voice. Everybody in this community sees or knows families with young children, and they can help us connect with them, and help us be sure that those voices are elevated that need to be elevated.

Kehle: Once we start really advertising these opportunities and share it, take advantage. What is it on Facebook, like it and share it, because that's how it shows up. We definitely need to be doing that, to make sure that we're reaching all of the corners of Chatham County. And when people do come to share their voice, be honest, and share really what it is what's important to them, what have been their experiences ... because as Genevieve said, we can absolutely say what *we* want this to look like. But it needs to be what *our community* wants it to look like.

Council on Aging secures access to Veterinary Care Grant

From the Chatham Council on Aging

Meals on Wheels recipients within Chatham County who double as pet owners will have access to several veterinary care services after the Chatham County Council on Aging was recently awarded \$8,000 through the Access to Veterinary Care Grant from Meals on Wheels America.

While the Council has operated a pet program since 2015, the primary focus has been providing pet food for dogs and cats. The program, which will be entitled "Who Let the Paws Out — A Hand for Chatham's Furry Friends," will expand COA pet services into veterinary care for Meals on Wheels clients.

Roughly 25% of seniors serviced by the COA live alone, many in rural areas. The presence of a pet is a steady source of companionship for many homebound Meals on Wheels clients, making the preservation of their health a priority. Of additional concern is the ability to pay for veterinary care, with

47% of clients receiving COA services through the Home and Community Care Block Grant self-declaring at or below the federal poverty level.

The grant, covering the 2022-23 fiscal year, will help cover the cost of preventative care services such as vaccinations, exams, spay/neuter services, medications, and dental care.

"Many of the older adults served by the Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels program live alone," COA Director Ashlyn Martin said. "For those with pets, the animals serve as companions and so it is important that the Council on Aging provide services that can help to keep not only the older adult safe and healthy, but also that of their beloved furry friends. We are grateful for the support from organizations like Meals on Wheels America and PetSmart Charities which will help to expand the services we are able to provide to the pets of our Meals on Wheels recipients."

Further information regarding program specifics will be forthcoming.

Chatham COA Events & Announcements

July 11th through July 15th

Monday, July 11

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Exercise Program w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at Bray Park Pool, Siler City) 🧘
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 12:30 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧘
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧘

Tuesday, July 12

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘

Wednesday, July 13

- [Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Exercise Program w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at Bray Park Pool, Siler City) 🧘
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 12:30 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧘

Thursday, July 14

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧘

Friday, July 15

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧘
- [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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Summer Fest '22 canceled, postponed to late July

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff



Courtesy of Pittsboro Business Association

Summer Fest 2022 was postponed because of the chance for thunderstorms on July 3. A new date hasn't been announced. This photo was taken at last year's event.

Pittsboro restaurant owner and PBA official Greg Lewis took to Facebook to announce the decision.

"This is a hard decision to make, but everyone's safety and comfort is of utmost importance," Lewis wrote. "We

wish you all a safe and happy Fourth of July!"

Lewis told the News + Record the committee is working on finding a date later in July to reschedule the Summer Fest activities.

"No date has been determined yet," he said. "[We're] trying to work with all the vendors."

The annual event is a Pittsboro tradition, usually scheduled to be around July 4 to coincide with Independence Day. This year's event would be the seventh Summer Fest and would highlight local businesses at vendor booths, a bike parade, a mustache contest, live music and more.

The event was sponsored by the town of Pittsboro, although the town wasn't the entity in charge of postponing the event, Public Information Officer Colby Sawyer said.

"The town of Pittsboro is saddened that we (the PBA) had to cancel it," he said. "But we're very much looking forward to the rescheduled date, and we hope everyone had a good July 4 weekend."

Sawyer said he hoped the rescheduled event would provide another opportunity to celebrate summer with festivities.

"We're just looking forward to getting everybody out at the rescheduled date to explore everything Pittsboro has to offer," he said.

More details about the new date for Summer Fest will come in the following weeks, according to releases from the PBA.

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

New digs for Democrats



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Chatham County Democrats celebrate the grand opening of their new office with a ribbon cutting by Mayor Cindy Perry on Sunday in Pittsboro. Cake and ice cream were served to those participating in the open house.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Liz Guinan, a chairmember of the Chatham County Democrats, assists with the ribbon cutting of the group's new headquarters in Pittsboro on Sunday.

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

Three principals named by board of education

New leaders take the helm at Bonlee, Jordan-Matthews and Silk Hope

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Schools Board of Education named three new principals at its personnel meeting last Thursday.

