

Chatham News + Record

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Your VinFast questions answered



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

The VinFast VF-8 is displayed at VinPearl Resort in Nha Trang, Vietnam. The car is a pre-production model of the electric SUV expected to be manufactured at the Chatham County factory.

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

After returning from Vietnam to tour VinFast's manufacturing facilities and learn more about the company, I found myself left with several questions about the viability of the Vietnamese electric vehicle manufacturer and what it would bring to Chatham County. I attempted to parse through those questions in two stories published in last week's edition of the paper.

VinFast has made big promises to Chatham County with its planned \$4 billion investment in a 1,977-acre site in Moncure, saying it'll bring 7,500 jobs to the county. Likewise, the state and county are taking a gamble that VinFast will succeed, luring the EV

company with \$1.2 billion in tax incentives. It's only natural to be skeptical, but the deep pockets of VinFast seemed to have persuaded local and state officials.

Writing last week's articles got me thinking — you, reader, probably have some questions about VinFast too. So, I put out a call on social media and in the Chatham Brew newsletter asking for your questions about the company.

Here are answers to a few things you wanted to know:

What will community engagement efforts look like between VinFast and Chatham County? Is there a plan to host events or talk with community members about the company?

The company will certainly be making an impact on the

county, whether residents want it or not. Community engagement logistics are still in the works and for now, VinFast officials say they are primarily focused on breaking ground on the Triangle Innovation Point site in September.

After the dirt starts moving, we may see more specifics of relations between the company and county residents.

"VinFast has a strong relationship with Chatham County officials and the Economic Development team and we stand ready to support their efforts to maintain an open dialogue with the local community," said Van Anh Nguyen, chief executive officer of VinFast U.S. manufacturing.

See **VINFAST**, page A6

CHATHAM COUNTY CONSERVATION

'Chatham conservation icon' awarded Public Lands Conservationist of the Year



Friends of
LOWER HAW RIVER
State Natural Area

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

Gretchen Smith moved to Chatham County in 1985 as a lover of nature and volunteering. More than 30 years later, she's managed to bring together those two passions across multiple conservation groups in Chatham through

her environmental advocacy for the Haw River, helping to secure grants to improve public access points and spearheading campaigns for trail infrastructure projects.

Now, for her dedication to protecting the Haw River corridor, Smith is being honored as Public



Photo by Simon Smith

Gretchen Smith checks in attendees before a guided hike in the Lower Haw River State Natural Area.

Lands Conservationist of the Year by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

Smith, 70, is one of 17 recipients of the federation's annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards. The awards honor conservation leaders across North Carolina who have displayed an

"unwavering" commitment to the state's wildlife, habitat and natural resources, according to the federation's website.

This year marks the 58th such celebration held by the federation. Smith, who is closing out her

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COVID HITS HOME

New variants have driven case counts up. Now, hospitalizations are increasing, too.

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

Mike Zelek, the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department, says there's a lot of COVID out there.

And that's not just because the number of N.C. counties with "high" COVID-19 community levels has jumped from less than a dozen a few weeks ago to more than 60 today.

Zelek is feeling it — in every sense. "I have been in isolation this week after testing positive," he told the News + Record last week. "This experience has given me added perspective not only on preventing COVID transmission, which is often our primary focus, but also on how to prepare for an infection should you or someone in your household test positive."

COVID, he said, "packs a punch." "And I continue to feel it almost five days in," he said.

By last winter, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had estimated 58% of the U.S. population had been infected by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID. Since then, a new wave of infections driven by Omicron variants has increased case counts and, most recently, hospital admissions.

Zelek, after being surrounded by COVID for more than two years but never being infected, is recovering. His advice at this point in the

See **COVID**, page A9

REMEMBERING WAYNE STROWD

Former North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department Chief leaves behind legacy of hard work and devotion

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

Among his children, grandchildren, friends and colleagues, John Wayne Strowd Sr. — known as Wayne to most — could be counted on for his devotion to three things: his family, his farm and his fire department.

The former chief and a founding member of the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department, died of cancer on July 9 in his home in Pittsboro at the age of 88. In his wake, his loved ones noted that Wayne leaves behind a legacy of hard work and commitment, evident in the community he helped



Submitted photo

This 2010 photo shows Wayne Strowd at work at Strowd Brothers Dairy in Pittsboro.

See **CHIEF**, page A6

County's lengthy ballot features plenty of contested races

Early voting starts Oct. 14

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Early voting for the Nov. 8 statewide general election begins Oct. 14, and Chatham County's ballot will be lengthy — with six major county-wide seats, two state legislative seats and the sheriff's post among those being contested.

Key races on this year's ballot include:

- **U.S. Senate:** Republican Congressman Ted Budd faces former N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, a Democrat, and Libertarian candidate Shannon Bray, for the Senate seat being vacated by Republican Richard Burr. Budd first won the 13th Congressional seat in 2017.
- **U.S. House of Representatives, Dist.**

9: Incumbent Richard Hudson Jr., a Republican, faces Democrat Ben Clark. Hudson, first elected to the Dist. 8 seat in 2013, is seeking North Carolina's 9th congressional district seat after the 2020 census required the state to redraw its electoral districts and maps. Four of the counties Hudson represents moved into the 9th district, which now includes Chatham.

• **N.C. Senate, Dist. 20:** Incumbent Natalie Murdock of Durham, a Democrat newly representing Chatham County after redistricting, faces Republican Alvin Reed of Sanford. Murdock won office in 2020 to the seat of resigning Sen. Mickey Michaux, becoming the first Black woman under the age of 40 to serve in the state Senate. Reed, a software writer, describes himself as the author of "The Theory of Biblical

See **ELECTION**, page A3

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

- The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 8, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.
- The **Chatham County Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 15, at the George Moses Horton Middle School multipurpose room.
- The **N.C. Department of Transportation** will meet at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 16, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.
- The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 24, at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.

OTHER

On Sunday, August 7, the **Pittsboro Business Association's** monthly **First Sunday street fair** will be featuring arts and crafts vendors, other businesses and civic organizations, music, food, and children's

activities. Many downtown businesses will also be open, along with the Historical Museum. Come enjoy this family-friendly event from 12 to 4 p.m.! More information about attending or becoming a vendor is available on our Pittsboro Business Association Facebook page, at www.shoppittsboro.com, and via email to the event coordinator at pittsborofirstsunday@gmail.com.

• The **Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors** will meet on Thursday, August 11, at 7 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 US 64 W Business, Pittsboro (west side entrance) in the conference room. All meetings are open to the public. To be added to the agenda or for more information, call (919) 545-8440.

• **American Legion Post 93**, 100th Year celebration. Free to Veterans and their guests, Saturday, August 20, at 1 p.m. at the Siler City Moose Lodge. RSVP by August 1, phone: 919-704-1219 or Email: ncpost93@gmail.com, Door prizes and refreshments.

• Chatham County Democrats, **Sundae Sunday - Meet the School Board Candidates** on Sunday, August 14 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Courtyard at the

Arts Incubator, 223 N Chatham Avenue, Siler City. Ice cream, Fully Supplied Book Bag Raffle,

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 month's schedule is August 4 and 18, at the Silk Hope Community Center.
- **Chatham Community Library** to Present Live Musical Performance: Being Bilingual Rocks! Families with children of all ages are invited to a celebration in Spanish and English in a live musical performance of Being Bilingual Rocks! on Saturday, August 13, at 10:30 a.m. at Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro, in the Holmes Meeting Room. It is free and open to the public. Contact youth.services@chathamlibraries.org.
- **Chatham Community Library** will host a virtual film screening of *Apart* (2020), Thurs-

day, August 11 - 18. This program is free and open to the public. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or 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.vanduin@chathamlibraries.org for more information on this and other events and programs.

- **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 directives. 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. 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.bstrop93.org for more information.
- **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
- **Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

NEWS BRIEF

Chatham Hospital's Sessoms named to 'Great 100'

SILER CITY — Chatham Hospital is thrilled to announce that Donna Sessoms, MSN, RN, RNFA, CNOR, CAPA, CPAN, has been honored for her contributions to the nursing profession.

Sessoms has been included on the 2022 "Great 100" list. The Great 100 of North Carolina is a non-profit organization which annually recognizes 100 Registered Nurses from all areas of nursing practice for their contributions to patient care and the nursing profession.

"There are approximately 122,000 Registered Nurses in North Carolina, so a nomination for this distinguished recognition is alone an honor for any nurse," said Eric Wolak, the chief nursing officer and COO of Chatham Hospital. "Being selected, however, is a distinction and a watershed moment in any nurse's career."

Sessoms obtained her associate's degree in Nursing from Sandhills Community College in 1982 and began her nursing career at UNC Medical Center's Respiratory Intensive Care Unit. She transitioned to Chatham Hospital in 1985 and has been a staple of Chatham Hospital ever since. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Winston-Salem State University in 2008, and her Master of Science in Nursing with a focus on Healthcare Leadership in 2018. She's the Director of Surgical Services for Chatham Hospital and in that role has had a tremendous impact on countless patients, family members and teammates, Wolak said.

A life-long Chatham County resident, Sessoms



Donna Sessoms

is married with two sons and four granddaughters.

"I am thankful for the support my family has given me during my nursing career to be able to do what I love," she said.

Her nomination highlighted her work with students, vulnerable patients, quality improvement initiatives and her

own professional growth.

"Chatham Hospital is honored to call Sessoms a teammate and we look forward to celebrating her at the annual Great 100 Gala on Oct. 8 in Greenville," Wolak said. "Thank you, Donna, for being a great nurse!"

—CN+R staff report

NC ARTS INCUBATOR & THE CHATHAM RABBIT COFFEE SHOP PRESENT:
A CELEBRATION OF GUITAR-BUILDING LEGEND TERRY MCINTURFF

KOO DAY TAH

SATURDAY
AUGUST 20TH
6PM-10PM
FEATURING
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EL MIRAGE

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SILER CITY DOWNTOWN MUSIC SERIES
2022

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Joe Van Gogh Coffee | Idaho Wood Lighting | Elizabeth's Pizza | Siler City Pharmacy
Captain Toms | Reality World Carolina Properties - Sherry Allen | Liberty Woodyard
Liles Plumbing and Heating Co, Inc | Caroline Liles Hudson, Broker/Realtor Jon York Realty

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 (Siler City)
200 Valley View Lane (Pittsboro)
1822 Chandellay Drive (Durham)
5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)
4233 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)
130 Estes Drive (Chapel Hill)
117 Foxwood (Sanford)
1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)
729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
745 Merl McManus Road (Bear Creek)
2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)
206 Olympia Street (Siler City)
8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)
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 (Siler 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 Chapel 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.

REALTY WORLD
CAROLINA PROPERTIES
919-542-0523

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

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ICON

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third term as president of the all-volunteer group Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area, was “stunned” to receive the call notifying her she’d been nominated for the award — though, if you ask her colleagues, it seems like she’s the only one who’s surprised.

“I had no idea that I had been nominated for this award,” Smith said. “And I just really feel like it’s a great honor to receive it.”

‘Phenomenal ball of energy’

For the past 15 years, Smith has been deeply involved in conservation work in the county, first as a volunteer with the Chatham Conservation Partnership (CCP). The CCP is a collaboration between individuals, local, state and federal government groups, businesses, nonprofits, and other entities with the goal of developing strategies to protect and build awareness for the county’s natural resources.

What sets Smith apart from many of her fellow Governor’s Conservation Achievement awardees is that her conservationist career is entirely rooted in volunteerism.

This background is part of the impetus for an initiative she began while working with CCP.

“I’m not a biologist or an ecologist or a geologist, or anything like that,” Smith, who worked in health administration with UNC Healthcare until she retired in 2014, recalled. “I thought, ‘Well, how can I help contribute to conservation in this conservation organization, given that I don’t have the technical expertise?’ And I thought, ‘Well, I can start organized outings.’”

Thus began a series called “Exploring Nature in Chatham,” in which Smith recruited experts and professionals to lead outings for residents at various locations like Jordan Lake or the Lower Haw River State Natural Area.

She became interested in promoting trails, and in 2016, helped to form the Friends of Lower Haw group to support the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. In April 2021, the Friends of Lower Haw organization, along with land trusts, the county government, state agencies, and trail and paddle groups formed the Haw River Trail Steering Committee, another focus of Smith’s conservation work.

Megan Lynch, a board member of the Friends group and a member of the N.C. Wildlife Federation, said Smith is particularly good at bringing people together to focus on a



Photo by Simon Smith

Gretchen Smith stands with Boy Scout Ben Pickens and his father Dr. Ed Pickens installing a beehive in the pollinator meadow created for Friends of Lower Haw as part of an Eagle Scout project.

common goal, calling her a “phenomenal ball of energy.”

Lynch was the one who nominated Smith for the Public Lands Conservationist of the Year award. She said she’d intended to nominate Smith for an award last year, but she missed the deadline. This year, however, she made sure to fill out the online form, nominating Smith for two awards. Lynch said she was quite confident Smith would receive Public Lands Conservationist of the Year because “it just fit (her) to a tee.”

Most recently, Smith was instrumental in helping to get grant funding in the county for a trail corridor feasibility study and economic impact analysis of undeveloped parts of the Haw River Trail Corridor. The project is intended to create groundwork for a Haw River Trail in Chatham that would connect to a regional Haw River Trail network.

As a leader, Smith is detail-oriented. She still does things “the old-fashioned way,” Lynch said, including sending out handwritten thank you notes to volunteers.

Lynch said she’s inspired by Smith, from her dedication to attending meetings to her fearlessness in contacting officials to push forward the group’s conservationist goals.

“She encourages you to do a little more than you were maybe thinking you were willing to do,” Lynch said with a laugh.

In nominating Smith for the award, Lynch also wanted to let Smith know how much she is appreciated.

“And she has done so much, even going as far as writing the grants to get money for the county to do some of these things,” Lynch said. “That’s what made me realize that nobody really knows how much she did behind the scenes of everything.”

‘Chatham conservation icon’

To Margaret Sands, membership and outreach coordinator for Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC), Smith is a “Chatham conservation icon.”

“You don’t really do environmental work in Chatham without knowing Gretchen,” Sands said.

Sands first met Smith through CCP, before Sands began working for TLC — an accredited land trust and non-profit group that works across six counties in the Triangle.

Sands said Smith played a key role in establishing relationships and bringing different people together when TLC acquired some properties while working to expand the Lower Haw State Natural Area. Together, the two women have also worked on Haw River projects such as canoe access near Bynum and strategizing for trail conservation.

“I also think that Gretchen is a good example of how important citizens are and community members are,” Sands said. “Obviously, working with TLC is my job. But we can’t really replace the importance of community connection when we’re trying to do conservation.”

Bill Holman, the N.C. State Director of The Conservation Fund, has worked with Smith for a number of years. He said he also appreciates people like Smith who devote their free time to conservation.

“She could have just quietly gone out and done hikes all by herself or with her family,” Holman said. “But she’s really dedicated herself to promoting more public access and more trails along the Haw River.”

When it comes to her environmental advocacy, Smith says she uses a “conservation through recreation” strategy, something she’d picked up from individuals from Alamance County in collaborating on a Haw River Trail Partnership.

It can sometimes be difficult to get people to join up conservation efforts for conservation’s sake, she said.

“But if you approach it from an outdoor recreation standpoint, where the public can have access to enjoy the natural resources and the river, then it becomes easier to sell the conservation part,” Smith said.

Smith is from Hamlet, a small town in Richmond Coun-

ty in the Sandhills region. She grew up in a family that loved to travel, particularly along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

“Being outside and appreciating nature was definitely something that we did when I was growing up,” Smith said. “So it’s always stayed with me.”

And though she calls herself an introvert, over the years, she said she’s had to learn to be more extroverted in order to accomplish her goals, including taking that love of outdoor recreation and using it to find common ground with others to encourage them to take action when it comes to conservation.

Chatham County is home to the Haw, Deep and Rocky Rivers, but of the three, the Haw River is facing the urgent development pressures, Smith said.

The river spans 110 miles, according to the Haw River Assembly. Its source begins as small streams in Forsyth County, which join together, flowing through parts of six different counties, to eventually meet the Deep River and become the Cape Fear River.

Despite a growing urbanization in the surrounding areas, she said she loves that the Haw River still maintains a “sense of wildness to it.” Different parts of the river have different feelings to it, she said.

“You can be in one section along the Haw River and feel like you’re in the mountains because they have the steep slopes and the mountain laurel,” she said. “And then other parts, it’s flat, and it’s more like you’re walking in a floodplain.”

The Lower Haw State Natural Area — which stretches from old Bynum Bridge to beyond the U.S. Hwy 64 bridge — is a particularly popular spot for hiking and canoeing.

One of Smith’s environmental concerns regarding the area is a desire to ensure the spot has responsible recreational use. This can be partly achieved through more public access to the river so that visitation isn’t concentrated in one area, she said.

Smith said people have been taking canoes in and out of the Haw River and walking alongside its bank for decades, but don’t realize that those are informal social footpaths.

“And there’s a lot of damage being done to the natural ecosystems because of that informal use,” Smith said. “And so we need to have sustainably designed land and paddle trails so that we can accommodate that visitation while limiting the negative impact to those natural areas.”

Smith also fears public access to the area will decrease, and that current riparian and natural vegetated buffers will be altered as a result of contin-

ued residential development in the land surrounding the area.

“And there’s a sense of urgency that if we don’t do something now, it’s going to be too late,” she said.

Looking forward

Both Smith and Sands highlighted a lack of concentrated funding for conservation in the Haw River corridor as a limitation to advocacy work in the area.

Though she was pleased to see more money devoted for land and water conservation in the latest state budget, Smith said she thinks there needs to be greater investment in the state park system, particularly with regard to understaffed facilities and amenities that are in disrepair.

“I just hope that our state will start investing more in parks at both the local and state level because I think our public lands are really important,” Smith said. “And it’s important to invest in them.”

Though her term as president of the Friends of Lower Haw group comes to a close in September, Smith said she’ll still be involved in the group but in a different capacity. Some of her goals include seeing an active management of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, the development of sustainable land and paddle trails and implementation of the trails plan.

On its website, the N.C. Wildlife Federation states that in recognizing conservation leaders through the Governor’s Conservation Achievement Awards, the organization “hopes to inspire all North Carolinians to take a more active role in protecting the natural resources of our state.”

Smith hopes that her award will help bring more attention to the Lower Haw River State Natural Area and the need for better stewardship and resources to protect the waterway. Ultimately, she emphasizes that in order to participate in conservation work, it’s not necessary to have a specific background in environmental studies.

All a person needs is an appreciation of nature and a desire to conserve that, she said.

“Don’t let your lack of expertise in something stop you from getting involved,” Smith said.

Awardees will be honored at a banquet Saturday, Sept. 10, at Embassy Suites Raleigh Durham Research Triangle in Cary. Tickets for the banquet, which starts at 5:45 p.m., may be reserved for \$100 online at the N.C. Wildlife Federation’s website.

Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at mdevarajan@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @maydhadevarajan.

ELECTION

Continued from page A1

Patterns,” which he says proves that a higher intelligence wrote Genesis 1:1.

• **N.C. House, Dist. 54:** This race pits veteran legislator Robert Reives II of Goldston, who’s held the seat since 2014,

against Republican challenger Walter Petty.

Reives is the House Minority Leader in the N.C. General Assembly and has been re-elected four times. Petty, a long-time Chatham County commissioner first elected in 2010, resigned that seat in April 2019, citing the pressing time demands

of his business, Atlantic Power Solutions.

• **Chatham County Board of Commissioners, Dist. 3:** This seat, being vacated by Democrat Diana Hales, will be contested between Democrat David Delaney, the vice president and assistant general counsel for cybersecurity and privacy for

Truist Bank, and Republican Tom Glendinning, a former U.S. Marine who lost to Valerie Foushee in the 2020 race for state senate.

• **Chatham County Board of Commissioners, Dist. 4:** This seat is held now by Robert Logan, who once was the superintendent of Chatham County Schools. Logan was appointed to fill the term of former Commissioner Jim Crawford, who resigned the seat in December. On the ballot are native Chatham Countians Katie Kenlan, an educator, and Republican Joe Godfrey, a service operations supervisor at Siemens Industry.

• **Chatham County Board of Commissioners, Dist. 5:** Incumbent Democrat Franklin Gomez Flores faces Republic Peyton Moody. Gomez Flores beat Republic Andy Wilkie for the seat in 2020; Wilkie had been appointed to fill the unexpired seat of Walter Petty.

• **Chatham County Sheriff:** Incumbent Sheriff Mike Roberson, a Democrat, faces challenger Marcus Globuschutz, a Republican. Roberson was appointed to the position in May 2016, replacing the retiring Richard Webster, then won re-election in 2018.

The popular Roberson, who has increased the visibility and staffing

of the office, has come under a steady stream of criticism, largely through social media, by Globuschutz, who has accused Roberson’s administration for its handling of the county’s illicit drug trade and its administration of the new Animal Resource Center, among other things.

