

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | AUGUST 18 - 24, 2022 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

'I JUST FELL IN LOVE WITH IT'

New owner of 'Aunt Bee' house begins makeover with history in mind

A bed & breakfast may be in the works for 'Andy Griffith Show' fans

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

An outside look of the property known as 'Aunt Bee's house' in Siler City, acquired last year by Kathy Nail. Nail (shown in inset photo), who moved here from Los Angeles, is considering turning the home, located on West Elk Street, into a bed and breakfast.

anyone else in all things Mayberry. But she adores — absolutely adores — the Aunt Bee house. And for the record, it wasn't the legacy of Frances Bavier or Aunt Bee that drew her to Siler City. It was the home itself.

"I didn't really care who lived there," says Nail. "I just loved the house."

Aunt Bee's B&B?

Nail's home, at 503 West Elk, has for years attracted the curious. "Andy Griffith Show" fans who flock to Mount Airy as "Mayberry" tourists sometimes make the 90-minute jaunt to Siler City to see Bavier's gravesite at Oakwood Cemetery, off U.S. Hwy. 64. Some of those same people know about Bavier's house, just minutes away, and

drive by.

And some of those, of course, think: Why not? After shooting some obligatory pictures from the street or front yard, they knock on the door.

Can we come inside?, they ask. Maybe take a look around?

Nail, who's 68, gets it. She became an Egyptologist after her rearing in Kansas, and ultimately worked in Cairo for two decades. She knows a thing or two about antiquities, and her life's journey has given her a refined sense of nostalgia.

Proof can be found throughout her new home, which she first learned was for sale exactly a year ago this week: among the tractor-trailer and a half full of personal belongings she shipped to Siler City from her triplex in L.A. after acquiring the house was a massive collection of vintage toys and games and ephemera of all kinds — among them, for example, the world's second-largest collection of matchbooks and memorabilia from "Big Boy" restaurants, some of it dating back more than 60 years, as well as collections of water pistols and marshmallow shooters.

Nail is also familiar with the impact and draw "TV homes" can have on fans. She once lived not five minutes from the property known as the Brady Bunch house, always shown in long exterior shots on the '70s sitcom of the

See **HOUSE**, page A6

SILER CITY — The circuitous route that delivered Kathy Nail from the windswept plains of her birthplace in Wichita, Kansas, to her new home on West Elk Street in Siler City didn't pass within a country mile of Mayberry.



BAVIER

Nail's actual stops — Cairo, Bangkok, London, the Isle of Man, and most recently, Los Angeles — were far more exotic than the fictional hometown of a folksy North Carolina sheriff, his precocious, freckled son, and a dowdy housekeeper known to everyone in town, even her elders, as "Aunt Bee." In the sitting room of the regal three-story brick house where actor Frances Bavier, Mayberry's real Aunt Bee, lived and died, though, Nail makes an admission: she's as interested as

Chatham education advocates skeptical of teacher performance payment proposal

State plan meant to recruit teachers, but might have opposite effect

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Teacher vacancies have reached crisis levels in North Carolina, according to members of the North Carolina State Board of Education. Chatham County Schools is also feeling the effects of those openings as it prepares for the new school year.

According to CCS Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson, the district currently has nearly 60 teacher vacancies. He's not overly concerned, though, about the impact on

school operations.

"In nearly every year of my career, we have never had a full staff at the beginning of the year," he told the News + Record.

The district has implemented a recruitment initiative called 4Rs: recruit, recognize, retain and reward. The initiative provides all employees who remain in the district from last year a retention bonus in the amount of \$3,750, to be paid in September. It also includes recruitment signing

See **TEACHERS**, page A14

'OPPORTUNITY TO START AGAIN'

CCS prepares for 2022-23

A conversation with Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson about his priorities for the upcoming school year

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The first day of classes for most schools in Chatham County is Aug. 29, a day which will mark a second full year of in-person instruction following the height of the COVID-19



Anthony Jackson

pandemic.

The after-effects of COVID-19 have been felt through learning loss, teacher vacancies, mental health issues and more. On the eve of another school year, the News + Record spoke with Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson

about his priorities for Chatham's public schools.

"I'm really excited for this school year as always," Jackson said. "It's an opportunity to start again. In the school business, we get the gift every single year of starting over and beginning fresh."