Nikki Murchison was named principal of Bonlee School, April Burko at Jordan-Matthews High School and Caroline Linker at Silk Hope School.

Nikki Murchison

Murchison has worked in education for 23 years, all with CCS. She succeeds Kim Taylor at Bonlee, who is retiring

after 11 years leading the school.



Nikki Murchison

During her career in education, Murchison has served as a teacher, an instructional coach and as the assistant principal at Virginia Cross Elementary School since 2018.

She was the 2022-23 Assistant Principal of the Year for Chatham County Schools.

"Education is such a passion for me, and it is so meaningful to have the honor of working in

a field that has a lasting impact on others," Murchison said. "Bonlee is not just a community, but a family. I am grateful to have the opportunity to join this family."

Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said Murchison's skills as an administrator and educator will make her an outstanding leader at Bonlee.

"Mrs. Murchison's knowledge of the community and her desire to serve her students and their families to the best of her ability will make her an excellent principal at Bonlee," he said. "We are excited to see how she

excels in her new role as she brings her proven success as an outstanding educator to lead this school."

April Burko

Burko leaves her position as principal of



April Burko

Culbreth Middle School in Chapel Hill to take over at J-M. She succeeds Donna Barger, who is retiring after one and a half years as principal. Barger was previously the assistant principal

at Jordan-Matthews for five and a half years.

Burko has worked in education since 2011, starting her career as a social studies teacher at T. Wingate Andrews High School in Guilford County Schools.

"I am excited to serve the Jordan-Matthews High School community," Burko said. "I am looking forward to cultivating relationships with students, staff and families as we work together to build on the rich traditions of the community and ensure the success of every student who walks through our doors."

"Her talents and

strengths will both complement and ensure continued movement forward in growth for students at Jordan-Matthews High School," Jackson said. "She is ready to embrace this community and prepare her students to ensure their future success."

Caroline Linker

Linker joins CCS after leaving her role as principal of W.G. Pearson STEAM Elementary School in Durham.



Caroline Linker

She takes over for Angie Brady-Andrew, who is retiring after 17 years as a CCS principal.

"I am so excited about this opportunity," Linker said. "I look forward to getting to know my Silk Hope students, and to working in partnership with our families and community. Chatham County Schools is an excellent school district, and I am delighted to be a part of that excellence moving forward."

Linker has worked in education since 2012, starting her career as a math teacher through Teach For America. Linker went on to become a school director with Northampton County Public Schools, an assistant principal with Bunn High School and a principal with Youngsville Elementary.

"Ms. Linker's dedication to education and how accomplished she is in this field are a valuable addition to Chatham County Schools," Jackson said. "She will serve the Silk Hope community well."

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

CHATHAM IS **BOLD!**



POLICE REPORTS

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

On June 22, James Filmore Kendall, 32, of 235 Chatham Square, #104, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for misdemeanor probation violation. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court on July 11.

On June 22, Karen Linette Poole, 59, of 25 Rocky Knolls B, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for assault and battery. She was placed on a 48 hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 20.

On June 23, Giovanni Palma Perez, 19, of 117 North Adams, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Reid Kirkman for possession of stolen firearm, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 0.5 ounces, and possession of methamphetamine. He was held on a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Durham County District Court

in Durham on July 5.

On June 25, Kevin Elliot Kerns, 28, of 294 Rocky Hills Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Chris Scales for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 4.

On June 25, Benjamin Tyler Perkins, 23, of 5511 Forest Road Lot 165, Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for carrying a concealed handgun. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 2.

On June 25, Mr. Perkins was also arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear on charges of assaulting on a female. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Guilford County District Court in Greensboro on July 12.

On June 26, Falan Cheyann Ivey, 27, of 1489 New Hope Church Road, Apex, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for breaking and entering, injury to real prop-

erty, possession of a Schedule VI controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 20.

On June 29, Michael Chase Boyd, 32, of 9007 Golden Gate Boulevard, Polk City, Florida, was arrested by Deputy Vincent Iorio for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking/entering and possession of stolen goods/property. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 18.

On June 29, Tina Marie Beers, 38, of 305 North Dogwood Avenue, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking/entering, obtaining property under false pretenses, possession of burglary tools and larceny of a firearm. She was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 18.

On June 29, Kristi Jo Moss

Hodge, 53, of 1190 Camelot Drive, Asheboro, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for possession of stolen goods, breaking and entering into a motor vehicle, motor vehicle theft, and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. She was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 18.