• **Chatham County Board of Education, Dist. 3:** Incumbent Democrat Del Turner, who’s held the seat since 2010, faces two challengers: Jessica Winger of Pittsboro and Clifford Stickney of Siler City. Winger, who has four children at Chatham County Schools, has been a vocal proponent of an optional school masking policy and actively advocated for a return to in-person learning while CCS was in a hybrid or remote learning schedule.

• **Chatham County Board of Education, Dist. 4:** Incumbent Jane Allen Wilson. Wilson doesn’t face opposition on the ballot, but was expected to be challenged in an organized write-in campaign by Wendy Copelan. Board of Elections Director Pandora Paschal told the News + Record that Copelan had stated to her she wasn’t going to pursue the write-in campaign; Copelan didn’t respond to an email message from the News + Record.

• **Chatham County Board of Education, Dist. 5:** Incumbent Gary Leonard, who is the board’s chairperson, faces Timothy Moore. Leonard, a former athletic director at coach at Chatham Central High School, was first elected in 2010. Moore, a Texas native and U.S. Army veteran, has joined Winger on campaigning for a “parents-first” approach to board policy-making.

The board of education seats are nonpartisan; there were no primaries for these seats in May.

Other seats on the general election ballot include two on the N.C. Supreme Court, four on the N.C. Court of Appeals, one on the N.C. Superior Court, and the uncontested District Attorney and Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court seats, as well as the Chatham County Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor.

Other key dates include:

- Sept. 9: absentee ballots available
- Oct. 14: voter registration deadline
- Nov. 1: last day to request an absentee ballot
- Nov. 5: early voting ends
- Nov. 7: absentee ballot request deadline
- Election day: polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

VIEWPOINTS

I'm ready to put a steak in the pandemic

I found Jock's number in my contacts list on my iPhone last Thursday, tapped on it, then waited for him to answer before delivering the news.

BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

"Hey," I said when he picked up. "I think we're going to have to postpone our dinner."

Again. We've been good friends for years. Jock and his wife hosted Lee Ann and me for a wonderful meal and fellowship at their home just north of Pittsboro back in 2019. COVID interfered with us returning the favor, but last winter, fully vaccinated and eager to spend time together face to face, we once again began working on scheduling time at our place to break bread, to sample some

classic vino they'd brought back from a recent trip to Italy, and catch up in person while eating one of my fabulous grilled steaks.

It took a lot of back and forth, but in late May, we eventually settled on that July date — yeah, we planned ahead, owing mostly to their busy post-retirement travel schedule — to meet again.

Now, on the phone, I'm telling him that we'd better not: Lee Ann had, two days earlier, spent an hour in a car with someone just now diagnosed with COVID. Lee Ann was symptom-free, but ...

Jock understood. He quickly opted for re-scheduling instead of rolling the dice and risking the dinner date, planned for the following night. Both he and his wife, he told me, were "COVID virgins" — just like me — and with some air travel and other trips planned later this summer, he didn't want to

take any chances.

We re-scheduled for later this month.

COVID-willing. I've said this a dozen times in the last few weeks, but it's stayed true: I know more people right now with COVID than at any point in the pandemic. Within the last few months, several fully-vaccinated close family members have been diagnosed. The four health care professionals I have the most contact with have each been diagnosed since June. Careful, healthy, mask-preferring friends here and elsewhere have contracted it, too.

But not Jock. Not his wife, and not me.

Or have I?

Lee Ann was exposed in a group setting in May of 2021, then fell ill a few days later. Three awful days (fatigue, fever, coughing) followed, along with a positive diagnosis. Predictably (perhaps because I'm a sucker

for sympathy pains) I started feeling bad a day or so after her worst day, but my test — a major affair back then, costing about \$150 and requiring a 90-minute round-trip drive — was negative.

I was convinced I had it, but the test said no.

Who knows? What we do know is that nearly 60% of people in the U.S. have been infected, and that about 40% of confirmed COVID-19 cases are asymptomatic. A third of Americans know someone who's been reinfected with COVID in the last few weeks. A fourth of those who've had COVID suspect they've had it more than once. We know that new variants persist, and we know that mask use is at the lowest point since the pandemic took root.

We also know there are anti-vax superspreaders who get infected and never show symptoms while they pass

along the virus. We know about the healthy infected who die. And we know that wherever you fall within the argument about the pandemic, vaccines, masking and mandates, you're just about more likely to win the lottery than become convinced you're of the wrong opinion.

We've learned a lot since I took my last COVID test. What we don't know about COVID, of course, would fill volumes.

What some of us profess *not* to know might not even fill an index card.

Me? I'm thankful for my health, happy Lee Ann wasn't reinfected, optimistic about the recovery of family and friends, and really ready to fire up the grill and cook steaks for Jock and his wife.

COVID-willing, of course.

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

Thank you, sir!

A dozen students bowed to the flag, then turned and bowed again to their instructor, shouting, "Thank you, sir!" Every taekwondo class ends in this manner.

But this time, my son's instructor walked purposefully over and shook my hand. "When will I see you on the mat with other adults?" He smiled. "I can tell you're interested. I can see it in your eyes."

This instructor doesn't miss much, but he did misinterpret my focused attention on that particular workout. While I have no desire to learn taekwondo, I profess a deep appreciation for what I saw being taught to the students.

It's hard to be a kid in today's culture. It's true that children have advantages over previous generations. Technology has afforded opportunities never before imagined. With gains in racial and gender equity, more children and youth are free to be their true selves.

But according to a study by scholars at the universities of Florida and Denver, 60% of parents with children aged 14 to 18 reported cyberbullying in 2020, which is up from 32% in 2007. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and social isolation, numerous studies have shown that children's mental health has suffered, including lowered self-esteem. The reasons for these struggles are multifaceted; the problems are complex.

And yet, I have seen how part of a healthy solution may be as simple as breaking a wooden board.

My son wanted to take taekwondo so that he could kick a board in two. Having no previous experience with martial arts, I tried to manage his expectations, assuming that splitting anything with your body was an advanced technique and thus required time to learn.

On his second day of class, the instructor called my son to the front of the room, then my boy broke a board in half with his fist! My son was wearing a face mask, but I could tell by his eyes that he grinned from ear to ear!

Every student has this affirming experience on the second day of class, yet taekwondo is about much more than breaking boards. As is true of any sport, skills do not come quickly or easily.

The value of athletic competition is not new to me, especially lessons of perseverance and commitment. I grew up playing basketball and baseball, which had led me to believe that such intangible values were learned only through team sports.

The afternoon in which the instructor misread the look in my eyes, I had just watched a student struggle through a particular drill. It was clear from where I sat that this child was frustrated and had wanted to quit. The instructor pushed him but without shaming him in front of the others. Instead, the others in the class encouraged their fellow student to finish. When the struggling student finally did, the applause was just as loud as when others broke their first boards. This child wore an unmistakable look of pride.

Taekwondo will remain my son's thing, not mine. But I add my "Thank you, sir" out of deep respect for adults who inspire young people to learn and, along the way, teach them even more about themselves.

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."

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LETTERS

We should fund our public schools adequately

TO THE EDITOR:

Once again, John Hood's op-ed ("We can't all be experts," July 28 – Aug. 3 edition) requires a riposte.

Hood began by disparaging government experts, contrasting them to "private companies and

independent professionals." Turning to education, he argues that if we don't like the public services offered, the government should pay private providers for "measurable" performance.

The problem with public education in North Carolina is that scarce resources are redirected from it to private providers whose

performance is not scrutinized to the same degree as is public education. A better course of action would be to fund public education adequately. But, like healthcare, convincing the Republican state legislature to do so seems to be a lost cause.

Michael Cotter
Chapel Hill

Summer storms refresher for mind and memory

Although spotty, recent storms and rains along with sunshine and heat have gone a long way toward reviving pastures and will mean bumper hay crops for some folks.

All that bodes well for those who produce food and fiber and I'm happy for us all, but the outpouring of recent downpours and thunder boomers has an unexpected personal benefit.

Those storms have caused me to remember my dearly departed Ma. She had a thing about thunder and lightning; she drummed it into me every time the two came along, which when I was a little fellow, was about every summer afternoon.

She definitely lived by what I've heard weather folks say: "If you can hear it, fear it; if you can see it, flee it." At some point in my young life — apparently when she deemed me old enough to bear it — she confessed that as a young woman she had been struck by lightning and didn't want to repeat the experience nor did she want her darling offspring (me) to walk where she had.

So in deference to Mother Nature, each time the summer thunder boomers came our way, there were several things we/I had to do. First was the basic "Don't go outside." I knew that already, but she always began her routine with that admonition.

Following closely behind: close the windows and doors, don't sit near a window, get in the middle of the room, lie down if possible,

unplug all appliances, do not get into the tub or mess around the sink or turn on water, and never, under any circumstances — even if Stan Musial calls — do you answer the phone.

That list — and there were other items — led me to several opportunities. For instance, I learned early that if I checked off her list before the first crack of thunder or lightning flash, I could fling a quilt onto the floor, stack up my comic books, raid the frig and while away many a happy moment with the latest issue of Donald Duck while consuming two 16-ounce Pepsis and a jar of Peter Pan crunchy. (Unplugging the appliances didn't extend to the refrigerator or mean we had to turn off the lights.)

Those activities, no doubt, have contributed greatly to my outstanding physique of today, along with the razor-sharp mind that serves me no purpose other than to be full of useless trivia, including the names of Donald's three nephews and his stingy uncle. (See me after class if you don't know the answers.)

Later on in life, after she and I no longer lived in the same house, I would take the opportunity to call her during the height of a storm, knowing she would not answer.

And since this was before caller ID, as soon as the last clap ended and the flashes were gone, she would call me and say, "Did you just call me?" When I confessed that I had, she would go on to say, "Don't you know you're not supposed to use the telephone when it's lightning and that I'm not going to answer?"

There I would say, "No, Mama, nobody ever told me."

"Yes, I did, too," she'd answer. No matter how many times we

played this game, the words were still the same.

Today I mostly do like she taught me. I don't talk on the phone and typically I stay out of the shower. However, I have taken to making a cup of coffee on the one cup coffee-making appliance. Then I ease out the French doors in our dining room and sit on the screened porch, up against the wall, and watch the show and listen to the rumbles. And if it's a good driving rain, I thrill to the sound of the drops on the tin roof.

I think of her then; I remember how she told me the thunder rumbles were the sounds of God moving his furniture or the angels bowling. Somewhere along the line I'm pretty sure it was Mama who told me if the sun shone while it was raining, the devil was beating his wife.

Lest the counselors and authorities condemn me here, let me go on record as saying I am not advocating anyone beat anyone, unless it's the Cardinals over the Cubs. That's just what she told me about 70 years or so ago.

Now as I sit and consume Juan Valdez's finest and listen to Mother Nature's symphony, I think of her and remember.

And, so far at least, I haven't been struck by lightning ...

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.

VIEWPOINTS

North Carolinians think recession is here

North Carolinians are greatly concerned about our economy. According to the John Locke Foundation's latest Civitas Poll, 77% of state voters believe we are currently in a recession. Most call inflation "a huge problem" and say it's difficult to afford housing, food and gas.

At the same time, North Carolinians have been treated to months of positive economic news. We continue to attract new residents at a healthy clip and clinch top rankings for business and quality of life. Major companies are building new plants, warehouses and headquarters in our state, creating thousands of jobs on-site as well as new supplier and vendor networks likely to create many more.

So, is it irrational for North Carolinians to feel so dissatisfied and anxious about our economy? Not at all. In our present circumstance, it's hardly irrational to care more about absolute than relative performance.

Regarding the latter, North Carolina fares well by most objective criteria. From the fourth quarter of 2019 (before the onset of the pandemic) to the first quarter of 2022, our state's economy grew by an inflation-adjusted annual average of 2%. That's the eighth-fastest growth rate in the country. It's much higher than the national average of 1.2% and the regional average of 1.4%. During the same period, North Carolina ranked 12th in per-capita income growth, again beating the national and regional averages.

Our labor markets are healing, as well. North Carolina's U-3 jobless rate was 3.4% in June, down from 5% a year ago and 14.2% during the worst of

the COVID downturn. While this headline unemployment rate is statistically indistinguishable from the national average, the state compares better on a broader measure that includes people who've dropped out of the labor force and part-timers who'd rather have full-time jobs. North Carolina's U-6 rate of 7.8% is below the national average of 8.4%.

When it comes to the rising cost of living, one could do much worse than live here. For example, as of late July, the average retail price of a gallon of gas was about \$4 in our state — significantly below the national average of \$4.33. North Carolina is also doing a better job than most at new home construction, which is helping to moderate price inflation in housing. In a recent Realtor.com survey of the nation's 300 largest housing markets, a disproportionate share of those earning high rankings was in our state, including Burlington (#2), Raleigh (#6),

Durham-Chapel Hill (#12), Wilmington (#32), and Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir (#40).

Relatively speaking, then, North Carolina's economy is performing well. Still, what does that mean in practice?

If you're employed but struggling to make ends meet — because your recent pay raise was outpaced by the prices you're paying for rent, food, transportation, and other goods and services — how much better does it make you feel to learn that you'd be even worse off if you moved to New Jersey or Illinois?

It may well be true. But it may not feel relevant. You weren't planning to move, anyway. Meanwhile, there's a stack of bills to pay.

When I was more deeply engaged in public-policy analysis, I paid a lot of attention to measures of relative performance. Because state and local government, in particular, can have only small-to-moderate effects on economic outcomes over

time — or on a variety of other indicators of interest, from test scores to crime rates — it's essential to construct models that adjust for national and international trends, or other factors beyond the control of state and local governments, in order to isolate the problem you're studying. Otherwise, a relatively small signal will get lost in the statistical noise.

We don't live our lives within econometric models, however. Based on our own experiences, and those of people we know or read about, we draw broad inferences about how things are going. North Carolinians have clearly drawn the inference, I think correctly, that something has gone horribly wrong. Try talking them out of it at your own risk.

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).

Cookbooks that tell stories

What North Carolina cookbook has sold the most copies?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

If you ask the folks at UNC Press, they'll tell you that "Mama Dip's Kitchen" is their all-time best-selling book. It has sold nearly 300,000 copies.

Rarely do local-oriented cookbooks published by community groups or churches sell in such numbers. But "Island Born and Bred," published by the Harkers Island United Methodist Church's Women, has sold a reported 140,000 copies of its cookbook over the 35 years that it has been in print.

How and why did these cookbooks do so well?

One of the secrets of "Mama Dip's Kitchen's" success was how the author shared her personal journey of growing up in Chatham County and how it led to the success of her Chapel Hill restaurant.

Writing in 1999, she told her story: "I was born a colored baby girl in Chatham County, North Carolina to Ed Cotton and Effie Edwards Cotton; grew up a Negro in my youth; lived my adult life black; and am now a 70-year-old American."

She continued, "I grew up and lived in poverty most of my life without knowing it. My children, too, grew up in poverty never knowing that they were poor. Our house just leaked. No screen doors. An outdoor bathroom and little money.

"Our family was happy to sit around the table at dinner time, eating, poking jokes, and having fun."

Mama Dip's book is a treasure of Southern cooking recipes. Still, the book's success was due in large part to the appeal of her story of struggle that she shared.

Similarly, "Island Born and Bred" combines a magnificent collection of recipes with a good hard look at the story of Harkers Island and its people.

Today, Harkers Island, on the Crystal Coast near Beaufort, has about 1,200 residents who appreciate its small-town appeal. Some are new residents, including retirees and second homeowners. But the core population came from fishermen, mariners, boatbuilders, hunters, decoy makers and others whose livelihoods connected them to the ocean and nearby sounds and waterways.

How the town got its start is also described in "Living at the Water's Edge" written by Barbara Gariety-Blake and Karen Willis Amspacher, and published by UNC Press.

Many of the ancestors of the town's residents "lived, haunted whales, and fished off Core and Shackleford Banks until the storms of 1896 and 1899 ravaged their homesteads and drove them to higher, safer ground."

Many floated "what was left of their houses and belongings across Back Sound to nearby Harkers Island, where they bought land for a dollar an acre."

The descendants of these settlers have long ago passed away but, according to the authors, "the story of the exodus from Shackleford Banks is told with great reverence by islanders, underscoring a deep and abiding attachment to place."

Among its more than 300 pages of recipes and memories, "Island Born and Bred" a short note written by Susanne Yeomans Guthrie explains this attachment: "No tradition is more precious to a native Harkers Islander than the privilege of returning to Shackleford Banks. For it is through this ritual that island people 'go home.' In fact, the desire is almost an actual need — often undiagnosed by the individual but quenched only by going and 'feeling' the Banks under your bare feet."

To help preserve these memories and share them with a wider group, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center, led by Amspacher, has reopened after the repair of extensive damage during Hurricane Florence. It is located on Harkers Island and adjoins the National Park Service's Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center.

With three floors of exhibits and experiences, the museum gives visitors a rich experience and real connection to the history of Harkers Island and other nearby Down East communities.

"Island Born and Bred" and "Living at the Water's Edge" are available at the museum's store and online at <https://shopcoresound.com/collections/books>

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

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



Misguided allegiances on the Board of Governors

Probably one of the first things you memorized and repeated in school every morning was the Pledge of Allegiance. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands ..."



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

With this pledge, we promised loyalty to our country. But that allegiance isn't the only oath we take. We have allegiances to our faith, our spouse, family and, in certain circumstances, other groups. Elected or appointed officials take an oath, a pledge, to support, protect and defend the government or entity they serve.

We have two recent examples of misguided allegiances — one in our state and another, more glaring, in our nation.

The University of North Carolina System is owned by the public and receives substantial state funding. The General Assembly appoints all 24 governing board members, the Board of Governors, to hire the system president, approve new chancellors and oversee the "general determination, control, supervision, management, and governance of all affairs of the constituent institutions."

Leo Daughtry has been a BOG member until just recently. Daughtry is one of the most honorable, trustworthy, measured and respected people I have had the pleasure to know and applauded when the legislature appointed him.

This past legislative session both the Senate and House summarily passed a measure that would combine the administrations of the University System, Community Colleges and K-12 Schools into one location in the state government complex.

Legislative leadership has not been silent in their desire to move the UNC System offices, disliking what they have perceived as the liberal influence of

UNC-Chapel Hill on the entire system. Several years ago, they floated a proposal to move system offices from Chapel Hill to a new location, but the negative feedback was immediate and loud. It appeared the idea had died, but it had not. By combining all three branches of public education into one facility they would accomplish their goal, presumably without much opposition. The decision was made behind closed doors, without the involvement of the BOG, the public or anyone else.

I am on record favoring the combination of all three under one roof because it would improve communications among all of them, but I am open to hearing the subject openly debated and don't like the way the decision was made.

Daughtry was not bashful in his criticism of the move to Raleigh, especially when it was learned the price tag for such an action would be upwards of \$250 million. We could endow many scholarships and more adequately fund all three branches with this infusion of money.

Daughtry was not just opposed to the move — he asked questions about the recent hirings of top legislative staffers to top university positions, giving them substantial pay raises. The system also hired as a consultant the former chief of staff to the Senate President Pro Tempore, reportedly paying him \$15,000 per month. A skeptical observer might believe our legislature is "salting" our university system with its own pawns to ensure obeisance. Former BOG Chairperson Harry Smith says the board is now "more political than ever," and that's quite a statement coming from him.

Daughtry was right to ask questions and well within his prerogative to express opposition to the move. He was demonstrating he understood that his primary allegiance was to the university system, but that is obviously not the allegiance our legislators demand. Their misguided impression is that BOG members' allegiances are to The

General Assembly, not the universities or even the taxpayers of our state.

Daughtry wouldn't say so, but he was essentially pressured to resign from the BOG. I asked him why, and in typical understated fashion, Daughtry told me it was increasingly obvious that he didn't "fit in" well.

We are also blatantly aware of misguided allegiances on the national level. Unless you have had your head in the sand — or are a cult member — it is obvious our former president insisted those around him pay allegiance only to him, not their agency, the government nor even the 350 million citizens in this nation. We are seeing the results of what happens when allegiances are misplaced.

Congressman Adam Kinzinger, a member of the Jan. 6 House Committee, closed the most recent hearing with memorable remarks.

"Oaths matter," Kinzinger said. "Laws are just words on paper. They mean nothing without public servants dedicated to the rule of law. Oaths matter more than tribalism or the cheap thrill of scoring political points. We, the people, must demand more of our politicians and ourselves. Oaths matter. Character matters. Truth matters. If we do not renew our faith and commitment to these principles, this great experiment of ours, our 'shining beacon on the hill,' will not endure."

Here's my spin: Misguided allegiances by misguided officials lead to mistrust. This nation is built and has survived on being able to trust our leaders and our government. Without trust, we will crumble. Part of our pledge of allegiance requires we be vigilant and speak out when people and government are misguided.

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.

VINFAST

Continued from page A1

A number of community members have already put down \$200 deposits to be added to the waitlist for the VF-8 when it's ready in N.C. When should those people expect to have vehicles? (And how many people have signed up for that waitlist already?)

VinFast has promised to have vehicles on the market by the end of this year; those vehicles will be shipped in from Vietnam and be available in the U.S. at VinFast's recently opened showrooms in California. The stores are currently opened in Santa Monica, San Mateo, San Diego, Berkeley, Commerce and Corte Madera. In July, VinFast said it will continue to open more than 30 stores in California by the end of 2022, while also exploring expansion to other states across the U.S.

Production from the Moncure site will, of course, have to wait until the factory is actually up and running, which, right now, is slated for 2024.

In addition to waitlists from N.C. residents, those who put down deposits come from across the U.S., and VinFast is clearly eyeing California as its central market in preliminary stages. The N.C. plant is expected to manufacture two electric SUVs in its initial phase — the VF-8 and VF-9. Nguyen said the company has received more than 65,000 reservations for these vehicles globally.

The company has established the price point for the cars around \$41,000 for the VF-8. The price does not include the battery subscription service, which will cost drivers an additional monthly fee.

Officials have said the first vehicles will be off the pro-

duction line in N.C. by July 2024, which is a blazing fast timeline. If you're skeptical of that speed, however, it's worth noting VinFast turned its factory from swampland into a well-oiled machine in just 21 months and Vingroup is known across Vietnam for its rapid construction times.

Of course, the U.S. has vastly different regulations for construction in terms of materials, environmental regulations, zoning permits and other legislative barriers not seen in Vietnam.

Given the history and trauma of the Vietnam War, can a Vietnamese company successfully break into a new market and thrive in the U.S.?

There is undoubtedly still memory of the war in Vietnam, but those dark recollections of the past remain in both countries. As we reported last week, the VinFast Haiphong factory itself sits atop land that was bombed out by American troops.

Despite the trauma of the war on both sides, perceptions of each country remain staggeringly cooperative, especially geopolitically. According to a Pew Research Poll from 2017, the Vietnamese approval rating of the U.S. stands at 84%. Vietnamese millennials have an even higher approval rating of the U.S. at 92%.

Meanwhile, American perceptions of Vietnam have been on the rise since the war ended; diplomatic relations between the two countries are at an all-time high. Trade has expanded massively from just over \$400 million in 1994 to \$77 billion last year. Even with COVID-19, trade increased to \$26 billion in the first five months of the year, up almost 8% from the same period last year.

These relations have made



Courtesy of VinFast

A look at the interior of the VF-9, one of two vehicles expected to be manufactured at the TIP site when VinFast begins work at its new N.C. facility.

Vietnam the second-largest Asian trading partner with the U.S., behind only China. Needless to say, Americans seem to be on board with buying Vietnamese goods, regardless of the past between the nations.

VinFast has touted a highly automated process in its factories. Can it really deliver 7,500 jobs?

It's important to remember that multiple things can be true. For example, the manufacturing facility in Vietnam is about 80% automated, yet it employs about 6,000 people. The same level of automation is expected at the Chatham County facility, but the plant to be built at the TIP site is planned to be more than double the size of that in Haiphong.

The gap between the two facilities will be made up by employing workers at the battery facility and research and development offices, which are anticipated to be on-site in Chatham County. In Vietnam, similar offices aren't on-site at its Haiphong manufacturing plant.

VinFast has said the jobs

in the N.C. plant will pay an annual average salary of \$51,000. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, which shows the average wage a person needs to fulfill their basic needs, a living wage for a single adult with no children in Chatham County is \$38,766. This means VinFast is providing good-paying jobs that are attractive to people looking to move to the county.

With a low number of electric vehicles from any company on the roads and limited available charging infrastructure, can VinFast actually be successful in the U.S.?

The EV marketplace has momentum and the Biden administration seems to want to make electrifying the vehicle fleet a priority. Just this week, Congress is considering additional electric vehicle subsidies in the form of a tax credit, which would provide further incentives for consumers to make the switch away from internal combustion engines.

The bipartisan infrastructure plan from earlier this year also pledged \$174 billion

in investment toward EVs by including funds to help automakers secure materials for electric vehicle production and convert factories to prepare for the new market sector.

But even if EV sales improve, that doesn't guarantee VinFast's success. The company has little name recognition across the country and the U.S. is notoriously brand-dependent when purchasing new vehicles.

Preliminary reviews of the VF-8 from auto experts say the vehicle matches up to its competitors with a sleek design and smooth drivability. The car doesn't, however, blow the competition away, which is something auto reviewers believe the vehicles would need to do if they want to break into the competitive market.

All that said, VinFast has proven it has deep pockets and the success of Vingroup, its parent company, in Vietnam shows it can well afford to take losses in the short term. It's why executives remain optimistic about the company's success despite recent news of falling stock prices and delayed attempts at an initial public offering (IPO) on the U.S. exchanges.

The company has also surrounded itself with top minds of the automotive industry with experience from BMW, Renault, General Motors and more. This type of brain power insulates VinFast from critiques of the dangerous waters it's treading toward. They know this venture into the American car space is a risk, but it's worth taking if they can take over the U.S. EV market in the long term.

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

CHIEF

Continued from page A1

protect as a volunteer firefighter and the hundreds of Holstein cows he cared for on what was one of the largest dairy farms in the county.

Wayne is survived by his two sons, John W. Strowd Jr. and Michael C. Strowd, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. His wife of more than 60 years, Shirley, passed three weeks prior to his death.

A family man

Born and raised in Pittsboro, Wayne had close ties to Chatham throughout his life.

"Everything he did was pretty much in Chatham County," said John, his oldest son and the current chief of the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department.

Wayne was a family-oriented person, his loved ones shared. On Christmas mornings, he'd expect the whole family to show up to his home, prepared to enjoy the large breakfast of sausages, scrambled eggs, biscuits and ham that he always cooked.

"He was our hero, he was the rock of the family," John said.

Both Wayne and Shirley shared close bonds with their grandchildren, having never missed a single of their grandchildren's graduations or weddings. From a young age, John's sons would help out on their grandfather's farm, which was a short distance from the house they grew up in.

"I always said I would never have to worry about my boys as long as Wayne Strowd was living," Tracy, Wayne's daughter-in-law and John's wife, said. "I would say that because he had such a positive influence on them for wholesome things."

For 40 years, Wayne would help pull chains at football games at Northwood High School as part of a group called the "Chain Gang." In 2017, he was inducted into the Northwood Hall of Fame.

His son said Wayne was in his 70s when he stopped pulling the chains, but he

would still take his chair out to the end zone to make sure the rest of the gang was up to par.

"He really enjoyed it," said Curtis Williams, a friend who worked alongside Wayne on his farm and was also a member of the Chain Gang. "He never missed a Thursday night or Friday night pulling chains. The only time he ever missed (it was) if he was at the fair showing cows."

Even in her own relationship with her father-in-law, Tracy said he had a huge impact on her, serving as a father figure that she'd never had.

"Wayne was the only daddy I ever knew," she said.

Friends and relatives remarked on Wayne's diligent work ethic, something Tracy believes he passed down to his children and grandchildren.

His sons worked on the family farm for years, and John and both of Wayne's grandsons started their volunteer firefighter careers at the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department.

"(Wayne) was a tough cookie," she laughs. "But who wouldn't be, that has worked so hard all his life."

An impressive farming career

Wayne graduated from Pittsboro High School in 1953. Shortly after, he attended a two-week agriculture seminar at N.C. State College on the artificial insemination of cattle.

He married his wife, Shirley Ann Crawford, on Christmas Day in 1955.

"They were different people but they were like two peas in a pod," John said of his parents.

Along with his twin brother Warren, Wayne worked on the family farm; together, they built one of the largest dairy farms in Chatham County. At its peak, the farm had as many as 300 cows, 200,000 chickens and 100 hogs.

For 52 years, Wayne would go to the North Carolina State Fair to show Holsteins, a breed of dairy cattle, which was something he enjoyed immensely.

And for more than

three decades, Wayne acted as president of the Central Carolina Holstein Association. During his career, he also served as a member of the N.C. Holstein Association Board of Directors, a co-chair for the N.C. Holstein State Sales and a member of the Chatham County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

He was also inducted into the N.C. State Livestock Hall of Fame in 2006.

Donnie Thomas, who served as a board member on the Central Carolina Holstein Association with Wayne, said his friend would always see to it that his grandsons had the prettiest display in the whole barn while showing their cows at the State Fair.

"He always looked after kids," Thomas remarked. "I mean, it didn't matter if they were his kids, my kids, or somebody's kids that he'd never seen before."

Thomas, who was a pallbearer at the funerals of both Wayne and Shirley, described Wayne as honest and genuine.

"He always had time to talk to you," Thomas said. "If you asked him a question and he didn't have an answer, he could tell you where to go to get an answer."

A fire chief with a constant presence

A funeral service was held for Wayne on July 15 at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, and was presided over by Rev. Dan Robinson and Pastor Wesley Thomas.

During his life, Wayne fostered close relationships with other volunteer firefighters. Volunteers would often get together on Saturday mornings to cook and sell barbecue and chicken plates along U.S. Hwy 15-501 to people on their way to watch football games at UNC-Chapel Hill. The proceeds would go towards paying for gas and hoses for the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department, Williams, who also worked at the fire department, said.

Wayne's funeral was standing room only, Williams noted.

"That showed how many friends he had, that showed what kind of character he had," Williams said.

During Wayne's lifetime, he watched the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department grow from its founding in 1968 as a single station with around 20 volunteers to a department that now has seven stations with 60 career staff, in addition to volunteers.

Williams said he believes Wayne's good-natured character served him well as fire chief.

"And if you can't get along with people, you can't be fire chief," Williams said. "If you can't be a leader, people are not going to follow you."

In 2018, Wayne received the Outstanding Emergency Service Award from Orange County for his service in the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department.

The fire department is another part of the legacy Wayne leaves behind, Williams said.

"We saved a lot of people, we've saved a lot of people's lives, we saved a lot of people's houses, lands. That's a big deal there to me," he said. "If you don't have volunteers

in your community doing stuff like that, you're in pretty bad shape."

Tracy similarly noted how much Wayne's life meant to so many in the community. The absence of Wayne and Shirley in her and John's daily routines has been significant.

"He was just a constant presence," she said. "I knew when he was coming into my house, because I could hear the Gator come around the corner."

One of the things Williams said he'd miss the most about his friend was the daily phone calls they shared. The two would talk about anything: gardening, farming, cows, the weather.

With Wayne being a die-hard N.C. State fan and Williams a lifelong UNC fan, they'd also make sure to call each other up on game days when their favored team would play.

"Of course, State didn't win many times, so he couldn't say much," Williams laughed.

Wayne was a "real good friend," Williams said.

Whenever they each traveled somewhere, the two would be sure to bring back peaches or

corn or some other fresh produce for the other.

Williams said his friend also let him have a garden out on the farm behind a barn, where he grew everything from watermelons to cantaloupe to tomatoes (one of Wayne's favorites).

After Wayne passed, Williams said he put up a sign on the plot that read "Wayne's garden."

Many of Wayne's loved ones shared that he was fairly simple when it came to life's pleasures. He enjoyed his cows, volunteering in the Chain Gang and the fire department and spending time with his family.

"He didn't ask for nothing, he didn't want nothing, he just wanted you to accept him like he was," John said.

His father had a deep desire to care for others, he said. That caring nature continues to shine through in the pieces of his life that he leaves behind.

"If he met you as a friend," John said, "he was always your friend."

Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at mdevarajan@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @maydhadevarajan.

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Saturday, October 29

STREET FOOD

We are quickly approaching our goal & would love to have you join us for the biggest event of the year! This is an excellent opportunity to be seen & connect with the community. Holiday shoppers will be on the lookout for one of a kind gifts!

We love our local vendors, so take advantage of EARLY BIRD RATES & register by visiting <https://forms.gle/zBzWxJiqdbBRRiSeL6>

Rotary
Club of Pittsboro

Russell & Associates

Sponsored by



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

CHATHAM COMMUNITY RESOURCE HUB

Saturday, August 6 • 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Goldston Public Library Parking Lot
9235 Pittsboro Goldston Road, Goldston

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



OBITUARIES

DAVID JENNINGS KITZMILLER



January 1, 1936 ~ July 26, 2022
David Jennings Kitzmiller passed away July 26, 2022. He was born on New Year's Day, 1936, in Seth, West Virginia, to Howard Jennings and Margaret Robertson Kitzmiller. He was the second of four children. He graduated from Dublin High School in southwest Virginia, after which he embarked upon an adventurous period of time, starting with the attendance at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, now more commonly

known as Virginia Tech. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1953, and served for three years, being stationed in Bad Tolz, Germany. He was a demolitions expert, and was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, Special Forces, a division that was later named the Green Berets.

After being honorably discharged, he headed along with some army buddies to attend Brigham Young University, then on to Greensboro, N.C., to attend Guilford College. An undergraduate degree was eventually conferred from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1965. He attended law school at UNC as well, but decided to focus on a career in education.

He taught in Chatham County, initially in Moncure, but predominantly at Northwood High School in Pittsboro. He retired from teaching in 1987, but by that time he was firmly entrenched in the bar business, having established He's Not Here in 1974 with two partners. Later business endeavors included Molly Maguires Irish Pub, Franklin St. Bar and Grill, and Dave's Seafood Restaurant in Carrboro.

He began divesting himself of most of his businesses in the '90s, and relocated to Nova Scotia, Canada in 2001, where he was tempted to, but did not follow through with, acquiring a bar or two there.

While in Nova Scotia, he decided to become a Freemason. He at one time served as Worshipful Master of Zetland Lodge #9, Liverpool, N.S.

One thing he had always wanted to do, but never managed to, was to own a goat farm. He would have made a phenomenal farmer, and wife Carole would have had to reacquire herself with the field of caprine medicine, which she was more than willing to do.

He was a person of prodigious extremes, ranging from being remarkably frugal with his personal money, to purchasing substantial works of art, to then quietly and often anonymously being significantly philanthropic.

He leaves a legacy of having touched many lives, from the students he taught and coached (legend has it he was a tough one, too), to employees at his businesses who learned so much from his work ethic and business sense.

He is survived by wife Carole Stenkowski of Bear River, Nova Scotia; son David J. Kitzmiller Jr.; favorite daughter, Kim Kitzmiller Fehr (Chip Fehr), all of Chapel Hill; grandson, Jack Fehr of Greenville, N.C.; first wife and dear friend Virginia Uzzle Kitzmiller, also of Chapel Hill; brother, Tom Kitzmiller of Laurinburg, N.C.; along with many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by sisters Doris Fazio and Helen Haithcock, both of Greensboro.

There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at University Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, with a reception to follow at the church immediately following the service. Another reception will follow at He's Not Here, located at 112 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516.

The family is eternally grateful to the doctors, nurses and staff of Duke University Hospital and Amedisys Hospice for providing such exemplary care for Dave in his final days. Every question and need was addressed with patience and kindness.

Cremation services provided by Walker Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

As he considered store-bought flowers a phenomenal waste of hard-earned money, it is suggested that you donate to a charity of your choice, with leanings towards animal care organizations

SANDRA LILES HANSLEY



March 3, 1943 ~ July 28, 2022
JACKSONVILLE, N.C. — Mrs. Sandra Liles Hansley, 79, passed away Thursday, July 28, 2022, with her family by her side. Sandra was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, grew up in Siler City and later moved to Jacksonville, N.C., after her marriage to Oscar Hansley. They loved returning to Chatham County to visit family and friends. Sadly, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Lonnie and J.P. Liles, and her

husband of 61 years, Oscar R. Hansley.

Sandra was a loving wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and most recently, great-grandmother. She, along with Oscar, ran many successful businesses. She was a faithful member of Family of God Church where she was lead pianist and sang in the choir. In her spare time she volunteered and worked with the reading program at Coastal Carolina Community College.

The family will receive friends between 6 and 8 p.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at Johnson Funeral Home in Jacksonville. A celebration of Sandra's life will be held at Family of God Church, on Blue Creek Road at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022, and burial will be held at 3 p.m. at Onslow Memorial Park Friday, August 5, 2022. Those wishing to offer words of hope and condolences may visit <https://johnsonfhnc.com/>.

Sandra is survived by her son, Brian C. Hansley of Wilmington; her daughter, Jewel H. Bean and her husband Rick of Richlands; and her sister, Mavis Brower of Siler City. She also leaves behind three grandchildren, Miranda Bean and fiancé Matthew Goines, Destiny Hansley and fiancé Ernie Shifflett, and Sadie Bean, along with her great-granddaughter Kameryn Goines.

Johnson Funeral Homes is entrusted with the Hansley Family.

HELEN PIKE BUNTON GUTHRIE



10-10-1931 ~ 7-29-2022

Helen Pike Bunton Guthrie, 90, of Staley, passed away July 29, 2022, at Universal Health Care in Ramseur.

Helen was born October 10, 1931, daughter of George F. and Leola Teague Pike. Mrs. Guthrie worked for many years at AJ Schneirson & Sons as well as Midstate Farms. She was an active member of Staley Baptist Church, where she was involved in the Willing Worker's Sunday School Class. Helen enjoyed crocheting, reading, and working word puzzles. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands Wilson Bunton and Wayne Guthrie; daughter, Glenda Burton; brother, Frank Pike; sister, Margie Jordan; and sister-in-law, Jo Pike.

Mrs. Guthrie is survived by her daughter, Myra Martin of Liberty; grandsons, Justin Burton (Jamie) and Jason Burton (Jessica), both of Staley, and Chris Martin (James Flippins) of Siler City; granddaughter, Angie Kearns (Jonathan) of Staley; great-grandchildren, Jeremiah Burton, Hannah Grace Burton, Elijah Burton, Ellie Burton, Greyson Kearns, and Lilah Kearns; and sister, Carol Wrenn (Delbert) of Siler City.

Funeral services for Helen were held Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the Smith & Buckner Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Roger Carlson officiating. The family received friends from 1 to 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Staley Cemetery.

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

Smith and Buckner Funeral Home is serving the Guthrie family

THOMAS GOODE DEATON



March 12, 1947 ~ July 28, 2022

Thomas Goode Deaton, 75, of Pittsboro, died Thursday, July 28, 2022, at home following a seven-year courageous battle with prostate cancer.

Tom was born in Statesville, North Carolina, on March 12, 1947, to the late Paul McNeely Deaton Sr., and Evelyn Goode Deaton.

Surviving relatives include his wife Deborah Jean Powell of Pittsboro; and two brothers, Paul McNeely Deaton Jr. and wife Amy of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, and Fielding Gibson Deaton of Statesville, North Carolina. Also surviving are nephews, Paul McNeely Deaton III, Joshua Glenn Deaton, and niece Laura Deaton Stunzi, and their families.

Tom served our country in the United States Army and was a Vietnam veteran. Following discharge from the Army, he attended and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He was loved by all for his sense of humor and infectious laugh. He enjoyed running, biking, backpacking, camping in the Smokies and western United States, dancing, sailing, reading, and getting together with friends to have a beer. Tom and Debbie were happily married for 35 years.

Tom worked at the UNC Dental Research Center as head of a dental research laboratory and built his own home in the woods in the 1970s outside Pittsboro, where he and Debbie shared their married life.

There are no services planned at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Tom's memory to CORE Food Pantry, P.O. Box 1326, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312; The Nature Conservancy, Attn: Treasury, 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, Virginia 22203; or the American Cancer Society, Jerome L. Greene Family Center, Hope Lodge, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

BILLY PAUL TAYLOR JR.



April 19, 1992 ~ July 27, 2022

Billy Paul Taylor Jr., age 30, of Pittsboro, died Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at home.

Billy was born in Lee County on April 19, 1992, to Billy Paul Taylor Sr. and Mary Jane Riedel.

In addition to his parents, Billy is survived by his wife, Ethel Hicks; three sons, Matthew Spivey of Florida, Colton Taylor of Pittsboro, Richard Ellis of Durham; two daughters, Kaydyn Ellis of Durham, Kynzee Ellis of Durham; two brothers, Joey Lee Taylor of Apex, Michael James Taylor of Pittsboro; paternal grandmother, Vickie Ann Taylor, and maternal grandmother, Judith Louise Schumacher.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

LARRY DONNELL MURDEN

December 31, 1957 ~ July 25, 2022

Larry Donnell Murden, 64, of Chapel Hill passed away on Monday, July 25, 2022, at his home.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

TANYA D. CUMMINS

Tanya D. Cummins, 51, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at her residence.

Tuesday, August 2, 2022, walk-thru the funeral home to honor the deceased.