On June 30, Brandon Clark Evans, 29, of 5345 NC Highway 87 North, Pittsboro, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Anthony Norton for failure to appear. He was issued a written promise to appear in Bladen County District Court in Elizabethtown on July 12.

On June 30, Ashley Nicole Boroughs, 31, of 1755 Bill Lambert Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Jason Kane for breaking and entering a motor vehicle, possession of methamphetamines and felony possession of cocaine. She was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on July 25.

From Siler City Police Department

On June 28, 2022, Detectives with the Siler City Police Department arrested Tina Marie Beers, 38, of 305 North Dogwood Avenue, Siler City. Beers is charged with breaking and entering a residence, felony larceny from a residence, felony possession of stolen property and obtaining property by false pretense. She is being held in the Chatham County Detention Center in lieu of a \$5,000 secured bond.

Detectives also served a search warrant on Beers' residence and vehicles. Multiple items of stolen property were seized during the search and will be returned to the owners. Beers will have additional charges related to other break-ins in Siler City and the surrounding area as the investigation continues.

If you are the victim of a break-in and would like to inquire if your property was recovered, please call the Siler City Police Department at (919) 742-5626 and request to speak with Detective T. Bridges.

Council on Aging to hold reopening event for Eastern Center

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — After a span of roughly two years, the doors of the Eastern Chatham Senior Center are preparing to open once more.

The Chatham County Council on Aging will be holding a reopening event for its renovated and expanded Pittsboro building from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 5.

The celebration will include a catered dinner

courtesy of Allen & Son Bar-B-Que, with entertainment provided by Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra. Under the direction of Gregg Gelb, the group has committed to play several musical selections.

In addition to scheduled speakers, a silent auction will be held throughout the evening, featuring artwork donated by artist and former Chatham County resident Karen Meredith and that of her late father.

Meredith is a member of Oil Painters of America, American Impressionists Society, the Sanibel-Captiva Art League and a board member of the Shell Point Painters.

There is no cost to attend, but due to space limitations, RSVP is required.

For more information or to request an RSVP, contact Jimmy Lewis, Grants and Communications Specialist, at 919-542-4512 or email jimmy.lewis@chathamcoa.org.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

The Chatham County Council on Aging facility in Pittsboro.

Board of Health amends childhood lead poisoning rules

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Health voted June 27 to amend the county's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Rules to lower the blood lead level requiring a follow-up in children effective July 1.

Last fall, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lowered the blood lead reference value (BLRV) for children less than 6 years old from 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) to 3.5 µg/dL. As a result, in March 2022, the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) lowered the blood lead level that requires follow-up to 3.5 µg/dL.

In response to these changes, the board of health updated its Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Rules as follows. If a child less than 6 years old has a confirmed blood lead level of 1 µg/dL or above, Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD) staff will work with the child and their parents or guardians to provide lead poisoning prevention education, including a nutritional assessment and information on lead sources. At blood lead levels between 4 µg/dL and 7.99 µg/dL, the CCPHD will offer an investigation of the home to determine potential lead hazards. At blood lead levels at or above 8 µg/dL, defined in the board of health rules as confirmed lead poisoning, this investigation along with remediation of lead hazards will continue to be required.

"By updating the Board of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Rules, the Chatham County Board of Health continues to incorporate

ongoing research into the protection of those who are most vulnerable to lead as there is no safe level of lead exposure," said Dr. Karen Barbee, chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Health. "We are proud of the work of the CCPHD's lead poisoning prevention staff and support them as they take more steps to keep Chatham County children safe and healthy in this way."

"The CDC reports that no level of lead in the blood of children is acceptable," added Anne Lowry, Chatham County Environmental Health Director. "Even low levels of lead in the blood in children have resulted in lower IQ, decreased academic achievement, and increased emotional and behavioral problems. The Chatham County Lead Poisoning Prevention program encourages all parents to test their children for lead at ages one and two, evaluate toys and other items that may contain lead, and not give young children car keys that may contain lead. Additionally, anyone living in a home built before 1978 should evaluate surfaces, especially friction surface, like windows and doors, for deterioration that may release lead-contaminated dust into the home."

The revised Chatham County Board of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Rules can be found at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/>

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

Prepare Yourself For a Long Retirement

We all want to live long lives. We all expect to live long lives. But are we financially prepared for this longevity?

Before we get to the issue of preparation, let's look at a couple of interesting findings from a 2022 survey by Age Wave and Edward Jones:

- The surveyed retirees said, on average, they expect to live to 89, and they said the ideal length of retirement is 29 years.