SHIRLEY JEAN (FAUCETTE) PATTON

November 30, 1944 ~ August 1, 2022

Shirley Jean Patton, 77, of Broadway, passed away Monday, August 1, 2022, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

THEODORE 'TED' LANDON THOMAS

August 9, 1943 ~ July 26, 2022
Theodore "Ted" Landon Thomas, 78, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at Central Harnett Hospital.

A graveside service was held on Friday, July 29, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Flat Springs Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Dr. Gary McCollough officiating.

He was born to the late Vonnie Maxton and Mary Alice Williams Thomas. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Vernon Thomas, Sherwood Thomas and Pete Thomas. Ted was founder of Thomas Construction. He was a member of Flat Springs Baptist Church.

Ted is survived by Fran Thomas, Garry Ammons and Daryl Ammons; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Flat Springs Baptist Church, 4148 Deep River Road, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

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

VIOLET THOMAS BRAXTON

June 16, 1930 ~ July 25, 2022

Violet Thomas Braxton, 92, passed away July 25, 2022.

A celebration of her life was held Saturday, July 30, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Leaflet Presbyterian Church with David McDowell officiating. A private family interment will be at 10 a.m. Monday, August 1, 2022, at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake.

Mrs. Braxton was born in Harnett County to the late Sidney Gattis and Margaret C. Thomas. She was preceded in death by her husband Reginald H. Braxton, her brothers, Cecil C. Thomas, Gattis B. Thomas, Sidney C. Thomas, Ted L. Thomas and J. Larry Thomas.

Surviving are her son, Reginald H. "Reggie" Braxton; daughter, Theresa B. Allen; sister, Ruth Thomas Cashion and brother Halford P. Thomas. Violet attended Flora McDonald College and Hardbargers Business School.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Leaflet Presbyterian Church, c/o Gail Thomas, 2510 Lloyd Stewart Road, Broadway, N.C. 27505.

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

PATTY MCNEILL KIDD

February 13, 1941 ~ August 1, 2022

Patty McNeill Kidd, 81, of Bennett, passed away on August 1, 2022, after a lengthy illness.

A funeral service was held at Beulah Baptist Church on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 3 p.m. with Dr. Neal Jackson and The Reverend Robert Kidd officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends after the service and other times at the home. She will lie in repose from 2 to 3 p.m. at the church.

A lifetime resident of Moore County Mrs. Kidd was a homemaker. Preceding her in death were her parents, Harvey and Evelyn McNeill.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Charles Kidd; son, Mark Kidd of Robbins; daughters, Cheryl Williams of Troy and Audrey Nelson of Bennett; four grandchildren; a brother, Thomas Farrell McNeill of Asheboro; and a sister, Rebecca Yates of Asheboro.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Liberty HomeCare & Hospice Service, P.O. Box 66, Sanford, N.C. 27330; or the Beulah Baptist Church Building Fund, 8454 Howard Mill Road, Bennett, N.C. 27208.

Condolences may be made online at: www.loflinfuneralservice.com.

Arrangements by Loflin Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Ramseur.

VASSEL D. CHESNEY

Vassel D. Chesney, 89, of Charlotte, passed away on Friday, July 29, 2022, at Novant Presbyterian Medical Center in Charlotte.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A12

ELBERT COLLINS MCDUGALD

Elbert Collins McDougald, 84 of Sanford passed away on Saturday, July 30, 2022, at Central Harnett Hospital in Lillington. Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MARIANA TADEO

September 1, 1949 ~ July 28, 2022

Mariana Tadeo, 72, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

CHRISTOPHER LEE MCSWAIN

March 22, 1974 ~ July 22, 2022

Christopher Lee McSwain, 48, originally of Siler City, passed away Friday, July 22, 2022, at his home in Durham.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts and Son in Siler City.

COVID

Continued from page A1
 pandemic, based on his diagnosis and time in isolation:

- Stock up on at-home rapid tests before you feel sick.
- “These are our best testing tools right now given their ability to give results in 15 minutes and to be self-administered without leaving the house,” he said. “The public health department continues to offer them in our lobbies free of charge.”
- Make a household plan for isolating. If someone in your household tests positive, think about how to separate them from those who are not yet infected.

“From personal experience, I know this is often easier said than done, but having a supply of N-95s on hand will also help reduce risk,” Zelek said.

- Consider your options for treatment and discuss them with your doctor.

“If you test positive, reach out to your doctor to discuss treatment options early,” he said. “Medications like Paxlovid reduce the risk of more severe illness but must be started within the first few days of infection. If you don’t have a doctor, call 1-888-675-4567. Don’t delay in starting the conversation.”

- Consider the essentials. Neighbors and family members can offer tremendous support, he said, including picking up groceries and medicines so you can stay home. Think about who may be able to help you if you become ill.

And finally: “Get vaccinated and boosted.”

‘Not a choice’

“This is not a choice between getting vaccinated or getting COVID; it



5 BENEFITS TO AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

Why You Should Always Have A Few Rapid COVID-19 Tests On-Hand At-Home

REASON

1

COVID-19 IS STILL HERE

COVID-19 cases are rising once again. By having tests on-hand, you can get results quick if you have symptoms or have been around someone who has tested positive recently.

REASON

2

THEY'RE QUICK AND EASY

The kits are easy to use, and you'll get your results quick. From opening the box to getting a positive or negative result, you'll probably only spend about 20 minutes of your day.

REASON

3

NO NEED TO DRIVE OUT

In the early days of the pandemic, you would have to leave your house to get a test. Now, you can get tested right from the comfort of your own home.

REASON

4

THEY WORK

Positive results of at-home tests are extremely reliable and can let you know if you need to stay home, wear a mask, and get treatment right away. A positive test is a positive test -- you do not need to confirm with a PCR test.

REASON

5

THEY'RE EASY TO FIND

You can come to either COPHD office (Pittsboro or Siler City) or order them for free online today! It's that easy.



www.chathamcountync.gov/covidtesting

Zachary Horner

is whether you have protection with the vaccine when you are exposed to COVID,” Zelek said. “I am grateful I did.”

That’s a message he’s continually preached, but it’s even more relevant now, he said, because of the virus’ unpredictable variants and subvariants — which vaccinations have helped stave off.

“This recent wave is linked to the BA.5 subvariant, which is highly infectious and more likely to cause reinfection among those who already had COVID, even recently,” he said. “While the

latest subvariants tend to cause on average more mild infection, this does not mean you will not feel sick and can go about your business. Fatigue, sore throat, and fever are among the common symptoms I have experienced, and I’ll say COVID has hit me harder than I expected it to.”

Dr. Andy Hannapel, the chief medical officer at Chatham Hospital, said variants will continue to mutate, which warrants everyone’s attention.

“The story of coronavirus, you know, is that at any given time, there are

hundreds of thousands — if not millions — of genetic mutations that the virus goes through,” he said. “Clearly, the vast majority never survive.”

Our natural immunity systems or problems with genetic sequencing of the virus eventually put those mutations down, he said. But the ones that make it through — such as the Omicron BA.5 variant — can wreak havoc. That’s now accounting for about 70 percent of cases in hospital intensive care units, he said.

Hannapel laments that masking and social distancing — practices that have proven to work, he said — are much less common when compared to two years ago. With the growth of at-home testing (few at-home testers report results) and that so many with mild symptoms don’t get tested, it’s no wonder case counts can spike rapidly from waves caused by new variants.

The good news with BA.5, he said, is that most of those infected see symptoms similar to a common cold — lots of coughing, congestion, etc., lasting a day or a few days.

‘But it’s not nothing’

The BA.5 variant tends to impact the upper respiratory system, he said, and less frequently the lower respiratory tract — again, making it feel more like a common cold for many who are infected.

“But it’s not nothing,” he said.

Like Zelek, Hannapel knows first-hand: shortly after he and his wife embarked on a vacation in July, both were diagnosed with COVID. He struggled with some fatigue, but was back at work within a week or so.

The majority of hospital admissions continue to be primarily among the unvaccinated, and

most deaths are among the elderly — particularly those who have comorbidities that make COVID more dangerous. But he also says it’s more common now to see those who are vaccinated be hospitalized and even re-diagnosed.

It’s important, he’ll tell you, to understand how and why that’s happening. Hannapel said despite a work environment at the hospital with high levels of the virus present, with masking and other safety precautions in place, “it’s really the safest place we could be.”

It’s “out in the community” where he and his fellow medical professionals are getting exposure.

Which makes the argument for vaccines and boosters even more compelling.

“The vaccines work,” Hannapel said. “They work if you’re in the high-risk population, and if you’ve been boosted once, you should be boosted again. Don’t wait until the fall ... we’re in the middle of a surge right now, so the recommendation is if you are in a higher-risk population, you should be boosted. This is not something you want to take a chance with, especially when the community spread is so high. There’s a reason transmissibility is easy.”

‘People are tired’

Hannapel says there’s recognition that people have COVID-19 fatigue.

“We know people are tired,” he said. “But the pandemic is not over, unfortunately. I wish it was. It’s going to be folded into our regular onslaught of diseases that we encounter.”

The question, he says, is how it’ll look moving forward. Seasonal, like the flu? Or something with a different cadence?

“We have yet to figure that out,” Hannapel said. Among the most significant unknowns are how new variants and strains will exploit our immune systems.

He said risks of illness, transmission, long COVID and worse still remain possible — is that worth not taking precautions, he asks?

“It’s just not worth it,” he said.

Zelek agrees, and says Gov. Roy Cooper’s plan to lift N.C.’s COVID state of emergency on Aug. 15 shouldn’t be misinterpreted as a sign that the pandemic has ended.

“We have known the state of emergency would end at some point when COVID was still with us,” Zelek said. “Thankfully, we have tools in vaccines and treatment options to help us through it.”

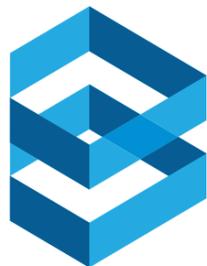
Monkeypox

Meanwhile, North Carolina’s monkeypox case count is growing — 34 cases as of last week, rising to the 50s this week, though none yet in Chatham County.

Monkeypox is a virus transmitted primarily through close, physical contact, Zelek said; it’s most telling symptom is a rash that may look like pimples or blisters.

“Anyone can get monkeypox, but many of the cases identified in the current outbreak to date have been among men who have sex with men,” he said. “We are encouraging anyone who meets the following criteria to get vaccinated. To do so, call our clinic at 919-742-5641.”

If you’ve have had close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with monkeypox, or have unexplained bumps, sores, blisters, or pimples that look like monkeypox, get tested, Zelek said.



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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

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

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

OFFICE SPACE RENT

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

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

RENTAL APARTMENTS

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

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. No security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. Jy14,tfnc

MOBILE HOME SALES

TWO BEDROOM, one bath mobile home on five acres in Siler City, city water, no pets, call (919) 260-1354 leave message. Jy14,21,28,Au4,4tp

YARD SALES

MULTI-FAMILY yard sale, Saturday, August 6 from 7 a.m. until... 104 N Tenth Avenue, Siler City in front of Sheffield Manor Apts. Men's name-brand jeans and shirts; Women clothes, shoes, some children's clothes and toys, housewares and much more. Au4,1tp

FOR SALE

FARM ANIMALS, seven Black Angus Bulls: three Registered Bulls, 4 Pure Stock. Price ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Call 336-362-8887, Dale, Jy21,28,Au4,11,4tp

TV ANTENNAS - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 North Third Avenue, Siler City. 919-227-6698, Au4,tfnc

AUCTIONEERS

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

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498-4077, J6,tfnc

SERVICES

ED'S BACKHOE AND BRUSH CLEARING, driveways and drain-line repairs. Call 919-352-5599. Au4,11,18,25,4tp

CASH PAID FOR JUNK CARS and pickups. Call 336-581-3423, Jy28-S15,8tp

RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS, Alice Cox, Cox's Distributing - Rainbow - Cell: 919-548-4314, Sales, Services, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. Au26,tfnc

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

DELIVERY DRIVER, Skids Operator, Mulch loading, etc., New business - Home Town Equipment & Supply. Call 919-663-1569. Au4,11,2tp

FOOD SERVICES STAFF, Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. Jy14,tfnc

LEGALS

EXECUTOR NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **TAD WHITCOMB JONES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before October 30, 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. Susan Edison Jones Hartley, Executor c/o Thomas A. Earls, Attorney at Law 102-B Fountainbrook Circle Cary, NC 27511 Phone: (919) 462-9177 Jy14,Jy21,Jy28,Au4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 381 All persons having claims against **JAMES LEE MCDIARMID**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th 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 12th day of July, 2022. Matthew McDiarmid 9474 Hwy 87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jy14,Jy21,Jy28,Au4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-105 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Alton Rayvon King, having qualified

as Executor of the Estate of **BERTA FAYE JOHNSON KING**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 12th October, 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 14th day of July, 2022. Alton Rayvon King, Executor c/o Marie H. Hopper, Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jy14,Jy21,Jy28,Au4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **JEAN G. WATERBURY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 14th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 14th day of July, 2022. Joyce A. Waterbury AKA Joyce W. Weston, Executrix, Estate of Jean G. Waterbury Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jy14,Jy21,Jy28,Au4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-373 All persons having claims against **RUBY MAE SCURLOCK**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th 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 14th day of July, 2022. George C. Scurlock, Jr., Administrator c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 97035 Raleigh, NC 27624 Jy14,Jy21,Jy28,Au4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 367 All persons having claims against **EVA LOUISE TRACY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 21st day of July, 2022. Kelly Tracy Pincus, Executrix c/o Howard, Stallings, From, Atkins, Angell & Davis, P.A. 5410 Trinity Road, Suite 210 Raleigh, NC 27607 Post Office Box 12347 Raleigh, NC 27605 Jy21,Jy28,Au4,Au11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-369 All persons having claims against **ROBERT BRUCE MCKINLEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned

on or before the 14th 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 21st day of July, 2022. Barbara Myers McKinley, Executor c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 97035 Raleigh, NC 27624 Jy21,Jy28,Au4,Au11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 188 All persons having claims against **WILL BERNARD WILLARD, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 19th day of July, 2022. Ahylea Michelle Willard, Administrator 422 A Greenlawn Drive Asheboro, NC 27203 Jy21,Jy28,Au4,Au11,4tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **MOYNA BLAIR MONROE**, late of 500 Carolina Meadows, Apt. 10, Chapel Hill, Chatham County, North Carolina 27517, the undersigned do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o Jean Gordon Carter, McGuireWoods LLP, P.O. Box 27507, Raleigh, NC 27611, on or before the 21st 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 please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 21st day of July, 2022. Blair Cameron Kendall and Logan Adair Kendall, Co-Executors of the Estate of Moyna Blair Monroe Attorney: Jean Gordon Carter McGuireWoods LLP P.O. Box 27507 Raleigh, NC 27611 Jy21,Jy28,Au4,Au11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 551 All persons having claims against **BETTY RUTH POWELL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 19th day of July, 2022. Wayne Paul Hildreth, Administrator 101 S 3rd Ave: # 208 Siler City, NC 27344 Jy21,Jy28,Au4,Au11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 401 All persons having claims against **ROBERT SAMUEL MORROW**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 19th day of July, 2022. Edward L. Morrow, Sr., Executor 3091 Moon Lindley Rd.

Snow Camp, NC 27349 Jy21,Jy28,Au4,Au11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **ELEANOR MARIE JASION**, 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 20th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 19th day of July, 2022. Linda Jasion Royal, Executor of the Estate of Eleanor Marie Jasion 5207 Clear Run Drive Wilmington, North Carolina 28403 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE Attorneys at Law Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (919) 542-5605 Jy21,Jy28,Au4,Au11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JEFFREY LEE HOLDER**, late of 2404 Piney Grove Church Road, Siler City, Chatham County, North Carolina 27344, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 4145 Randolph Church Road, Liberty, NC 27298, on or before the 24th 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 please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 21st day of July, 2022. Lisa L. Moore, Administrator of the Estate of Jeffrey Lee Holder Pamela E. Whitaker Attorney at Law 4145 Randolph Church Road Liberty, NC 27298 (336) 622-3553 Jy21,Jy28,Au4,Au11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator of the Estate of **BARBARA ANN HOWARD** 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 27th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 21st day of July, 2022. Kimyetta Howard, Administrator of the Estate of Barbara Ann Howard 902 Jack Bennett Road Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE Attorneys at Law

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.

Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (919) 542-5605 Jy28,Au4,Au11,Au18,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator of the Estate of **EDGAR JUNIOR BARWICK, JR.** 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 27th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 21st day of July, 2022. Marvin Barwick, Administrator of the Estate of Edgar Junior Barwick, Jr. 6649 Kerr Drive Randleman, North Carolina 27317 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE Attorneys at Law Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (919) 542-5605 Jy28,Au4,Au11,Au18,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **CYNTHIA BROOME CARROLL**, late of 259 Shady Wagon Farm Lane, New Hill, Chatham County, North Carolina 27562, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 4145 Randolph Church Road, Liberty, NC 27298, on or before the 28th 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 please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 26th day of July, 2022.



Job Opportunities:

- Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Instructor (12 months): **\$5000 Hiring Bonus**
- Carpentry Instructor: **\$5000 Hiring Bonus**
- Cosmetic Arts Instructor (Adjunct)
- Department Chair of Information and Engineering Technologies
- Director of Industry Services
- Grounds Technician
- Human Resources Development Coordinator
- Library Assistant – Technical Services
- Maintenance Technician
- Truck Driver Training Program Instructor (Adjunct)
- Welding Instructor (9 months): **\$5000 Hiring Bonus**
- Various Adjunct Instructors

For a complete listing of employment opportunities, visit us online at www.cccc.edu/employment

Diversity Policy: Central Carolina Community College believes the college experience is greatly enriched through diversity; therefore, the college encourages diversity of thought within the student body and staff. Furthermore, the college seeks to promote awareness of diversity and the respect for all individuals, and the college pledges to adhere to this mission in its relationship with the community.

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for appointment to complete application and interview.
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1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

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

Michelle Leslie Executor of the

Estate of Cynthia Broome Carroll
c/o Pamela E. Whitaker
Attorney at Law
4145 Randolph Church Road
Liberty, NC 27298
(336) 622-3553
Jy28,Au4,Au11,Au18,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 417**

All persons having claims against **HARVEY LLOYD BROWER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022.

Susan Belle Brown Sloan,
Executrix
347 S. 2nd Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 420**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **J. WAYNE 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 4th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 27th day of July, 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
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

**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 4th day of November, 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 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 416**

All persons having claims against **SHELIA ASHLEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022.

Misty Squires Peeler, Executrix
197 Gallup Rd.
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27517
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

PUBLIC NOTICE

SALE OF COUNTY PROPERTY
An offer of \$2,500.00 has been submitted for the purchase of certain property owned by Chatham County, Parcel ID #0000189, which is located at Old US 421 N. and Ward Rd., North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows: All that certain tract or parcel of land lying and being situate in Albright Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, BEGINNING at an iron stake 100 feet South of the most Southwest corner of the intersection of Holiday Street and County Road (formerly known as the upper Chatham Road) running South on West side of said County Road 100 feet to an iron stake; thence West 180 feet to an iron stake in Randolph-Chatham County line; thence along said County line North 100 feet to an iron stake; thence East 18- feet to an iron stake which is the BEGINNING. This plate contains 18,000 square feet, more or less. Parcel Number: 0000189. This description comes from the instrument recorded at Deed Book 1608, Page 0689 of the Chatham County Registry. Persons wishing to upset the offer that has been received shall submit a bid with their offer to the office of the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, 12 East Street, P.O. Box 1809, Pittsboro, NC by 5:00 P.M., August 14, 2022. At that time the Clerk to the Board shall review the bids, if any, and the highest qualifying bid will become the new offer. If there is more than one bid in the highest amount, the first such bid received will become the new offer. A qualifying higher bid is one that raises the existing offer to an amount not less than \$2,675. In order for a bid to be considered, the bidder must be current on payment of all property taxes owed to the County. A qualifying higher bid must be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of five percent

(5%) of the bid. The deposit must be made in cash, by cashier's check, or by certified check. The County will return the deposit on any bid not accepted and will return the deposit on an offer subject to upset if a qualifying higher bid is received. If the final high bidder refuses at any time to close sale, their deposit will be forfeited to the County. The process of advertising and accepting upset bids will continue until a 10-day period has passed without any qualifying upset bid having been received. At that time, the amount of the final high bid will be reported to the Board of Commissioners. The County Board of Commissioners must approve the final high offer before the sale is closed, which it will do within 90 days after the final upset bid period has passed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids at any time. The buyer must pay with cash, by cashier's check, or by certified check at closing. Inquiries about the property and the sale may be made to the Clerk to the Board, 12 East Street, Pittsboro, NC, or at telephone (919) 542-8200 during normal business hours. Au4,1tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **LYMAN DARDEN JARMAN**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 29th day of July, 2022.

Pamela Joyce Jarman, Executrix of The Estate of Lyman Darden Jarman
3165 W. Third Street
Siler City, North Carolina
27344
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE
Attorneys at Law
Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
(919) 542-5605
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executrix of the Estate of **WADE HERMAN PHILLIPS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 29th day of July, 2022.

Heather B. Doucette, Executrix of The Estate of Wade Herman Phillips
822 Fitts Street
Sanford, North Carolina
27330
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE
Attorneys at Law
Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
(919) 542-5605
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executrix of the Estate of **MARTHA LOIS SMITH PHILLIPS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 29th day of July, 2022.

Heather B. Doucette, Executrix of The Estate of Martha Lois Smith Phillips
822 Fitts Street
Sanford, North Carolina 27330
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE
Attorneys at Law
BOX 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
(919) 542-5605
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF

**PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

In the Superior Court
21CVS385
Taiming Zhang vs Andrew Joseph Bonomolo,
DEAR ANDREW JOSEPH BONOMOLO,
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: 1 million United States dollars, for intentional infliction of emotional distress. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than September 14, 2022, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This, the 4th day of August, 2022.
Taiming Zhang (plaintiff)
801, No. 21 Taihan Lane, Dalian, China
Au4,Au11,Au18,3tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

The undersigned, Thomas William Andrew and David Herbert Andrew, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **RUTH THAMES ANDREW**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 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 4th day of August, 2022.

Thomas William Andrew
14108 Flint Rock Road
Rockville, MD 20853
1-301-455-3027
David Herbert Andrew
975 Melody Lane
Roswell, GA 30075
1-770-371-6077
W. Ben Atwater, Jr.
Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee
P.O. Box 629
Siler City, NC 27344
919-663-2850
benatwater@chathamlawfirm.com
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

The undersigned, Steve Clark Phillips, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SUSAN SILER PHILIPS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate pay-

ment to the undersigned. This the 4th day of August, 2022.
Steven Clark Phillips
7431 Silk Hope Liberty Road
Siler City, NC 27344
1-336-622-4963
W. Ben Atwater, Jr., Attorney
Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee
P.O. Box 629
Siler City, NC 27344
919-663-2850
benatwater@chathamlawfirm.com
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified as Executrix of **BERTHA FOY RIDDLE MANN**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms or corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at Amy Mann Meacham, 134 Riddle Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312, on or before the 9th day of November, 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. This 1st day of August, 2022.
Amy M. Meacham, Executrix of the Estate of Bertha Foy Riddle Mann
134 Riddle Rd
Pittsboro NC 27312
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 413**

All persons having claims against **GERALD HARVARD BARKSKY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022.

Barbara Barsky, Executor
719 Birstall Dr.
Cary, NC 27519
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 408**

All persons having claims against **DERRY EDWARD MATTHEWS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022.

Hilda Loretta Ewala Matthews, Executrix
16140 U.S. Hwy 421 South,
Sanford, NC 27330
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 390**

All persons having claims against **JAMES ERVIN DIXON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022.

Stuart Lee Dixon, Executor
99 Runa Ct.
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

BRANDON KEITH JEWELL

Brandon Keith Jewell, 42, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, July 18, 2022, at his home. Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Crossroads Ministries with Rev. Paul Backlund officiating. Burial followed in the Thomas Family Section at Broadway Town Cemetery.

He was born in Moore County, son of David Jewell and Louise Black Thomas. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lloyd Black and Wilfred and Maria Jewell. Brandon was a member of Back in the Woods, a foundation for handicapped hunters. Surviving are his grandmother, Ernestine Black of Sanford; mother, Louise Black Thomas and Steve of Sanford; father, David Jewell of Sanford; sister, Amanda Jewell Holt of Goldston; brothers, Alex Jewell of Sanford, Derek Howard of Olivia; and a step-sister, Shannon Thomas of Sanford. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

AMBER DAWN JONES

Amber Dawn Jones, age 27, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at Moore Regional Hospital.

Surviving relatives include her parents, Jerry Anthony Jones and Sally Ann Thompson Jones, both of Sanford; a daughter, Aela Faith Collins of Sanford; and a sister, Christy Marie Whitten of Sanford.

The family received friends at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2022.

ELIZABETH 'LIB' CHRISTINE MCCOY MASON

June 5, 1928 ~ July 30, 2022 Elizabeth "Lib" Christine McCoy Mason, 94, died at UNC Hospitals on Saturday, July 30, 2022.

The family received friends Tuesday, August 2, 2022, from 10 to 10:50 a.m. at Bells Baptist Church. The funeral service followed at 11 a.m. with Pastor Wesley Thomas and Rev. Bob Wachs presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Mason was born to the late Garland Prescott McCoy and Pattie Belle Stone McCoy. She graduated from Cross Business School, and worked at the University Laundry, Duke University and at the ASC office in Chatham County. She was a member of Bells Baptist Church and had attended Pittsboro Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, B.L. Mason Jr., her son, Ronnie Lee Mason, and her brother, Billy Sanford McCoy.

She is survived by her daughter, Patt Sturdivant; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her memory to Bells Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 1274 Farrington Road, Apex, N.C. 27523, or Durham Rescue Mission, P.O. Box 11858, Durham, N.C. 27703.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

LAVERNE DELOIS (HICKS) MCDUGALD

Laverne Delois (Hicks) McDougald, 70, of Broadway passed away on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at her home.

The funeral service was held Friday, July 29, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

PEGGY MARIE POWERS PHILLIPS

March 26, 1931 ~ July 31, 2022 Peggy Marie Powers Phillips, 91, of Bennett, passed away on Sunday, July 31, 2022, at her home.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at Fall Creek Baptist Church with Pastor George Townsend and Dr. Ron Chaney presiding. The family received friends in the fellowship hall after the service.

Mrs. Phillips was born in Randolph County on March 26, 1931, to Bessie Mae Boyd Powers and Ulysses Marvin Powers. She was a member of Fall Creek Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Calvin Phillips.

Peggy is survived by her daughters, Patricia Phillips Hackney and Pam Phillips Craven, both of Bennett; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Flowers are accepted or memorials may be made to Fall Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 1745 Fall Creek Church Rd., Bennett, N.C. 27208.

Condolences may be offered online at: www.joycebrady-chapel.com.

JAMES ALBERT PEARSON

September 16, 1944 ~ July 20, 2022

James Albert Pearson, 77, of 809 Meehan Avenue, Far Rockaway, N.Y., transitioned into eternal rest on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, N.Y.

The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 30, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford. Burial followed at Love Grove AME Zion Church.

KATIE WARD DARNELL

May 23, 1936 ~ July 29, 2022 Katie Ward Darnell, 86, of Bear Creek passed away July 29, 2022, at her home.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at Meroney United Methodist Church Cemetery with Reverend Linda Yow officiating.

Katie was the daughter of Carl Bud and Lacy Hart Ward. She was a member of Meroney United Methodist Church. Mrs. Darnell worked for many years at J.S. Waters Elementary School where she assisted in the school cafeteria as well as driving a school bus. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Jessie Earl Darnell, and brothers, Delmas and Burnis Ward.

Mrs. Darnell is survived by her daughters, Linda Darnell Mitchell of Pittsboro, Donna Darnell Crowe of Goldston; son, Ricky Darnell of Sanford; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and a brother, Carl Ward.

Memorials may be made to Meroney United Methodist Church.

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

SONJAE DEMARIANA HEADEN

Sonjae Demariana Headen, infant daughter of Danielle Marie Antlitz and Devonte Rashad Headen, passed away on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Graveside funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Paradise AME Zion Church Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandmother, Sandra Ann Brown Rodriguez, paternal grandfather, Ricky Headen Sr.,

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her maternal grandfather, Robert Ray Antlitz of Sanford; paternal grandmother, Louana Headen McDougald of Broadway; and her sister, Kinsley Ann Williams of the home.

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

LOUIS EDWARD DAVISON

December 20, 1983 ~ July 24, 2022

Louis Edward Davison, 38, of Angier, died Sunday, July 24, 2022, at home.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 6, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church with Rev. Barrett Freeman presiding. Following the service, a reception will be held in the church Fellowship Hall.

Louis was born in Edison, N.J., to John E. and Jeanette Santora Davison. In addition to his parents, he is also survived by one brother, John Davison and one sister, Suzen Bria, both of Chapel Hill.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Louis's memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

WILLIAM RODLEY 'MARGO' EVERETTE

William Rodley "Margo" Everette, 66, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, July 25, 2022, at his residence.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 28, 2022, at Blandonia Presbyterian Church, with burial following at Tempting Congressional Church Cemetery.

N.C. Association of Student Councils Conference grows leadership opportunities for Seaforth

From North Carolina Association of Student Councils

A Seaforth High School student attended the 62nd North Carolina Association of Student Councils (NCASC) Summer Leadership Workshop on the campus of Mars Hill University during the week of July 11-15.

Sophomore Kyle Stinson spent the week with other student council leaders from across the state in a series of activities to prepare them for the coming year. All activities revolved around the theme of the workshop: "Leadership in Bloom," the NCASC state theme for 2022-23.

The approximately 120 students were divided into groups resembling the student councils in their home schools. They planned activities and completed projects with their new councils. In addition, they participated in other group



Courtesy of Andy Cotton

Seaforth student Kyle Stinson recently attended the North Carolina Association of Student Councils Leadership Conference at Mars Hill University.

team building activities that included boundary breaking, the leadership olympics and folk dancing.

Terri Johnson, executive director of the Missouri Association of Student Councils, was

the guest consultant for the week. At Mars Hills, she conducted general sessions, led group activities, taught skill-building classes and worked with the advisers.

With Council E, Stinson was nominated and

elected to serve as the secretary for the group. Serving as Seaforth's first student council secretary, he was able to use his skills to help with the success of Council E by keeping up with the council's documents, tak-

ing meeting minutes and assure delegates names were spelled correctly for the council photo.

"I am so fortunate to have been able to represent Seaforth on the hill!" Stinson said. "It was super cool to see Northwood Student Council members as well as the central district director, Mr. Foust who taught at Northwood and has been assisting Seaforth's student council. I am so fortunate to have been given the resources that the NCASC had given to delegates and to also have had the social interaction with different student leaders with different perspectives and to build that connection with them. I look forward to spreading the knowledge with my home council and I left the Hill knowing that I bettered myself as a student leader, Go Hawks!"

Seaforth High School Student Council members

will look to attend other workshops, conferences and conventions throughout the year to continue getting more leadership training and activity ideas from other schools.

"From meeting Dr. Jackson, to Jack Hoke with the Superintendents Association to talking and connecting with the students at Seaforth, I have enjoyed every minute and continue to grow from these experiences," Stinson said. "My goal throughout my next three years in Chatham is to look to develop younger student leaders because I believe everyone is a leader, it's a matter of if you decide to use your qualities."

Stinson said he was proud to attend Seaforth High School because of the tremendous opportunities it provides him and his fellow students to grow a new academic and social community in Chatham County.

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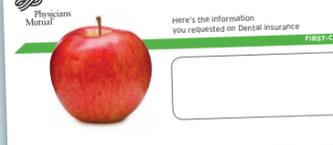
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SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

AUGUST 4 - 10, 2022 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Former Northwood, Elon standout Matt Oldham gets summer shot with Frederick Keys

BY MAX BAKER
News + Record Staff

FREDERICK, Maryland — Entering the 2022 college baseball season, few catchers had as much experience as Matt Oldham.

The former Northwood baseball standout had already spent four years at Elon University where he started 118 games behind the plate, and in 2020, he tied for the conference lead in runners caught stealing. Then, last summer, Oldham embarked on a new journey, transferring to N.C. State for his final collegiate season.

It was a chance to showcase that his talents translated to a

high-level Division I team and a program coming off of a College World Series appearance. But those opportunities would prove scarce at his new school. Oldham only started two games, recording three hits in 12 at-bats.

“At the end of the day, I have no regrets about what I was doing and what I wanted to accomplish,” Oldham told the News + Record. “Things didn’t work out in my eyes how I wanted them to. But I met some really good people and I’ve always been big about relationships.”

Although Oldham acknowledged that he loved N.C. State and the people he met along the way, he didn’t want his baseball career to end there. So this sum-

mer, he signed with the Frederick Keys, an MLB Draft League team in a 40-game independent ball league based in Frederick, Maryland. Most players in the league went undrafted in July’s MLB Draft and are seeking a professional opportunity.

“I felt like I still had a lot to give to this game,” Oldham said. “I would regret it for the rest of my life if I didn’t at least try. You never know what can happen. My goal is to play professional baseball. I don’t want to leave any stone unturned. I don’t want to have any regrets with my playing career. ... I still felt like I had pro potential and

See **OLDHAM**, page B3



Photo by Jaylynn Nash

Former N.C. State catcher Matt Oldham prepares for a pitch during one of his 12 at-bats for the Wolfpack last season. Oldham is now playing for the Frederick Keys in the Carolina League, an MLB Draft Summer League.

Youth camps, World Series appearances fueling a busy, but successful, Jets offseason

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Despite being eight months out from their season-opener in February, Siler City’s own Boys of Summer had a jam-packed July.

Between a stint in Greensboro’s Colt Summer League to the school’s annual baseball-centric youth summer camp, the Jordan-Matthews Jets have had a productive summer behind the plate, preparing them for what will surely be an exciting spring campaign in 2023.

For those involved with J-M’s baseball program, the intensity of offseason activities serves one major purpose: team-building.

“It builds the ultimate thing, which is camaraderie and friendship,” John Headen, the Jets’ head baseball coach, told the News + Record. “When they get out of high school and go on to become men, they’re going to remember each other the rest of their lives and that’s a big deal. ... At the end of the day, we’re trying to build a brotherhood.”

The Jets’ offseason activities began in June, when they started play in Greensboro Youth Baseball’s Colt Summer League, facing off against teams from around the Triad, including schools from both Guilford and Alamance counties.

J-M’s 16u team, coached by Headen, won the league “pretty easily,” he said, giving his team some much-needed experience against strong competition.

During his tenure at J-M, Headen has consistently tried to get his team to compete above its skill



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jackson (right), a camper at Jordan-Matthews’ annual baseball camp, tosses the ball to Jets junior Kelton Fuquay on the final day of camp last Thursday.

level, playing in tough offseason (or mid-season) tournaments and scheduling bigger, better schools throughout the non-conference season to give his team a challenge.

“You can’t be content with

success,” Headen said. “You have to want to keep building upon it. If you’re ever content with the success you have, you’re done,

See **OFFSEASON**, page B2

Farewell, Chatham. Thanks for everything.

It’s been nearly 19 months since I started my journey as the sports editor at the News + Record.



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

When I joined the team, it was my first “real” job after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill in May 2020, a time when the sports world — and the entire globe — was grappling with the endless challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to working for the News + Record, I had covered just a handful of high school sporting events. Now, I’ve spent countless hours watching, reporting on and getting to know the talented athletes, passionate coaches and dedicated fans from Siler City to Concore.

Prior to working for the News + Record, I had minimal experience in a newsroom, with most of my experiences stemming from a three-month internship with the High Point Enterprise, my hometown daily, during my junior year. Now, I’ve spent the past year and a half learning first-hand alongside an award-winning staff that has taught me invaluable lessons, made me cry laughing more times than I could count and ignited my passion for community journalism more than college ever had.

Prior to working for the News + Record, I had stepped foot in Chatham County just one time, despite growing up a mere 45 minutes away in the Triad. Now, I’ve grown to love the place that has made covering local sports a breeze, given its wealth of athletic potential, wonderful community and ever-growing list of stories to tell.

During my 19 months in Chatham, I’ve written 336 stories and a total of 401,740 words that found their way into the pages of Chatham’s 144-year-old newspaper.

Yet, these words are the hardest of them all to type, but here goes nothing.

This week’s edition is my last as the News + Record’s sports editor.

I can already hear the exuberant cheers of Duke fans ‘round the county, celebrating the fact that I won’t be here next March to write column after column bragging about the Tar

See **FAREWELL**, page B2

FROM NORMAN TO BOONE

Former Northwood long snapper Jake Mann finds home with Mountaineers in transfer portal

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

BOONE — Former Northwood long-snapping great Jake Mann is on the move.

After spending his freshman season with the Oklahoma Sooners in 2021, Mann made the decision in June to take his talents 1,000 miles east from Norman, Okla., to Boone, where he’ll suit up for the Appalachian State Mountaineers in 2022.

“It was a great experience,” Mann told the News + Record when asked about his lone season in Norman, which saw the Sooners end the year with a 47-32 win over Oregon in the

Valero Alamo Bowl. “It took a little while to adjust because it was my first time being really far away from home. I really enjoyed it, but obviously, things just didn’t work out there. So I’m really excited to be going to (Appalachian State), closer to home.”

Mann’s choice to enter the NCAA transfer portal on Dec. 9, 2021, came just 11 days after Sooners Head Coach Lincoln Riley announced his decision to step down from his post at Oklahoma and accept the head coaching role at the University of Southern California, a move that stunned players and fans alike.

Riley’s announcement trig-

gered a string of departures for the Sooners, including both of the team’s star quarterbacks, Spencer Rattler (who entered the portal on Nov. 29, 2021 and is now at South Carolina) and Caleb Williams (entered portal Jan. 3 and is now at Southern California).

While Oklahoma’s coaching change undoubtedly played a role in Mann’s departure, he said the move was primarily fueled by a lack of playing time.

During the 2021 season, Mann saw the field just once, his lone appearance coming in a 76-0 blowout victory over Western Carolina in the second game of the season.

But when he was being recruited by Oklahoma, Mann said that the current long snapper, super-senior Kasey Kelleher, was planning on leaving after the 2021 season, which would’ve put him in a prime position to start for the Sooners his sophomore year.

“With the coaching change and everything, (Kelleher) decided to come back for another year,” Mann recalled, “so when he decided that, I was like, ‘I’ve got to make a decision for myself. Do I want to pay another year of out-of-state tuition and have to sit another year or go somewhere that I can play?’

See **MANN**, page B2



Photo via Appalachian State Athletics

Sophomore long snapper Jake Mann poses in his Appalachian State uniform during media day. Mann transferred from Oklahoma to App. State in June.

OFFSEASON

Continued from page B1

you're finished, you're at the end of your journey."

One perk of being a member of the Colt Summer League is the end-of-season All-Star team, called the Greensboro Green, which selects 16 players from teams around the league to compete on a local, regional and potentially national stage.

Four of the players selected are representing Chatham County, including J-M junior Ian McMillan and sophomore Quinn Woolford, along with Chatham Central juniors Wesley Clewis and Joaquin Gordon.

On July 18, the Green began a best-of-three series against a team from Beaver County, Pennsylvania, to decide the winner of the Colt League's East Zone.

After a 15-4 win in Game 1, the Green followed with a 6-0 shut-out victory on July 22 in Game 2 to earn a spot in the 2022 Colt World Series, hosted this past weekend in Marion, Illinois.

On Monday night, the Green fell just short of a World Series title, dropping their semifinal matchup against defending champion Marion, 8-5, after a late comeback attempt was extinguished in the seventh inning in what was the Green's second game of the day.

McMillan is no stranger to the big stage, having played in the 2021 Colt World Series alongside J-M teammates Conner Martin and Kelton Fuquay, where top-seeded Greensboro fell in a 4-3 upset loss in the tournament's semifinals to Brownsville, Texas.

This year, Headen said McMillan was eager to compete again, hoping to avenge last season's defeat and represent Chatham County.

"He made it a point that he really wanted to go back again this year because they're playing for something besides themselves," Headen said of McMillan. "They're playing to represent something. ... And when you're representing somebody, and taking a little pride in what you're doing, that outweighs everything."

While the trip to Marion has



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews junior Kelton Fuquay (center) takes a break from the heat by sliding down a slip 'n slide on the final day of the Jets' annual baseball camp last Thursday as J-M softball head coach Holly Clark (right) provides the water.

provided all four Chatham student-athletes with an unforgettable experience at the highest level, it's also given them a chance to work on their skills ahead of next spring's baseball season.

For McMillan, that includes his pitching.

In Greensboro's win-or-go-home game against Mexico on Monday afternoon — which it won, 9-8, in an extra-inning thriller after a walk-off hit by Woolford that scored his J-M teammate — McMillan threw 85 pitches across 6.0 innings, closing out a high-pressure game with near-perfection and allowing zero earned runs on five hits.

"Ian's been getting his reps and moving around and his experiences are just going to add to some of his abilities," Headen said. "He's gotten to pitch a lot this summer and that's something we've needed him to do, as well. Our older guys have gotten to be put into position to be leaders on the team this summer."

Woolford also made his presence known throughout Greensboro's run, ranking fourth on the Green in batting average (.353) during the World Series and coming up clutch in moments like the win against Mexico.

"Quinn has really grown so much since spring," Headen said of his rising sophomore. "He came in with a sore shoulder and couldn't play until about halfway through the season and never really got

to pitch, but now he's gotten to do some pitching this summer and has played some good ball."