- When asked if they want to live to 100, nearly 70% of the respondents said "yes." The main reason for this desire for long life? To spend more years with their family and friends.

Of course, none of us can see into the future and know how long we'll be around. But with advances in medical care and a greater awareness of healthy lifestyles, these aspirations have a real basis in reality.

However, if you're going to enjoy a longer lifespan, and the extra years with your loved ones, you need to ensure your finances are also in good shape. How can you make this happen?

Here are some basic steps to follow:

- *Save and invest early and often.* This may be the oldest piece of financial advice, but it's still valid. The earlier you start saving and investing for your retirement, the greater your potential accumulation. Consider this: If you began saving just \$5,000 per year at age 25, and earned a hypothetical 6.5% annual rate of return, and didn't take any early withdrawals, you'd end up with \$935,000 by the time you reached 65. But if you waited until 35 to start saving and investing, and you earned the same hypothetical 6.5% return—again with no early withdrawals— you'd only end up with \$460,000. And if you didn't start saving until 45, you'd end up

with just over \$200,000, again given the same 6.5% return.

- *Be mindful of debt.* You may not want to be burdened with certain debts when you enter retirement. So, while you're still working, try to reduce unwanted debts, particularly those that don't offer the financial benefits of tax-deductible interest payments. The lower your debt load, the more you can save and invest for the future.

- *Keep reviewing your progress.* It's important to monitor the progress you need to make toward achieving your goal of a comfortable retirement. Over the short term, your investment balances may fluctuate, especially in volatile financial markets such as we've seen in the early part of this year. But you'll get a clearer picture of your situation if you look at long-term results. For example, have your accounts grown over the past 10 years as much as you had planned? And going forward, do you think you're in good shape, or will you need to make some changes to your investment strategy? Keep in mind that, if you're 50 or older, you can make "catch-up" contributions to your IRA and 401(k) that allow you to exceed the regular limits. You may also want to adjust your investment mix as you near retirement to potentially lower your risk exposure.

Hopefully, you will enjoy many years of a healthy, happy retirement. And you can help support this vision by carefully considering your financial moves and making the ones that are right for you.

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

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

Mirth meets mindless in immemorable ‘Minions: The Rise of Gru’

Despite its moniker, “Minions: The Rise of Gru” is far less a 1970s story about the genesis of the “Despicable Me” protagonist than an excuse to get his lemon-colored, pill-shaped stooges into hippie digs and ‘70s soul music.

A higher-pitched (and utterly incidental) Steve Carrell reprises the voice role of Gru as a young, up-and-coming supervillain,



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU
GRADE: C
DIRECTOR: Kyle Balda
STARRING THE VOICES OF: Steve Carrell, Pierre Coffin, Taraji P. Henson, Michelle Yeoh, Russell Brand, Julie Andrews and Alan Arkin
MPAA RATING: PG
RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 27 min.



Courtesy of Universal Studios

Steve Carrell voices the main character in ‘Minions: The Rise of Gru.’

angling to join his favorite crime team, the Vicious 6. After deposing their founder Wild Knuckles (Alan Arkin), the Vicious 6 and their new leader, Belle Bottom (Taraji P. Henson), laugh off the runt-sized Gru until he manages to steal a mystical Chinese

stone the group had already pinched. The rest of “Minions: The Rise of Gru” is a mindless, multi-front plot that includes Knuckles kidnapping Gru while looking to reclaim the stone and the Minions trying to refind the stone after minion Otto

unwittingly trades it for a pet rock. The Minions are assisted by acupuncturist Master Chow (Michelle Yeoh), an erstwhile Kung Fu sensei who comes out of

retirement to train the anthropomorphic Twinkies in the martial arts. So little matters in this madcap mayhem that you will not care where

the “story” takes you or remember much about it even as you cross the threshold of the theater’s exit. You will lose all interest far before the climactic clash between the supernatural incarnations of the Vicious 6 and Minions. But Illumination studio’s animation is effervescent, and the movie’s minute morsels of mirth derive from the Minions’ admitted charm and their mash-up of jabberwocky and pseudowords. At least the film knows their target audience. Otherwise, this origin story is utterly unoriginal. “The Rise of Gru” isn’t the fall of the Minions, but they’re all this franchise really has left.

Chatham County named most generous county in N.C.

Residents gave more than \$65 million to charitable causes

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Chatham County has been named the most charitable county in the state in a study by SmartAsset, an online financial consultant service. Chatham County ranked first among the places in North Carolina with the most generous residents, measured by how much money people donate as a percentage of their net income, as well as the proportion of people in each county who make charitable donations. The counties that fared best in these metrics were the counties that ranked highest in the study. Using 2021 IRS data, on average, Chatham residents donated 1.49% of their income. The state average is 1.24%. Other counties had higher por-

tions of income donated, but another factor in the study was what percentage of residents give charitable donations. Chatham scored the highest in this category with 14.67% of the population donating; the state average is 5.86%. The two factors were weighted equally to yield the Charitable County Index score. This gave Chatham County the highest Charitable County Index score in the state with a score of 45.00. Other high-ranking counties included Orange, Union and Mecklenburg, which also scored in the low 40s on the SmartAsset index. To determine the amount of money people donate as a percentage of their income, the study calculated the net income of everyone in each county, according to tax return data from the IRS. The study also measured the total number of individual tax returns that show charitable contributions and divided that by the total number of individual tax returns in each county. According to the IRS data used in this study, 5,340 tax

returns in Chatham County included charitable contributions, out of a total of 36,410 returns filed in the county. The data also shows Chatham County residents donated more than \$65 million. “Chatham County ranked number 1 in North Carolina in terms of the percentage of residents making charitable contributions, and number 12 in North Carolina in the percentage of local income being donated,” Susannah Snider, managing editor for financial education at SmartAsset, told the News + Record. “This shows that locally, residents in Chatham County were more likely to make charitable contributions, according to the tax data.” Chatham County ranks number 97 in the U.S. out of more than 3,000 counties included in the study. Teton County, Wyoming ranked as the most generous in this year’s study with a contribution percentage of 10.81% and 15.13% of residents donating. This gave them a Charitable County Index of 100.00.

The next closest counties were Morgan County, Utah, scoring 87.42, and Charles County, Maryland, scoring 81.93. Snider said the data was measured at a county level, so divides between the eastern and western portions of Chatham County could not be accounted for. The study does, however, account for tax rate variation from county to county. “We included taxes paid in each county as a means of determining the net income in each county,” Snider said. “While Chatham County residents paid less in taxes than residents of Orange, Wake and Durham, those counties maintained higher net incomes.” Another factor not included in the study was charitable write-offs. Snider said that was made more difficult to measure by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The act allows a tax credit for employers that provide paid family and medical leave to employees and stipulates a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization is not eligible for the tax credit. “While taxpayers may write

off charitable giving as part of their tax strategy, it’s important to note that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act significantly increased the standard deduction, making it increasingly rare for taxpayers to itemize deductions and thus write off cash donations,” Snider said. “Until recently, taxpayers were able to write off up to \$300 per individual for charitable contributions without itemizing. Some taxpayers may also work with a financial advisor to execute more complex strategies such as donating appreciated stock.” 2021 marks the second year in a row Chatham County has ranked number 1 in North Carolina, and the fourth consecutive year it has ranked within the top three counties in the state. For more information about the study, visit smartasset.com/retirement/financial-advisor/us/mostGenerousPlaces-2. Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.

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Galloway Ridge at Fearington certified as a 'Great Place to Work' for the second year

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Great Place to Work Institute and its senior care partner Activated Insights have honored Galloway Ridge with certification as a Great Place to Work.

The certification process involved surveying 100% of employees from across Galloway Ridge's locations and evaluating more than 60 elements of team members' experience

on the job. These included employee pride in the organization's community impact, belief that their work makes a difference, and feeling their work has special meaning. Rankings are based on employees' experiences, no matter who they are or what they do.

"We are excited to be recognized as a Great Place to Work for our second year in a row," said Kim Hutter, senior director of human resources at Galloway

Ridge. "Galloway Ridge is committed to attracting and retaining employees who embrace our core values of caring, commitment, empowerment, and integrity."

Galloway Ridge at Fearington is a Life Plan Community that blends Southern hospitality and worldly sophistication. Our residents enjoy vibrant, independent living and an array of activities and progressive health programs in a tight-knit environment

where employees and neighbors truly care for one another. Galloway Ridge's 62-acre campus offers 248 independent living apartments along with 52 independent living villas. The Medicare-certified health care center, The Arbor, is connected to the main building and offers 96 private rooms for assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing. To learn more about Galloway Ridge please visit galloway-ridge.com

CCCC wins \$50,000 in Global Ed Tech competition

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD – Central Carolina Community College has been named one of 30 winners in the Learning Engineering Tools Competition, a search for promising new education ideas, technologies and platforms.