Bridging the gap

While a couple of members of the Jets were on their way to Illinois, many others were back home in Siler City, helping shape the future faces of Jordan-Matthews baseball.

Last week, from July 25 to July 28, J-M hosted its annual youth baseball summer camp, where more than 30 campers ranging from rising 1st through 9th graders got the opportunity to learn the sport's basics, participate in technique-improving drills and have a little fun in the process with the Jets' coaching staff and varsity counselors.

As youth summer camps typically go, the campers were split into different age groups in an effort to pair together players at similar developmental levels. Then, the campers focused on different parts of the game on different days, with Monday being dedicated to basic defensive strategy, Tuesday being centered around hitting and plate presence, Wednesday being geared toward situational baseball and Thursday, of course, being a morning full of scrimmages — the most exciting part of any camp.

"It's fun to see the kids come in where some of them are more talented than others and just have more experience than others, but to see how much

those kids develop in three days and really apply that on Thursday when we scrimmage," Will Felder, assistant J-M baseball coach and lead counselor, told the News + Record. "Every kid learns in different ways. There's no one way to play the game of baseball, so it's good for these kids to see and hear a different way to do things and apply it to the way they play."

Having coached for years in Charleston, S.C., and becoming accustomed to teaching middle schoolers over the last couple of years, Felder knew how to keep the campers engaged when their minds inevitably began to wander during some of the not-so-thrilling drills in the scalding-hot sun.

His solution: make a game out of anything.

Whether it's turning base-running drills into relay races or transforming throwing and catching exercises into pickle drills with incentives, the easier an activity is to morph into a game or competition, the better.

"If you make anything a game or a competition for young boys, they're going to want to compete and beat whoever they're playing," Felder said. "If you make it fun, if you make a game out of something, they'll do just about anything you want them to."

While the camp mainly benefited the campers that signed up, Felder said the players from J-M that helped out as counselors undoubtedly got



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Hayden, a camper at Jordan-Matthews' annual baseball camp, flips his bat after a hit during the camp's final day last Thursday.

something out of it themselves: confidence.

"It's really cool also, as one of the members of the coaching staff, to see a kid who maybe didn't know something that well in the fall of last year and now they're teaching what they learned to someone else," Felder said. "It's really fun because that's them developing themselves more. If you can teach something, you can do it better yourself."

Despite the camp taking place on J-M's campus, it wasn't limited to future Jets.

Felder said that the attendees also included students that may eventually end up at Chatham Charter, Chatham Central or any of the county's other high schools, serving the camp's primary purpose of growing the game and bridging the gaps within Chatham's baseball community.

"It's really nice to see what the future might hold," Felder said, "but you see different kids from different schools and, at that point, you just want those kids to have a good time and you want to develop everybody, but you do find those that will be future Jets and you say, 'Oh, we might have that come in here' and that's really great to look forward to."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at victorgrayh10@gmail.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

MANN

Continued from page B1

And that's when I decided to leave."

During his six-month journey through the transfer portal — which he described as being a little bit different for long snappers than it is for quarterbacks or wide receivers — Mann got a plethora of offers from prominent Division I programs, including Coastal Carolina, East Carolina, Louisville, Memphis, and N.C. State, many of which were schools he chatted with during his recruiting process.

In the end, however, it was Appalachian State that caught his eye more

than the others.

"There's a good chance I'll get to play right away (at App. State), which is, essentially, what I want to do — and most people want to do — is just get on the field," Mann explained. "Another big part of the decision was it just being two hours and 45 minutes from home. Now, my family can come to the games pretty easily. It's pretty convenient. If we have a weekend off, I can just drive home. ... It just felt like the right decision."

Mann joins fourth-year junior and All-Sun Belt second-teamer Christian Johnstone as the only other long snapper on the Mountaineers' roster. But with Johnstone nursing a back injury, Mann is preparing to step into the

starting role during fall training camp, which begins on Friday, and eventually battle for the starting job.

The Mountaineers are coming off of a 10-4 season in 2021, where they finished 7-1 in the Sun Belt Conference and made an appearance in the conference title game — a 24-16 loss to the Louisiana Rajun' Cajuns — and earned a berth into the Roofclaim.com Boca Roton Bowl against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, resulting in a high-scoring 59-38 defeat.

After a fruitful offseason that's seen Mann take part in plenty of player-led workouts with the Mountaineers, he said he believes he's ready to give it his all once fall camp begins this week.

"I'm just going to do my job so the

kickers and punters can do their job," Mann said. "Hopefully, they don't have to worry about me and nobody knows my name because that's always a bad thing (for long snappers).

"I'm really excited," he continued. "Obviously, it's not Power Five football, but if you didn't know that and you were just kind of around Boone or involved with the team, you wouldn't feel that. ... They definitely love their football there."

Appalachian State opens its 2022 season at home on Sept. 3 against the North Carolina Tar Heels.

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at victorgrayh10@gmail.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

FAREWELL

Continued from page B1

Heels' inevitable sweep of the Blue Devils, Final Four appearance and redemption-filled national title victory.

But at least we have this past March Madness — and plenty of columns in our archives — to fondly look back upon.

In all seriousness, as tough as it'll be to walk away from my post as the thorn in the sides of Duke-supporting Chathamites, I couldn't be more excited for my next chapter.

While I don't yet have any professional news to announce, I will reveal the reasoning for my seemingly sudden departure: I'm moving to the great state of Maryland.

Since I was an early teen, I've dreamt about packing up my things and moving to Maryland. Early on, those fantasies were fueled by my love of Baltimore sports, namely the NFL's Ravens and MLB's Orioles, hoping that I could one day spend all of my free time at either M&T Bank Stadium or Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

But, more recently, the decision to move became

less about sports and more about the people I've met throughout my decades-long fandom — namely my girlfriend, Manda, who will have the (un)fortunate pleasure of living alongside me once I move into her home later this week.

Let me be clear, though. The decision was far from easy.

I was born and raised in North Carolina, having spent the last 24 unforgettable years in the Tar Heel State.

I'll miss my family, which has taken care of me every step of the way and ensured that I made something of myself. Luckily, though, I'll see them at most major holidays and the occasional just-because visits.

I'll miss my friends, especially those I made throughout high school and college that have been with me for countless adventures. Luckily, though, I'll see them often when I dust them in our annual fantasy football league.

I'll miss my coworkers at the News + Record, those who have made stressful production days fun and my entire career here a blast, including the trio in the office, the exceptional reporting

team and the man who wears all the hats, Bill Horner III.

I'll, of course, miss the pleasures and perks of North Carolina, including Cheerwine, Bojangles, Cookout and subpar professional sports teams, among others.

And lastly, I'll undeniably miss the folks of Chatham County.

It would take a novel to express my gratitude to each and every person that made my time at the News + Record a dream come true.

But, in the end, none of it could have come together so perfectly had Chatham not been a marvelous place with even better stories.

During my 19 months on the job, I was fortunate enough to witness it all.

I saw tears of joy after big victories and tears of sadness after heartbreaking defeats.

I saw some of the best athletes in the state do what they do best.

I saw indelible moments, drought-breaking title wins and record-capturing performances.

I saw the devotion of parents and the resilience of communities.

And it all happened because, right now, in a

time of rapid growth and expansion, Chatham is undeniably a spring of athletic potential.

In the story introducing me to the readers of the News + Record on Feb. 4, 2021, I spoke about what I'd heard regarding sports in Chatham before taking the job: "Chatham is an area rich with talent, promise and a few good jump shots."

It took me no more than a week to find out how much of an understatement I'd just made.

From Northwood and Seaforth's prolific basketball talent to Jordan-Matthews and Woods Charter's historically gifted soccer programs to Chatham Central and Chatham Charter's impressive tennis culture, Chatham County is a hotbed for up-and-coming high school teams.

Chatham has nationally ranked athletes being courted by the country's most notable universities, along with current and former college players leaving stellar legacies at schools from coast to coast.

Occasionally a county that could get overshadowed by locations in both the Triangle and Triad, Chatham is quickly

becoming a place that can compete with the best of them, as seen by the number of state championships won by individuals and teams throughout the county in 2021-22.

If you're an athlete, coach, parent or general fan of the high schools in Chatham, now is your time to shine.

While I won't be reporting first-hand on the inevitable supply of championships and accolades coming Chatham's direction, I'll be following through the News + Record's lens the entire



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

A season-opening celebration



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Last Thursday, Jordan-Matthews hosted its meet and greet with a sweet treat event in the school's cafeteria, where prospective athletes were able to meet with coaches from most of the sports offered to ask questions about participating in J-M athletics. Here, longtime J-M men's soccer head coach Paul Cuadros (center) interacts with a couple of students at the soccer booth during the event.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Lamont Piggie (left), Jordan-Matthews' women's basketball and track & field head coach, speaks with a prospective athlete during the meet and greet event last Thursday. Piggie had a dual booth set up with materials for both basketball and track.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Rodney Wiley (center), Jordan-Matthews' head men's basketball coach, laughs with a group of parents during the meet and greet event last Thursday.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Courtney Copeland, Jordan-Matthews' athletic trainer, is all smiles at her booth promoting the importance of nutrition, hydration and healthy habits during the meet and greet event last Thursday.

OLDHAM

Continued from page B1

pro talent coming out of State.” The league technically began before the Draft, but the season is normally split in half because of the amount of players that leave after being drafted or signing with an organization. During the second half of the season, Oldham said it's like a “running tab” of players getting picked up by professional organizations.

“It's a chance for guys to showcase who they are and what they can do,” Oldham said. “There's a lot of guys in the same positions, they're all trying to play professional base-

ball and get signed. They all have the same goals so it makes the league very competitive.”

Oldham's coach, Joe Oliver, played 13 years in the MLB at catcher and won a World Series with the Cincinnati Reds in 1990. Oldham has relished the opportunity to learn from Oliver on the team's off days and in the batting cage. And Oliver repays his players by trying to give them all an opportunity.

“Joe's really good at getting everybody at-bats and making sure everybody gets their fair shake,” Oldham said. “He told us, ‘I'm here for you guys, I'm here for your development, I'm here to showcase you guys and to get you guys signed. We'll win games and we'll lose, but I'm here to get you

guys to the next level.”

Oliver even got creative and put Oldham in right field for a game last week in an effort to get him more at-bats. The Keys have played 10 games since the mid-season break. Oldham has hits in his last two games and recorded an RBI triple in his last start.

Despite the brief hiccup his career took at N.C. State, the catcher has continued to keep a positive mindset as he works to prolong his playing days. While some might have been dissuaded by a lack of playing time, Oldham is trying to let it motivate him into having one more magical summer.

After all, why not? He's got nothing to lose.



Photo via N.C. State Athletics

Former N.C. State catcher Matt Oldham swings the bat during a game with the Wolfpack last season.

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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

Superintendent Jackson gets contract extension through 2026

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Chatham County Schools will keep Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson at the helm through 2026 after the county's board of education unanimously approved a one-year contract extension for him at its personnel meeting last Thursday.



Jackson

The new contract includes a one-time 5% salary bonus from the 2021-2022 school year for performance achievements during the year. Jackson was initially hired in July 2021 with his contract originally ending June 2025; he has now been extended through June 2026.

Jackson's annual salary will be \$205,000 through the remainder of his term, which is set by the State Salary Schedule for Superintendents.

For 2021-2022, Jackson received \$215,250 in total compensation, including bonuses. The extension did not include an overall salary increase for the remaining years on his contract.

The 5% bonuses are awarded, according to his contract, based on the discretion of the CCS Board of Education. Jackson met performance goals set forth by the BOE, which are established prior to each school year. "We are very pleased with the work Dr. Jackson is doing in the district and the high standards he brings," said school board Chairman Gary Leonard. "We have seen a lot of growth this past year among staff and students, thanks to his leadership."

CCS officials said they agreed on the contract extension and salary bonus because of Jackson's work to keep the district on track during the pandemic. The superintendent has also revised the CCS Strategic Plan and launched

a district-wide recruitment, retention, recognition and referral program.

Jackson's efforts to increase enrollment at the Chatham School of Science and Engineering by 15% were also praised by CCS officials. He also has worked with staff on the restoration of the theater arts and dance programs at Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central high schools, as well as the expansion of the AVID program to all middle and high schools.

"I am both humbled and honored to serve the Chatham County Schools community," Jackson said. "Chatham County is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. I am proud to co-labor with our students, parents, staff and community as we engage in the work of building One Chatham for all students."

Aside from the extension and one-time bonus, the rest of Jackson's contract remains the same. The superintendent is

allowed two days off per month with up to 96 hours of compensatory time off per fiscal year. The board also supplies Jackson with a phone, tablet and computer for work-related calls, emails and other technology needs. Other benefits include life insurance and a \$1,000 monthly travel allowance.

Jackson has been an educator for more than 30 years. Prior to coming to Chatham, Jackson was superintendent of Vance County Schools — where he'd been since 2015 — and was recognized as the North Carolina Superintendent of the Year in 2020. Under his leadership at Vance County, WRAL reported in 2019 that the school system's graduation rate had increased dramatically, and the dropout rate had fallen to 2.02% from a five-year high of 5.25%. Before his tenure there, Jackson was the leader of Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools for four years and at the Henry County Public School System for three.

Jackson replaced former superintendent Derrick Jordan after Jordan left the office to join the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in January 2021. He was chosen from a pool of 45 applicants across 18 states. At the time of his hiring, board members said he was chosen for his communications skills and commitment to fostering relationships within the Chatham County community.

The board seems to think Jackson has lived up to those qualifications. CCS was not required to vote on Jackson's contract extension following the 2021-2022 year but felt it was appropriate following annual evaluations from state standards.

A copy of Jackson's contract will be made available on the News + Record's website.

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

CCS Summer Tech Team helps the district by teaching students

The group of eight students was the first cohort to complete the 3-week program

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A stack of more than 60 Chromebook computers lines the walls of a classroom at Seaforth High School. Each one is a trophy of the hard work put in by the Chatham County Schools Summer Tech Team.

In just three weeks, the team of eight students has learned how to assess and fix the computers used by their peers throughout the district. The program killed two birds with one stone because it both taught students valuable information technology lessons and helped the school district repair broken laptops in preparation for the beginning of the school year.

"We provided them with experiences and networking opportunities for the next steps," said Emma Braaten, Chatham County Schools' chief technology officer. "But they also helped us through their work on the repairs."

This was the inaugural year of the program, and Braaten said it was a success she hopes the district will build on for the future. The program's final day was last Friday.

The Summer Tech Team program was made possible through a collaboration between the Chatham County Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) program and the information technology (IT) services. The school district received a state grant through the North Carolina Business Committee on Education's (NCBCE) Tech Team Student Connect initiative. The goal of the grant was to create a comprehensive framework and toolkit for North Carolina schools and districts to access resources for starting, implementing, and scaling a student technology support desk.

MCNC — a data center that helps with internet infrastructure.

"It's been really fun to learn from professionals and gain some new skills," said Felton Burleigh, 17, a member of the Summer Tech Team. "I always had an interest in computers, and now I have a lot of practical stuff I can use too."

Members of the team came from high schools throughout the district. Burleigh, a Seaforth student, said the small group made the teaching environment more intimate and created strong bonds between the members of the team. His fellow classmates agreed.

"One of my main takeaways is the whole teamwork aspect of this work is super important," said Aiden Threatt, a 17-year-old member of the Summer Tech Team from Northwood High School. "Sometimes you can't spot everything with your own eyes."

Threatt came into the Summer Tech Team with previous computer engineering experience and had already built a computer on his own prior to enrolling. Still, he said he learned from engaging with his peers and described several occasions throughout the program where classmates pointed out things he wouldn't have otherwise noticed like a missing headphone jack, a chip malfunction or a broken card reader. "I signed up because it seemed interesting and it was just something to do over the summer," Threatt said. "But the experience I gained here was a professional setting with computers, instead of just at my desk and changing out components on my personal computer."

'Tremendous impact'

One of the mentors for the program, Alex Trujillo, said he was impressed at the progress the students made in such a short time period. He also works as a technician at CCS, and he said completing fixes on 60 computers in under 20 hours puts them on pace with the district's professional IT team.

"We wanted them to experience what technicians do on a day-to-day basis," Trujillo said. "I made the curriculum like real-life working conditions."

Trujillo said the program was also beneficial in showing students how pervasive the field of IT is in today's world. He said students today often can use computers because

they use them from a young age, but understanding the complexities of things like back-end software and data storage can help them be prepared for careers when they get out of school.

"What really drew me to the program was that I used to be a very nerdy kid," he said. "So this seemed like an incredible opportunity for other kids who are like I was — give them opportunities to ask questions and take them to a data center — I wanted to be on this journey with the kids."

The program mentor said the participants had a "tremendous impact" on the school district because it helped CCS improve its own technology department and create material benefits.

Plans to grow in the future

Braaten said because of that impact, she hopes this program will expand in the future to have tech teams at all the high schools throughout the district.

"Students helping students can be really meaningful, and in this field it helps with future career goals as well," she said. "There is a plan to continue to develop this for the future."

While Braaten said there isn't a definite timeline for expansion of a peer-to-peer tech support program, she believes this was a good first run that showed potential and desire for further engagement.

CCS is also hoping to expand its technology department in the near future, and Braaten said programs like the Summer Tech Team would help create a pipeline for the students to have viable employment in the technology space.

"Empowering the students as learners is a key piece for us," Braaten said. "With our CTE department, we are working with each of our campuses to have students have tech internships and help support the repair needs at each school."

She said it creates a positive feedback loop — students get paid or have internship experience in a growing technology industry and each school gets its devices repaired for students and staff.

For more information about the Tech Team initiative, visit www.ncbce.org/narrative/techteam.

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



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Eight Chatham County Schools students were part of the first Summer Tech Team, hosted at Seaforth High School. The program was mentored by Bobbie Roberston (upper left) and Alex Trujillo (upper center).

Council on Aging Activities Calendar

August 8th through August 12th

Monday, August 8th

Eastern Chatham Senior Center - 365 Highway 87 North, Pittsboro

- 8 a.m. - [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) (masks required)
- 10 a.m. - [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom); [Games and Coffee](#)
- 11 a.m. - [Chair Volleyball](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center - 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City

- 12:30 p.m. - [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#)
- 2:00 p.m. - [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class w/Olivia](#)

Tuesday, August 9th

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) (masks required)
- 9 a.m. - [3G's Men's Group](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Blood Pressure Screening; Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joel](#)
- 11 a.m. - [Chatham Striders Walk & Learn](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Rummikub](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. - [Chair Exercises w/Olivia for Beginners](#)
- 10:30 a.m. - [Group Game w/Ryan Mankin, Humana](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Rook](#)
- 2 p.m. - [Crafting with Kathryn](#) (String Art)

Wednesday, August 10th

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) (in-person and Zoom); [Games and Coffee](#)
- 11 a.m. - [Seniors Helping Seniors Crafts w/Rosemary](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Parkinson's Support Group; Open Art Studio](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. to Noon - [Veterans Benefit Assistance](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Bible Study](#)
- 10:30 a.m. - [Diabetes Discussion w/Siler City Pharmacy](#)
- 12:30 p.m. - [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#)
- 2 p.m. - [Cornhole](#)

Thursday, August 11th

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) (masks optional)
- 10 a.m. - [Needleworking Group; Let's Move w/Jackie; Games and Coffee](#)
- 11 a.m. - [Diabetes Discussion Group](#)
- 1:30 p.m. - [Line Dancing](#)
- 3 p.m. - [Gentle Yoga w/Liz](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - [Trip to Raleigh Farmers' Market](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Book Club](#) (Wren Memorial Library, Siler City)
- 3 p.m. - [Movie & Popcorn](#)

Friday, August 12th

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) (masks required)
- 10 a.m. - [Games and Coffee](#)
- 11 a.m. - [Chair Volleyball](#)
- 2:30 p.m. - [Mixed Arts & Crafts w/Alan](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Stories w/Charlotte Walton; w/Neria](#) at 10:30 a.m.
- 1 p.m. - [Memory Makers Club](#)
- 7 p.m. - [Friday Night Dance](#) (fee required for participation)

For more information on these and other programs, call our centers Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center
919-742-3975

Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org

'WE LOVE THE LORD AND WE LOVE PEOPLE'

Love Chatham hosts first chicken plate fundraiser

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The mouth-watering aroma of barbecue and the support of the community was in abundance at Love Chatham's first ever Chicken Plate fundraiser, which was organized to help raise money for the Siler City-based organization.

Hundreds of people came to Freedom Family Church on Saturday afternoon to feast on freshly grilled chicken cooked by Love Chatham's Executive Director Dakota Philbrick and some of his volunteers and friends at Love Chatham.

"I'm just thrilled to see it all come together," Philbrick said. "As executive director for Love Chatham and seeing families being here, young men and women, several groups that are coming in to volunteer, it's a blessing."