CCCC will receive \$50,000 to develop and refine a unique software resource to help students better understand areas of study and how they align to all possible career and job options. Students will use this specially-designed software when they enroll to match their areas of interest to the college's workforce and curriculum options so that students save time and money. CCCC advisors and students will find this resource invaluable in ensuring that all students are better informed of their options.

The competition is supported by Schmidt Futures, Citadel Founder and CEO Ken Griffin, Walton Family Foundation, Siegel Family Endowment, Overdeck Family Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The competition was administered by Georgia State University and The Learning Agency.

"We are excited to build upon our work to help our students make informed decisions about all of the options at CCCC," stated Scott Byington, CCCC Associate Vice President for On-



boarding and Advising and one of the project leads along with CCCC Director of Admissions Adam Wade. "Everyone should be able to pursue additional workforce and curriculum opportunities that make sense for each person's goals and career plans. We are proud to be developing and refining tools to help students do that with the help of the Global Ed Tech grant."

Winning teams include entrepreneurs, learning scientists, educators, and researchers from around the world. With missions ranging from accelerating literacy and math skills for K-12 learners to creating tools that will accelerate the learning science research process, the educational tools developed by the teams have the potential to impact over 4 million students by the end of 2022. According to estimates calculated by each team, more than 40 million students within the next three years will benefit from these tools.

BILLY POE FAMILY REUNION

The family of the late William Lineberry "Billy" Poe and Sennie Adelaide Hackney Poe have scheduled the 2022 reunion for Saturday, July 16, at Loves Creek Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

in Siler City.

The doors will open by 11 a.m., with the brief business meeting at 12 noon. That will be closed by our Chaplain, Johnny Glosson, sharing devotions and thanks.



Hey, Vendors, be sure to reserve your space & take advantage of Early

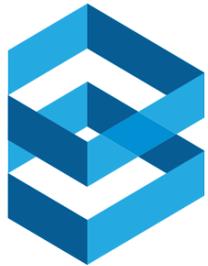
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Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

WOW, WHAT A NICE DAY. I SHOULD GET THE FAMILY AND DO SOMETHING.

WE NEVER CAN AGREE ON WHAT TO DO. WHAT IS SOMETHING FUN?

HEY DAD, MOM THINKS WE SHOULD GO SHOPPING FOR NEW YARD PLANTS.

WOW, I WOULD HATE TO SEE JUST WHAT YOUR MOM'S IDEA OF BORING IS.

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER, YOU'D BE OUTSIDE ALL WEEKEND, WORKING IN THE YARD, LIFTING THINGS TWENTY TIMES YOUR OWN BODY WEIGHT...

NOW YOU JUST SIT THERE WATCHING THE FOOD NETWORK...

QUIT BUGGING ME, LORRAINE.

MIDDLE-AGED ANT

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

GRILLIN' UP ANYTHING SPECIAL FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY, SIM?

YUP, HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, RIBS, BRATWURST, SHRIMP, PORK CHOPS, BRISKET, HAM, SAUSAGES, CHICKEN, STEAK, PULLED PORK AND I'M SMOKIN' A TURKEY.

ONE MEAT FOR EACH OF THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONIES.

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

LOOK! I INVENTED A PENCIL WITH AN ERASURE ON BOTH ENDS!!

THAT'S JUST POINTLESS.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

DEAR, I'M PROUD YOU TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO JOG A FEW MILES, BUT NORMALLY ONE JOGS BACK WITHOUT CALLING FOR A RIDE.

GRIN and BEAR IT

"He doesn't understand that 'we need to talk' means he needs to listen!"

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

UNSPOILED EXPANSES

ACROSS

1 Choco-coffee flavor

6 Low bow of respect

12 Global rivalry concerning weaponry

20 Customary

21 Last pope of the 1700s

22 Bishops' jurisdictions

23 Iconic logo of McDonald's

25 Proceeds forward

26 Long, thin cut

27 Three, in Germany

28 Sgt., say

30 Poet's "always"

31 Suffix with percent

32 "— Holmes"

34 Biblical metaphor for Jerusalem

38 Drs.' org.

39 Slimy veggie

41 "Swell!"

42 Hush-hush

43 Original thing

45 Regal name of Norway

DOWN

1 Coffee holders

2 Italian encore song, often cooking help but

3 Concerning

4 Couldn't help but

5 Beer for a Brit

6 Box lightly

7 Terrier breed

8 Saint — (island country)

9 Hearth waste

10 Get back at

11 Violinist

12 Computer pioneer

13 Person on a bus, e.g.

14 Classic soul song by Curtis Mayfield

15 Wolfs (down)

16 Sidekick of Stimpny

17 PC character set acronym

18 Singer Green formerly on "The Voice"

19 Ruhr city

24 Its cap. is Bismarck

29 Ex-Giant Mel

33 Ton of, casually

35 Not pleasurable, colloquially

36 Aurora, to the Greeks

37 Most wacky

38 Astern

40 TV's

44 Mayberry's

46 Brand of bottled water

48 Sassy quality, for short

50 Elite NFLer

51 Medieval war weapon

52 Catty

54 Wheel bars

55 Singer Rita

56 "Othello" role

57 Sloping

59 Counterfeit

62 Needle case

64 Flute sound

65 Respond to

66 Toluca locale

68 Rombauer of cooking

70 Actor

72 Line of family rulers

73 Attendee

75 "Hooked on Classics" label

79 At any time

80 Seer's skill

82 Pool growth

86 Tuscan city

88 Baby sheep

89 Top pilot

91 Irritating

93 Outskirts

94 Be a pioneer

95 Arcane

96 Uncooked

99 B&B, e.g.

103 Big Texas city

105 Has too much, with "on"

106 Brezhnev of the USSR

107 Enter forcibly

109 Tabula —

111 Bleating beasts

112 Singer

113 Not fuzzy

114 Talk formally

115 Singer Cleo

117 Italian isle

122 Make tangled

124 — Ball

126 Geller of the paranormal

127 Denials

129 "For shame!"

130 Indy circuit

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

ASSYRIAN UGANDA ALANON

PAPUANS REDOES TOMATO

OVERCAST STITCH FLAMER

PEWTER PASEO BROILERS

WALK SUNNY OUTLOOK

PORTAGE RESEE TRA

SNOWY GRET HAH AILS

ATTYS WAX STICKY ISSUE

TOOL BEG ITO COUNTING

ASIA SNARER CRINGE

ADS TORRID ROMANCE GEL

BEAPAL IDIDIT EADS

AFRICANA GOD BUS ILLS

FOGGY BOTTOM HOT STEAL

TEES TAW FAIR CHANCE

IFI IDBET ALERTED

STORMY PETREL FLOP

ARMYPOST YETTO SPARTA

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Pictured: Cathy Baker



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V T K Z R K B A P O R Q U O O
S M K A E I H O I R I F T O D
T B Z T M E T Y I D M W T C V
O T T R **P E R C O L A T O R** Q
V L O N G L C F K U E R H E I
E H F N D C A I Z A T R X T W
H T A B E C I V U C S S R A Q
O R N R E T A E H R E T A W M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: **Water Heaters that use the Sun**

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Boiler | Hot tub | Percolator | Stove |
| Cauldron | Ice bath | Radiator | Water cooler |
| Chiller | Ice maker | Range top | Water heater |
| Freezer | Kettle | Steam iron | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5		8				1
		4	7	9			2
7					3	6	
		9			7	8	3
6			2				7
5	8		1				4
	3		9				5
		1	4		5	9	
2				7			1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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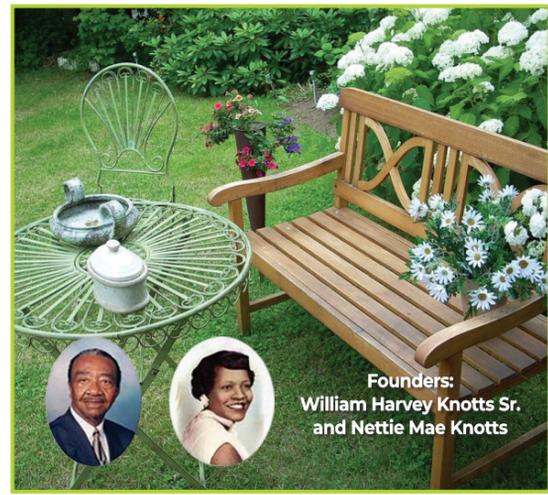
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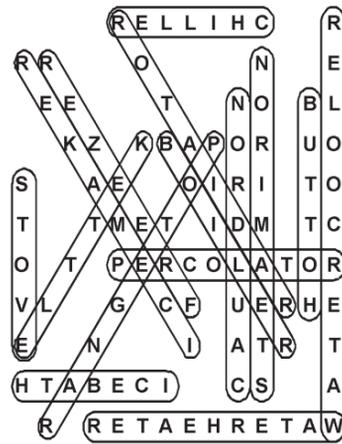
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CHANGES THE TEMPERATURE OF WATER



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

9	5	2	6	8	4	3	7	1
3	6	4	7	9	1	5	2	8
7	1	8	2	5	3	6	9	4
1	2	9	5	4	7	8	6	3
6	4	3	8	2	9	1	5	7
5	8	7	1	3	6	2	4	9
4	3	6	9	1	2	7	8	5
8	7	1	4	6	5	9	3	2
2	9	5	3	7	8	4	1	6

To answer your question ...