The event was planned throughout the summer by Love Chatham's Summer Intern Mary Lacey Eubanks. With the fundraiser as her "capstone project," Eubanks was tasked with organizing a fundraiser to benefit Love Chatham — a nonprofit dedicated to combating homelessness and food insecurity through its various ministries

— and securing donations for the fundraiser, which included enough chicken from Mountaire Farms to feed around 500 people.

"I couldn't be happier right now about how it's really going and coming together," Eubanks said. "It's just so cool to see everyone here — the volunteers and also the guests coming. It's just great to see people actually showing up and it be successful."

The scene at Freedom Family Church was organized and down to the point — a group of men stood by the grill, seasoning and cooking the chicken. Volunteers then moved in an assembly line formation to plate chicken meals, which included two sides, a dinner roll and a dessert. From there,

volunteers would distribute the food to people who purchased a meal ticket, which Love Chatham sold nearly 300 of before Saturday.

"I think we've really got the volunteers tied in and the guests," Eubanks said. "They know where their money's going, and they know what they're supporting. We're hoping to be able to talk to more guests this afternoon and have meaningful conversations about Love Chatham and its mission."

Love Chatham's Board President Ben Suggs, who also serves as the pastor at Freedom Family Church, said events like Saturday's help to bring community awareness to Love Chatham's purpose and the issues it's working to mitigate.

"It's so important for people to know and understand what we do because I think there are other people that want to be involved in that too," Suggs said. "The scope of people that we can help is going to multiply the more our awareness multiplies."

Some of Saturday's volunteers have been with Love Chatham since the beginning, including board member Donald Southern.

"We've had a longtime dream to help people have a place to go for the homeless," Southern said. "We believe in what we're doing, we know this is the answer. If we can do this, we can help others do the exact same thing."

Other volunteers on Saturday decided to dedicate their time to the fundraiser for more personal reasons. For Krystal Handley, she's experienced financial insecurity first-hand.

"We've even thought we were gonna get our house foreclosed on, we've been in that situation, and everybody's almost one paycheck away from being in the same situation," Handley said. "This is our way to be able to give back because we know where everybody's coming from."

Handley said she also wants to help address a lot of the misconceptions surrounding



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Love Chatham Board President Ben Suggs speaks to guests during Love Chatham's chicken plate fundraiser.

impoverished people.

"A lot of people didn't hear or know about us, and if so, they may have a bad perspective when it comes to homeless people," she said. "Then when you see people actually supporting us, it's a great thing to know that your community has banded together to do those kinds of things for one another."

Love Chatham Volunteer Sandee Davis joined in Saturday's efforts to help remove the stigma surrounding individuals experiencing homelessness.

"People assume it's because of drugs or being an alcoholic, or just being in trouble," Davis said. "But no, things happen, and when COVID happened, a lot of people went without."

According to a survey released by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased by over 2% in early 2020, not accounting for those who lost their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, 106,000 children were homeless. Additionally, a disproportionate percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness were people of color, with 39% of the homeless population in the U.S. being



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Love Chatham's Executive Director Dakota Philbrick works the grill at the organization's chicken plate fundraiser.

Black and 23% being Hispanic or Latinx.

"A lot of people don't know just how many homeless people there are in Chatham County," Davis said. "People need to know a lot of people that are homeless are not by choice."

Davis said she hopes events like Saturday's fundraiser will help to not only bring awareness to Love Chatham, but also help people recognize homelessness is a real issue in

Chatham County.

"The community can come and see that we're prospering ... because we're making an impact in somebody's life," she said. "We love the Lord and we love people — doesn't matter race, color, creed, it does not matter. We just have love for the people."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham County Chamber of Commerce recruits board members

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Chamber of Commerce is looking for community members interested in serving on the chamber's board. Interested individuals should review the Board Rules and Responsibilities and send

a completed recruitment form to president and CEO Cindy Poindexter at cindyp@ccucc.net by Aug. 5.

Board members serve three-year terms, and can be nominated for a maximum of two consecutive terms. After the second three-year term, members must drop off the board for one year before being considered again for appointment.

The Chatham County

Chamber of Commerce can be contacted at 919-742-3333 or info@ccucc.net.

Battle Reenactment returns to House in the Horseshoe

SANFORD — The Revolutionary War battle reenactment will make its return to House in the Horseshoe on Saturday,

Aug. 6. Nestled in the bend of the Deep River, the Alston House was the site of an American Revolutionary War skirmish between Patriot Col. Philip Alston and Loyalist Col. David Fanning in 1781.

The Saturday-only event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will also be food trucks and tours of the Alston House, where bullet holes remain. The program

is free; parking is \$5 per vehicle — cash only payment.

Visitors will be able to speak with interpreters about life in the 18th century, walk through militia camps and hear presentations throughout the day. The event will begin at 10 a.m. with a wreath-laying ceremony led by the Sandhills Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The battle reenactment

will begin at 2 p.m. Located at 288 Alston House Rd., Sanford, House in the Horseshoe is 16 miles west of Sanford off N.C. 42 and 10 miles north of Carthage on the Caribton-Carthage Road.

The house was built in 1772 by Philip Alston. During the American Revolution, Alston proved a fiery leader for the Whig cause. In 1781 the Alston house was the site of militia skirmish between the owner, Whig Col. Alston, and Loyalist Col. David Fanning. The house still bears some of the scars from this engagement. From 1798 to 1814 the House in the Horseshoe, under the name Retreat, was home to another Patriot leader and four-time North Carolina governor, Benjamin Williams.

House in the Horseshoe is part of the Division of State Historic Sites within the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300

CHATHAM IS BOLD!



‘CREATE A BIG RIPPLE EFFECT’

Carolina Tiger Rescue hosts third annual virtual 5K

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Tiger Day 5K originated as a way to connect supporters during the COVID-19 pandemic, but now it's a fundraising staple for Carolina Tiger Rescue.

The 2022 fun run marks the third year of the event, but this time people were allowed to gather together in person.

The run itself is still a virtual 5K, meaning runners can participate from anywhere. To drum up excitement for the Tiger Day event, Carolina Tiger Rescue hosted a kickoff event at The Plant, a 17-acre eco-industrial park in Pittsboro, with live music, food trucks, prizes and t-shirts for those participating in the run. This was the first year of the block-party-style kickoff.

"We started in 2020 with strict COVID protocols in place," said Susan King Cope, director of development at Carolina Tiger Rescue. "We were very happy to find that our supporters around the country enjoyed taking part in the event from their own homes."

Cope said the 2020 event had nine sponsors and more than 700 participants, raising nearly \$40,000. In 2021 the run had 14 sponsors and more than 620 participants, raising \$38,500. Thus far, the 2022 run has 19 sponsors, 454 participants and has raised \$22,000, which puts the rescue on target to meet its \$40,000 goal for the event.

The Tiger Day 5K began on International Tiger Day, July



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Tiger skulls and cat pelts sit on display as part of a sensory education station. The Carolina Tiger Rescue is hosting its third annual Tiger Day 5K, this year featured a kickoff event with music, games and education at The Plant in Pittsboro.

29, and lasts through Friday, Aug. 5. International Tiger Day has been held on July 29 every year since 2010 when it was first created at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia. This was done to raise awareness of the decline of wild tiger numbers, leaving them on the brink of extinction, and to encourage the celebration of the work of tiger conservations.

"This event has consistently been a great way to reach out and educate people about Carolina Tiger Rescue," Cope said.

This year's event succeeded in its goal of increasing in-person participation through the kickoff. Individual participants and groups traveled to Pitts-

boro just to participate. One track and field team came all the way from Alabama to tour the rescue in Pittsboro and run the race.

Participants in this year's race spanned 28 states and even included an overseas participant from the United Kingdom.

At The Plant, participants of all ages were encouraged to join the Tiger Day festivities with skulls and cat pelts on display for educating kids about the tigers while live music, beer and wine provided entertainment for the adults.

"We love educating folks young and old with events like this," said Katie Cannon,

education director at Carolina Tiger Rescue. "Tigers are endangered, so anything we can do to help our own cats as well as bring awareness to issues surrounding wild tigers, too, is really important."

Nicole Stafford is one of the participants in the Tiger Day 5K. She's participated in all three years of the event and says Carolina Tiger Rescue has put a soft spot in her heart for these animals.

"I'm not a runner, but I'm passionate about this cause," Stafford said. "Their mission is really important and I want to support that in any way I can."

Stafford said this year's event made her want to volunteer with the rescue on a more consistent basis.

Cannon said reaching people like Stafford fits the purpose of the 5K: outreach, education and fundraising. She said it has become a way to reach people the rescue doesn't normally hear from. Some people sign up for the 5K because they like to run, and in the process learn about the cats.

"We have incredible supporters who continually show up for us and the cats," she said. "But we are hoping to grow in our outreach and find new big cat advocates in all 50 states."

While supporting the bottom line of Carolina Tiger Rescue is a piece of that goal, Cannon said the other important aspect is educating people about ways to support wildlife sanctuaries across the country and advocating for the continued

protection of big cats. That's why part of the fun run kickoff was dedicated to showing the values and initiatives of Carolina Tiger Rescue — advocating against cub petting, limiting the use of palm oils, ensuring the use of accredited cat sanctuaries and more.

"More than running, this event is about getting the word out there," Cannon said. "We call it a 5K but it's really 3.1 of whatever you want — run, walk, paddle, watch 3.1 hours of your favorite show — it's all great. Personally, I'm planning on taking a 3.1 hour nap. All of it is just meant to get the word out there about Carolina Tiger Rescue."

So, even if you're not a runner, Cannon says all are welcome to the Tiger Day 5K this week. For more information and to sign up for the event visit www.runsignup.com/Race/Events/NC/Pittsboro/TigerDay5K. To learn more about the rescue and get involved with Carolina Tiger Rescue visit www.carolinatigerrescue.org.

"When people are out running or thinking about tigers beyond this space, we hope they have these little tidbits of information they can take with them," Cannon said. "All of these things are just little drops of water to create a big ripple effect for these animals."

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

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board adopts Second Avenue study, approves proposal for strategic plan

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town's board of commissioners unanimously adopted an official study on downtown's Second Avenue corridor during Monday evening's regular meeting and approved a proposal to develop a strategic plan for the town's future goals.

Commissioners listened to a presentation from Triangle J Council of Governments' Director of Transportation Matt Day following the adoption of a memorandum of understanding to research ways to make Second Avenue in Siler City safer for drivers and pedestrians.

"[Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization] TARPO and the town have been working together over the last several months to come up with this recommendation of what could happen in this corridor on Second Avenue," Day said. "I'm going to go over the planning process and what we did in terms of public engagement, a little bit about what the current conditions are in that corridor, talk about what plan is actually recommended, and then a little bit about potential next steps."

The study showed residents' main concern was pedestrian safety along Second Avenue. According to the final report put together by TARPO, there isn't a single marked crosswalk on the 0.75-mile-long corridor. The report also noted the road's capacity of 22,000 vehicles well exceeds the number of cars that drive on Second Avenue, which ranges from 5,000 to 8,000 cars a day.

Day said. "It's a lot wider than it needs to be, and people drive a lot faster on it than they need to."

The final report offered a priority list:

- Adjusting the infrastructure to accommodate the actual amount of traffic on Second Avenue
- Prioritizing pedestrians and bicyclists
- Acknowledging the safety of all in planning processes
- Integrating Second Avenue into downtown and its surroundings
- Ensuring design attractiveness for residents

With the prioritized list in mind, Day presented a phased approach to addressing the issues along Second Avenue, which would start with reducing the number of lanes from five lanes to three with cross-sections, additional on-street parking and adding roundabouts to slow car traffic.

"There's plenty of opportunities there to design it in a way that is less capacity, and you'll still have plenty of capacity to meet your volumes," Day said.

Commissioners overwhelmingly supported the findings of the Second Avenue study. Mayor Pro Tem Bill Haiges said he was happy with what the study found, as well as how the solutions would benefit the town.

"My two cents is that looks good," Haiges said. "This fits with our vision and fits with the character (in town) well."

Commissioner Lewis Fadely, while pleased with the study, wanted to know additional information regarding if the study's proposed plan took population growth into consideration.

"Whatever we do, we make sure that it fits us not just now, but it fits us 15 years from now," Fadely said.

Day said while the study didn't use for-

mal population growth forecasting technology, it's something that can be done in the future in collaboration with N.C. Dept. of Transportation.

"We would have to work with DOT — they maintained the model that was used to do the forecast, so we'd have to check with them," Day said.

The board also authorized town staff in a unanimous vote to negotiate a contract with Gary Jackson of McGill Associates to help develop a strategic plan for Siler City.

"With us never having a strategic plan before, I thought it really would set us on the path of working together ... combined as a group and be able to chart the future course of the organization," Town Manager Hank Raper said.

Raper proposed a strategic plan during the board's last regular meeting, saying both current and future administrations need a guide for what to look for when it comes to development in Siler City.

The strategic plan would address "the subjects of economic development, planning, capital improvements, transportation, infrastructure, recreation, public safety and others," and would plan for the future growth and developments in town.

"If this is done well, it will be my recommendation going forward that each year, when we go through our annual budget process, we drop the current year and add one more year onto our plans so that will we always have a five-year forecast that we're working towards," Raper said. "We're setting our priorities as an organization, I think that will work well for the board."

Commissioners agreed

this step is needed to ensure Siler City is prepared for the future, whether it's new businesses or residents coming to town.

"We do need to work towards getting a strategic plan and revamping our mission and vision statement because it needs some work," Commissioner Norma Boone

said. "It's something that is definitely needed for the town, especially since we don't have a strategic plan now."

In other business:

- James "Jay" Underwood was sworn in as commissioner at-large by Judge C. Todd Roper.
- The board came to a consensus to have town

staff develop a resolution to extend the mayor's term from two years to four years. The resolution will come before the board during a future meeting.

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



NCDOT PUBLIC MEETING
ROADWAY NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS
TO SUPPORT TRIANGLE INNOVATION POINT
SOUTHEAST CHATHAM COUNTY

STIP Project No. HE-0006



Chatham County - The public is invited to attend an in-person public meeting **Aug. 16** to view mapping and other materials on the proposal to make roadway improvements surrounding a planned employment center (Triangle Innovation Point) in southeast Chatham County. The project will improve access from U.S. 1 and will evaluate improvements to existing and potential new location roadways, intersections, and interchanges.

The public is invited to attend the **in-person public meeting Aug 16** between **5 and 7 p.m.** and can view project materials and leave comments by accessing the project webpage shown below. The meeting will be held at the **Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center, 1192 U.S. 64 Business, Pittsboro.**

In addition to the in-person public meeting for the project, the department will also conduct a virtual public meeting to present the same information on **Aug. 18** beginning at **6 p.m.** Information on participating in the virtual public meeting is available on the project webpage:
<https://publicinput.com/Chatham-TIP-Road-Improvements>

People may also submit comments on the webpage, by phone (984-205-6615 enter project code 6470), email (Chatham-TIP-Road-Improvements@PublicInput.com) or mail to the project manager by **September 1, 2022.**

NCDOT Highway Division 8
Project Team Lead
121 DOT Drive
Carthage, NC 28327

Contact NCDOT as soon as possible if you require any accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone requiring special services should contact Diane Wilson, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, (919-707-6073) or pdwilson1@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

United Way's 'Day of Service' to kick off 2022 Chatham campaign

Sponsors, volunteers needed for community service projects across county

PITTSBORO — The United Way of Chatham County will kick off its annual campaign with the Day of Service on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

The Day of Service is an all-day event that unites community leaders, businesses and volunteers to complete community service projects for nonprofits across Chatham County.

This year 10 local organizations submitted community service projects: Boys & Girls Club Wren Family Center – facility beautification; Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club – hosting kickball game for Pittsboro and Siler City club members; Chatham Education Foundation – book sort and distribution; Chatham Trades – staining fence around community garden; Chatham Habitat for Humanity – community build; Love Chatham – landscaping and gardening; PTA Congress of NC North Chatham – installation and landscaping of community garden and trail at North Chatham Elementary; Salvation Army

– bookbag supply packing at Carolina Meadows for Chatham students; Second Bloom of Chatham – door installation to ensure client privacy; United Way – campaign preparation at Carolina Meadows.

To volunteer for a Day of Service project, or for more information, visit www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/DayofService/.

The Day of Service would not be possible without the generous support of our community. 2022 Day of Service sponsors include Carolina Civilworks, WellCare and Realty World Carolina Properties; the media sponsor is the Chatham News + Record.

UWCC is seeking additional sponsors to assist with the funding of Day of Service projects. If you are interested, please visit the Day of Service website – www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/DayofService/ or contact Shelley Smith – shelley@UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org or 919-542-1110.



Lifetime of teaching, coaching leads Shaw to Council on Aging



Courtesy of the Council on Aging

Johnny Shaw, president of the Chatham County Council on Aging Board of Directors, has been a presence at both senior centers following a career of some 30 years as a teacher and administrator with Chatham County Schools.

BY JIMMY LEWIS
Chatham County Council on Aging

A journey into the highways and byways of the Moncure community will eventually run across a stretch of asphalt decreed as “Johnny Shaw Road.”

Johnny Shaw may not be the end-all, be-all authority on all matters pertaining to Chatham County, but one would be wise to seek his opinion. Chatham County blood courses through his veins. After being reared in Chatham and attending Elon College (now University), Shaw returned home and

began a 30-year career as a teacher and administrator in the public school system.

Once he retired in 2003, it was time to seek out a new leadership challenge. With retirement came the opportunity to observe the daily operations of the Chatham County Council on Aging. Shaw's parents were clients of the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro and took part in the Meals on Wheels program once those center trips were no longer feasible.

As for Shaw, he was drawn to the Council for its exercise programming. A relationship that began with service on the Eastern Center's Advisory Council gradually progressed, and today, Shaw sits as a critical voice in Council affairs with his role as president of its board of directors.

“My goal has always been ... when I get involved with anything — whether it's work or just being a volunteer — my goal is always to leave it better than what it was,” Shaw said. “I'm hoping whenever I leave the Council, that people can say that it was better because of Johnny Shaw than it was before.”

Spend any length of time around Shaw and one will find that he doesn't have much tolerance for hearing a goal can't be achieved without a good reason behind it. “I can't,” or “we can't,” aren't terms tossed around freely in his presence.

As a former football coach — even dating back

to his days as a student assistant track coach at Elon — Shaw has always identified goals to meet and sought out the means to achieve them. While others may march into meetings armed with laptops and other assortments of technology, an old-school notepad and pen are just fine with Shaw for a grueling session.

“To me, the greatest honor you can have is the privilege to lead,” Shaw said. “And I just felt humbled and honored that the others thought that I was capable of doing it — of being a leader. It's always been, to me, the greatest calling to be a leader.”

Shaw's educational career in Chatham County started as a 7th-grade teacher. From there, he had a number of assignments, including serving as a dropout prevention coordinator for Pittsboro Elementary, George Moses Horton Middle School and Northwood High School. Among those stints was an assistant principal role at Horton.

While Shaw's adult life has been spent working with two different clienteles, there's one constant that helped him navigate students that never age and assists with his service to the population where aging is very much a part of life.

“The biggest thing is I've always tried to be Johnny Shaw,” he said. “I don't try to be something that I'm not. Basically, what you see is what you get. It's basically being yourself and knowing your strengths, playing

off those strengths.”

In his 19 years of association with the Council, Shaw has seen a natural evolution of its services. As time has marched forward, the Council's services to Chatham's older adults has adapted along with it.

“It's sort of been brought into the present in a lot of areas,” Shaw said. “I attribute that to good leadership. We've had some good directors, and they've had a vision. What you see now is the vision. I'm most proud of the services that the Council on Aging has been able to provide for the senior citizens of Chatham County. I'm talking Meals on Wheels, I'm talking exercise programs, I'm talking the whole gamut.”

As president of the board of directors, Shaw recently oversaw a historic moment that will transform and position the Council for its long-term future. In the final week of June, the wheels were officially set in motion to become a full Chatham County department, with the transition process set to be complete by July 1, 2023.

“It's an exciting time for the Council on Aging,” Shaw said. “I'm really happy that the county commissioners saw the good work that the Council on Aging was doing and saw fit to bring it in as a county department. It will, in my opinion, make the Council sustainable, the programs sustainable and it will also lead to an expansion of services in the county.”

When Can You Choose Retirement?

If you're like most people, your work has been a central part of your life. So, wouldn't it be nice to have the flexibility to decide when you no longer want to work?

Many people of retirement age have achieved this type of control. In fact, two-thirds of workers ages 65 and older say they work primarily because they want to, not because they have to, according to a 2021 study by Edward Jones and Age Wave. But that means that one-third of workers in this age group feel financially compelled to work. This doesn't necessarily mean they dislike the work they do — but it's probably fair to say they would have liked the option of not working. How can you give yourself this choice?