“Then why did I make so much food?” — my mother, failing to convince her dinner guests to take their weight in “sauce-shez pepp” with meatballs, salads (this is my mother I’m talking about, so these are all mayonnaise-based and salad in name only), baked beans, and three different desserts.

The Kid, my honorary sister Deena, and Aunt Polly all said, in a ragged kind of unison, “That’s what we ask you every single time!”

Literally, the woman made eight pounds of potatoes for potato salad. For. Eight. People.

My mom, The Kid, and I all have what is called hitchhiker’s thumb.

If you have it, your thumb can bend at the top knuckle over 180 degrees. My mom’s thumb is so curved it almost touches the front of her thumb. I have it, but to such an extreme degree. The Kid’s thumb is a little less than mine.

I never met her, but can only assume my maternal grandmother’s thumbs were actually attached and known as “thumb-loops”.

I think I figured it out today. My mom, her sister, and sister-in-law Tandy are all Depression/WWII babies. They knew, or were raised, by people who knew both empty larders and bellies.

These children grew up with a horror of hunger. Which is why they overbuy, overcook, and use those plates they fill again and again keep us all safe.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Baked beans, the Kid’s cole slaw and mom’s famous potato salad highlight this meal.

The Kid’s Cole Slaw

This is all about the dressing. Use anything from grocery store bagged mix to something from your own garden. The recipe makes quite a bit. It’ll last a week or so, or make a bucket of slaw.

1 1/2 cup mayonnaise 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar 2 teaspoons sugar 1/2 teaspoon celery salt

Whisk together, cover, and refrigerate for an hour up to overnight.

Gently toss enough dressing into the veg to moisten. Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours to a day or two (the longer the salad sits, the better the texture and flavor.

Mom’s Famous Pasta Salad

Two heads broccoli, cut into florets, lightly steamed, and cooled in ice water then drained 1 pint grape or Cherub tomatoes, cut in half 2 envelopes of original Hidden Valley ranch dressing mix (the one you make with actual buttermilk), made according to directions.

Mix pasta and veggies together, then dress with enough ranch to bring to pasta salad consistency. Serve or refrigerate immediately so that the pasta won’t absorb all the dressing before service.

Jersey Picnic Baked Beans

4 15-ounce cans of plain baked beans 1/4 cup Dijon or whole grain mustard 1 1/2 teaspoons powdered ginger 1 yellow onion chopped and cooked in a teaspoon of oil or butter

1/4 cup ketchup 1 teaspoon cinnamon 1/4 cup molasses, maple syrup, or sorghum 12 slices bacon

Strain the liquid from all but one can of beans. Mix all ingredients except for the bacon and pour into a greased 9x13 baking dish. Bake at 275 degrees for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, place all of the bacon into a pot of simmering water. Cook in simmering water for about 10 minutes then drain and pat dry with paper towels. This “par cooking” will reduce the amount of fat and make it easier for the bacon to brown in the oven.

After the 30 minutes is up, remove beans from oven, and cover with bacon slices. Return to middle rack of over and cook on low broiler for 15-20 minutes or until the bacon is browned and crispy-ish. Let sit 15 minutes before serving.



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



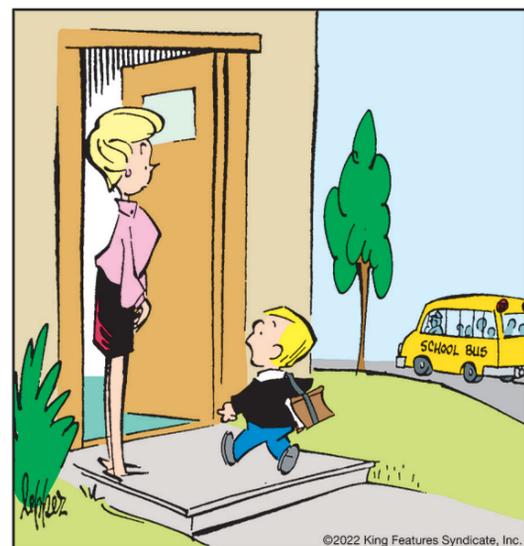
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