You can start by asking yourself these questions:

- *When do I want to retire?* You'll want to identify the age at which you wish to retire. You may change your mind later and move this date up or back, but it's a good idea to have a target in mind.

- *What sort of retirement lifestyle do I want?* When you retire, do you anticipate staying close to home and pursuing your hobbies, or do you hope to travel the world? Would you like to spend your time volunteering? Open your own business or do some consulting? Clearly, some of these choices will require more resources than others, so you'll want to follow a financial strategy that aligns with the retirement lifestyle you intend to pursue.

- *Am I saving and investing enough?* As you chart your course toward your retirement journey, you'll want to assess the sources of income you'll have available.

If you think you may be falling short of achieving your retirement goals, you may need to consider saving more.

- *When should I start taking Social Security?* You can begin collecting Social Security benefits as early as 62, but your monthly payments will be much bigger if you wait until your “full” retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. Your decision about when to take Social Security will depend on several factors, including your other sources of income and your family history of longevity. Of course, as you're probably aware, the Social Security system is facing significant financial stress, so it's possible that we may see changes to Social Security, based on actions Congress could take. In any case, you might want to be fairly conservative in estimating how much Social Security can contribute to your retirement income.

By addressing the above questions, you can get a clearer sense of when you might reach the point at which work is optional. But you'll also need to consider other factors, too, such as how much you enjoy working or when your spouse or partner is planning to retire. In any case, the sooner you start planning for this next phase of your life, the better position you'll be in when it's time to make the transition.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

NEWS BRIEF

Chatham gets funding from State Water Infrastructure Authority

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper announced last week that Chatham County and nearby communities have been awarded millions of dollars to improve drinking water and wastewater. The specific funding includes:

- \$150,000 grant for the Western Intake Partnership Regionalization Study
- \$250,000 grant for the Wastewater Master Plan
- \$500,000 for the Water Treatment Plant Addition
- \$4.45 million grant for Find It & Fix It Sewer Rehabilitation
- For Siler City:
 - \$3 million grant for Sewer Rehabilitation
 - \$3 million loan for Sewer Rehabilitation
- For Chatham County:
 - \$400,000 grant for the Western Intake Partnership Regionalization Study
 - For Sanford:
 - \$20 million for the Sanford Water Filtration Facility Expansion
 - \$400,000 grant for the Sanford Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion PCPG

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said the county's funding will be a “tremendous help.”

“The Western Intake Partnership — made up of Chatham County, the City of Durham, the Town of Pittsboro, and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) — is focused on securing a long-term regional water supply by withdrawing and treating water from Jordan Lake for our communities,” he said. “This funding will be a tremendous help as the project moves forward through its current evaluation phase and is expected to begin construction in 2027 with completion by 2031. We are extremely appreciative for the leadership of Rep. Reives and his continued support of these important projects for the residents of Chatham County.”

“I have seen firsthand how sorely this funding is needed for Chatham County,” Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54) said. “Every North Carolinian deserves access to safe, clean water. This funding from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality will ensure our communities can build more resilient infrastructure. It's great news for residents and businesses alike.”

—CN+R staff reporter

Kissinger's new book raises Nixon's ghost and rattles skeletons

In China, on Mao's 70/30 scale, they're still revered

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO

Special to the News + Record

Editor's note: Journalism professor Buck Ryan in Kentucky and English lecturer Lei Jiao in Wuhan, China, pursue cross-cultural understanding through current events — this time Henry Kissinger's book tour at age 99.



Illustration by Ruby Wang

Henry Kissinger's book 'Leadership' profiles six world leaders in the 20th century. Eleven years ago, with 'On China,' Kissinger told a foreign policy history through the eyes of five Chinese leaders.

BUCK: Hey, Lei, have you read Henry Kissinger's new book?

LEI: Oh my God, Buck, is he still writing? I read his book "On China" — the Chinese version of course — but a long time ago.

BUCK: Yes, he is! Kissinger is only 99 years old and now he's kicking it on tour with his 19th book.

LEI: What's this one?

BUCK: "Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy." It has interesting, didactic profiles of six world leaders in the 20th century, from 1960 to 1988, highlighting key attributes of leadership.

LEI: Well, Buck, China grew dramatically in that period — out of Mao's Cultural Revolution and up through Deng Xiaoping's Four Modernizations.

BUCK: Four, eh?

LEI: Yes, Deng set out to strengthen the fields of agriculture, industry, defense and science and technology. China's GDP rose tenfold.

BUCK: Leadership "with Chinese characteristics," eh? Deng's secret to success was allowing capitalism in new economic zones.

LEI: Does Kissinger profile Deng in his book?

BUCK: Nope.

LEI: That figures — another lost opportunity to bring equilibrium to East and West through respect and understanding of our commonality.

BUCK: Funny you say that, Lei, because Kissinger writes that one key attribute of a great leader is achieving "equilibrium."

LEI: Oh, which of the six leaders exemplified that?

BUCK: Nixon. You know, the guy who had his unbalanced moments.

LEI: Nixon?

BUCK: Yes, President Richard Nixon, circa 1969, the year Kissinger was appointed his national security adviser.

LEI: Huh, well, Nixon did intervene in 1969 to save China

from the Soviet Union's threat to attack our nuclear arsenal.

BUCK: We were that close to nuclear war, you say.

LEI: Yep. In March 1969, Chinese soldiers attacked Russian border troop positions and that fight became a bloody mess. Then Nixon signaled he would consider using nuclear weapons to get the Soviets to back off.

BUCK: I guess that's one way to make friends and restore equilibrium.

LEI: Right. Nixon was flexing his "madman theory" of diplomacy. You know, he had a crazy number of China connections. Have you ever heard of the Chennault Affair?

BUCK: Hmm, tell me more.

LEI: In 1968, Nixon deployed Anna Chennault, a wealthy Chinese-American widow, to throw a monkey wrench into Lyndon B. Johnson's peace negotiations to end the Vietnam War.

BUCK: Who was Chennault?

LEI: She was a glamorous Republican fundraiser born in China. In 1947, she married General Claire Chennault, who was leader of the Flying Tigers, American mercenaries working for China in World War II to fight Japan in the air.

BUCK: How do you know all this?

LEI: Chennault wrote a memoir, "The Education of Anna." You can also check out the Chennault Affair file from the LBJ Library.

BUCK: I see. What was Kissinger doing at the time?

LEI: In July 1968, Kissinger called Nixon "the most dangerous, of all men running, to have as president." Of course, then he was supporting his boss, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, in the GOP prima-

ry against Nixon.

BUCK: Wait, Lei, how did Kissinger become a Nixon man?

LEI: After Nixon defeated Rockefeller for the GOP nomination, Kissinger told Nixon's campaign manager, John Mitchell, he had changed his mind.

BUCK: Sounds like to achieve equilibrium, one must be flexible.

LEI: Ha! But not too flexible, Buck, or you'll go to prison like Mitchell in Watergate. Just watch the mini-series "Gaslit" to see how his wife lit that fuse.

BUCK: Lei, you Chinese must take advanced classes in U.S. scandals.

LEI: Happy to be your teacher about all things China and America, Buck. Tell me more about Kissinger's book.

BUCK: His six studies in world strategy focus on Egypt (Anwar Sadat), France (Charles De Gaulle), Germany, or West Germany at the time (Konrad Adenauer), Great Britain (Margaret Thatcher), Singapore (Lee Kuan Yew) and the U.S. (Nixon).

LEI: OK, why them?

BUCK: Because Kissinger knew them personally and respected their rise based on merit from their modest middle-class upbringings.

LEI: So they are all alike in some ways?

BUCK: Yes, Kissinger sees them as being both pragmatic and managerial "statesmen" and visionary and transformational "prophets."

Here's a quick rundown:
For Thatcher in 1988 it's about her stubborn "conviction" to revive Britain's economy and military, whether that be the Falklands War with Argentina, her Cold War

stance or her dealing with the Irish Republican Army.

For Anwar Sadat in 1978 it was his "transcendence" of leading Egypt out of its humiliating defeat in the Six-Day War in 1967 and pursuing peace with Israel in 1978.

For Lee Kuan Yew in 1968 in Singapore's first prime minister from 1959 to 1990, it was his strategy of "excellence" that turned a British colony occupied by Japan in WWII into a thriving, multicultural city-state.

For Konrad Adenauer in 1960 it was "humility" that characterized his lifting up of Germany from the ruins of Nazism to restore a legitimate democracy.

For De Gaulle in 1965, it was his "will" dating back to resisting the Nazis during their World War II occupation and declaring himself the leader of Free France. Kissinger says De Gaulle created a political reality for France "by sheer force of will."

LEI: Buck, you know De Gaulle drove the U.S. nuts when he reopened France's relations with Beijing in 1964, pre-empting Nixon's strategic genius.

BUCK: Good one, Lei.

LEI: Americans might be surprised to hear many Chinese people speak highly of Nixon and Kissinger.

BUCK: Oh?

LEI: In China people, especially those who don't know much or understand the American political system or Watergate, view Nixon in a very positive light.

BUCK: What about Kissinger?

LEI: Positive, too. He's often labeled as "the old friend of the Chinese people," "a China hand" or "Sinologue," terms of respect and admiration.

BUCK: What makes a great leader isn't so easy to calculate.

LEI: Right, Buck. Mao once commented on Stalin's legacy — when everyone was trashing him — with the same 70/30 view that Deng used to describe Mao.

BUCK: 70/30?

LEI: Yes, 70% right, 30% wrong. Someone's faults shouldn't overshadow his merits.

BUCK: You know, Lei, we have people here who think Nixon was indeed a crook who should have gone to prison and Kissinger is a war criminal.

LEI: That may be one big cultural difference between us, Buck. Americans tend to see things as either black or white when we Chinese take a more nuanced view, whether we're assessing leaders or anything

else.

BUCK: Fifty shades of red, eh?

LEI: My guess is the "equilibrium" attribute related to Nixon's strategy back in the day to drive a wedge between China and the Soviet Union, and bring China closer to the U.S.

BUCK: Right, though Nixon's profile was the longest one by far. Kissinger, who praises Nixon for balancing geopolitical rivalries, covers everything from Vietnam to China to Watergate and many crises in between.

LEI: Somehow I hear Winston Churchill's echo in the background.

BUCK: Oh?

LEI: "History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it."

BUCK: Ha! At 99 I guess you have only so many years to get your legacy straight.

LEI: It's a little scary, don't you think, that Kissinger couldn't find a 21st-century leader to profile.

BUCK: I know. We really need someone to lead us out of the trap Zbigniew Brzezinski warned us about, especially now that Russia is trying to improve relations with Iran.

LEI: Who's Brzezinski?

BUCK: He was a Democratic rival to Kissinger in the LBJ and Carter administrations.

LEI: What did he say?

BUCK: The U.S. can be an enemy to Russia and the U.S. can be an enemy to China — just not at the same time, if we want a stable world order.

LEI: Got that right.

BUCK: Brzezinski's book, "The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives," made this chilling prediction: "Potentially, the most dangerous scenario would be a grand coalition of China, Russia, and perhaps Iran, an 'antihegemonic' coalition united not by ideology but by complementary grievances."

LEI: Looks like the world needs all the books on leadership it can get.

About the authors: Buck Ryan, a University of Kentucky journalism professor, and Lei Jiao, an English lecturer at Wuhan University of Technology, Hubei Province, China, collaborate on articles to advance cross-cultural understanding. You can read their last romp on emojis ("Wait, what's that word I'm looking for? I got it now, the perfect sentiment to end my sentence.") here:

<https://chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/wait-whats-that-word-im-looking-for,13882>

NEWS BRIEF

NCDOT: Triangle Innovation Point roadway network improvements meeting set

PITTSBORO — The public is invited to attend an Aug. 16, in-person public meeting to view mapping and other materials on the proposal to make roadway improvements surrounding a planned employment center (Triangle Innovation Point) in southeast Chatham County.

The project will improve access from U.S. Hwy. 1 and will evaluate improvements to existing and potential new location roadways, intersections and interchanges.

The session is scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. The public is invited to attend the in-person, public meeting and can view project materials and leave comments by accessing the project webpage.

In addition to the in-person public meeting for the project, the NCDOT will also conduct a virtual public meeting to present the same information beginning at 6 p.m. on Aug. 18. Information on participating in the virtual

public meeting is available on the project webpage: <https://publicinput.com/Chatham-TIP-Road-Im->

provements. People may also submit comments on the webpage, by phone (984-205-

6615; enter project code 6470), or by email (Chatham-TIP-Road-Improvements@PublicInput.com).

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may

receive interpretive services upon request prior by calling 1-800-481-6494. —CN+R staff report





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Pictured: Cathy Baker



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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: OPPOSITE OF CHEERING

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Applause | Marching | Queue | The wave |
| Audience | Mass | Riot | Throng |
| Cheering | Mob | Stampede | Troop |
| Horde | Multitude | Surge | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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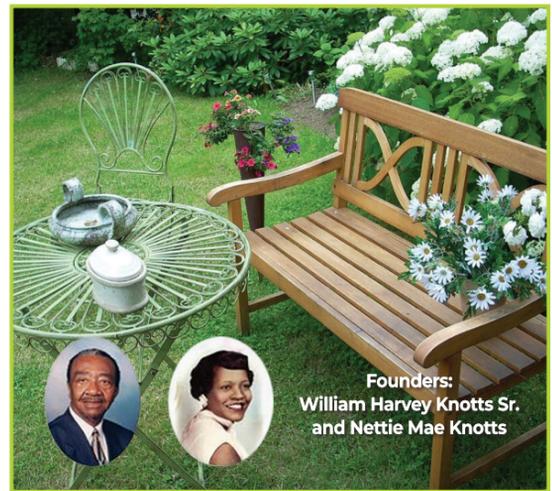
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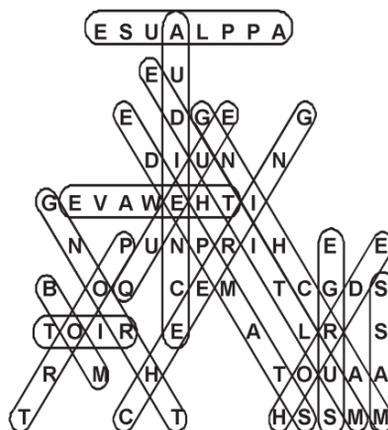
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Answer

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

Lesson learned?

When my dad retired from the Coast Guard, he was a



**DEBBIE
MATTHEWS**
The Curious
Cook

Master Chief. This is equivalent to Master Chief in the Navy and Master Sergeant in the Army and Marines. But compared to those other branches, the Coast Guard

is tiny, so the number of MC's (Master Chief) is also much smaller.

Besides his job of blacksmithing as a Coastie, he was also the guy who jumped from a helicopter into the ocean during hurricanes to rescue stupid, thoughtless people who should never have been out in the first place. That movie "The Perfect storm" makes me so mad! I mean George Clooney and all, but why were they out there? It wasn't even one storm. It was three!

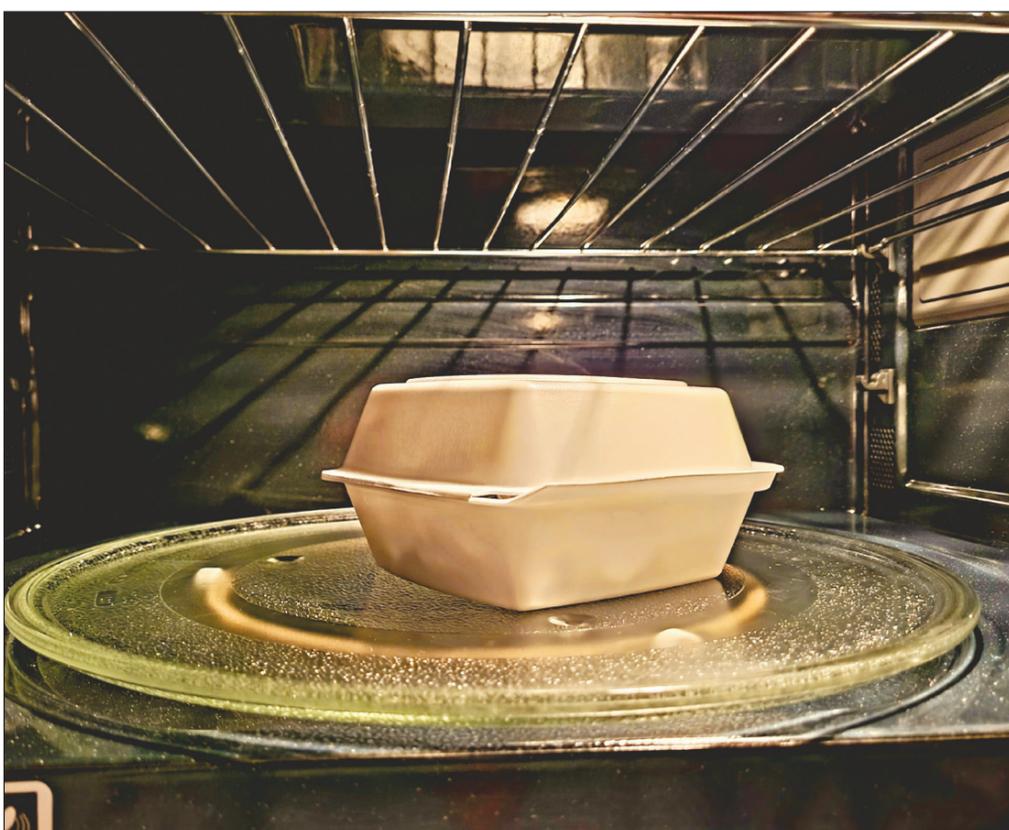
Sorry, really proud of my dad and angry that he risked his life on a regular basis for fools ...

Anyway. And I, being raised in hangars and on various aircraft, assumed the whole of the Coast guard was like this — guys who flew.

Oh contraire, Gentle Reader.

The overwhelming percentage of folks on boats means that my dad advanced in the military to a rank with maybe only 25 or so other E9 Airedales or what flyboys are called in the USCG.

So you might imagine that even though my dad is a secret softie who regularly weeps at tire commercials, growing up he could be an intimidating, military presence. Until they got to know him, every



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Sometimes meal prep is just this simple.

boy I ever brought home was petrified of him, and honestly, he did nothing to provoke their abject terror ... I promise.

But it was pretty hilarious to watch.

He wasn't harsh or overly strict, but he expected certain things from us.

We didn't have to win every game or get all A+'s, but we had to always try our best.

We had to be kind and protective to all those (including furry thoses) weaker than ourselves.

We had to admit our screw-ups, own them, apologize for them and mean it, fix them, and no excuses allowed.

So, here goes, Gentle Raeder.

Before I worked, I sometimes thought less than charitable thoughts toward people who say they have no time to cook.

Oh, c'mon! I'd think.

Cooking takes no time.

Cook a little rice, open a can of beans, maybe bake a couple of pork chops — dinner in less than 45 minutes. Cooking should be the place to calm yourself and re-energize.

Now I can easily work 50-60 hours a week, and most days don't get home until at least 8:30 p.m. and could be as late as 9:30 or 10.

You know what I want to do when I get home?

Get a shower, then eat.

I don't want to spend 4.5

minutes, let alone 45 minutes, on dinner.

And I only have to worry about putting food in my body.

I can't even imagine having a hungry family to deal with too.

I hate having judged people without having stood in their shoes or knowing their stories. As tight as things were sometimes, it was still a privilege to be able to stay home and not have to work outside the home to survive.

So what do I eat?

My meals these days are a lot of salads, some made by me, and the occasional Cobb salad from Chick-fil-A, which is way, way better than any fast-

food salad should be.

(*Pro tip: Get it with cold grilled chicken. The crust on fried gets soggy, and hot wilts the lettuce.)

My go-to salad I've been eating a lot of lately is Greenhouse Crunch lettuce, roasted chick peas, red onion, dried pineapple, farmer's cheese from the Chapel Hill Creamery, and some soft hard-boiled eggs. All topped with lemon salad dressing, or if I have an avocado, lemon juice, and chopped avocado.

Speaking of avocado ... I proudly admit I love avocado toast and eat it every chance I get.

Truckloads of scrambled eggs. Sometimes with hash browns, usually with those cauliflower cakes from Trader Joes I told you about.

I buy tuna from Costco in a half case.

I have about 27 jars of jelly and plenty of peanut butter in the cabinet.

I have a variety of deli meat in the freezer.

Sandwiches with veggie tots or if I'm feeling dangerous, chips.

And takeout.

But posing as a responsible, aging adult means trying to do that in a reasonably healthy way, so the box in the microwave holds steamed Chinese dumplings with white meat chicken.

French fries don't heat up well anyway.

Cooking and eating the way I currently do makes it hard sometimes to write a cooking column. But despite the struggle, I will try to write something for you every week, Gentle Reader.

Even if it's 850 words whining about how my dream job, writing a newspaper column, is hard.

Thanks for your time.



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



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