Jackson said a vital challenge for the upcoming school year will be ensuring a consistent routine inside the building — something made difficult last school year in the first full year back in person since the pandemic began.

The One Chatham Strategic Plan

Jackson said his priorities include rebounding from COVID-19 and implementing the five key criteria from the

One Chatham Strategic Plan: curriculum & innovation; student health & safety; faculty & staff; facilities & infrastructure; and communication & information sharing.

Developing the plan included his superintendent "listening tour" sessions; community, staff, and parent surveys; strategic plan focus groups by priority area; working groups for each priority area; and a One Chatham community engagement event.

A final draft of the One Chatham plan was approved by the CCS Board of Education on Monday. This strategy will guide the district from 2022 until 2027. Each priority area of the plan will have two to four goals and each goal will

See **SCHOOL**, page A14

CN+R INTERVIEW | CHRIS KENNEDY, PITTSBORO TOWN MANAGER

Kennedy reflects on potential Sanford water and wastewater utility merger

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

From a potential water and wastewater systems merger to continued development in Chatham Park, Pittsboro is facing significant changes over the next few years. Prior to his resignation announcement last week, The Chatham News + Record sat down with Pittsboro Town



Chris Kennedy

Manager Chris Kennedy to get a sense of where the merger stands and what Pittsboro residents can expect. Here's what you need to know.

What is the status of the water and wastewater system merger with the city of Sanford? What is the timeline that we can expect?

At the moment, staff from both municipalities are collaborating to examine debt service, each city's capacities and a utility rate structure. Freese and Nichols Inc. — the consulting firm on the project — already developed a scope

of work for the project and will help conduct a study that examines financial options and impacts of a merger.

The merger would fill a significant need; Kennedy said Pittsboro's sewer and water plants are the same size as they were two decades ago.

"So we really haven't made the investments to increase our own likelihood of success," Kennedy said.

Town staff is working on two deliverables for the board — one within 90 days and one within 180 days. The goal of the first deliverable is to lay out what rates would be, if a merger does and

doesn't take place.

"Sanford's only going to have so much tolerance to raise their rates, if at all, to cover our experience," Kennedy said.

It's important for the town to show some momentum in terms of their commitment to the project, he said.

Kennedy said, if the merger takes place, the systems should be mechanically connected by 2024, with the first primary connection of the project being the Sanford sewer force main. Last

See **KENNEDY**, page A3

IN THE KNOW

As Chatham grows, transportation equity concerns linger. **PAGE A9**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

• The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 22, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.
 • The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro. Commissioners also scheduled to meet at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29.

OTHER

• **American Legion Post 93's** 100th anniversary celebration, open to veterans and their guests, will be held on Saturday, August 20, at 1 p.m. at the Siler City Moose Lodge. Call 919-704-1219 or email npost93@gmail.com for more information. Door prizes

and refreshments will be offered.
 • The **2022 Chatham County Fair Pageant** is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, at the fairgrounds in Pittsboro. All girls ages 5-16 are welcome to participate. Workshop and practice sessions will be held Sept. 10 and 17. The pageant participation fee is \$10. For more information, contact Deborah Turrentine at 919-444-1527 or by email at turrentine6@embarq-mail.com.
 • **Siler City Lions Club's** special emphasis is on helping visually impaired and children with childhood diabetes. The club will be at Old Fashion Farmer's Day on Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4. Vision and hearing tests will be held Saturday, and they'll be collecting used children's books, eyeglasses and hosting other fundraising projects both days.
 • The **Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department** invites community members of all ages to create a masterpiece at the second annual Sidewalk Chalk Festival on Saturday,

September 10, (rain date September 11th) at The Park at Briar Chapel, located at 1015 Andrews Store Road, Pittsboro. For more information, visit the Chatham County Parks and Recreation website at www.chathamcountync.gov/parks-rec, or contact Mallory Peterson at the Parks and Recreation Department at 919-545-8553 or mallory.peterson@chathamcountync.gov.

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 Rurians** host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of each month. The August event will be held August 18, at the Silk Hope Community Center.
 • **Chatham Community Library** is offering free online classes on Microsoft Excel in August. Class. Descriptions and a

registration link can be found at www.chatham-countync.gov/ Computer-Classes. Call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org for more information.
 Microsoft Excel Basics, Part 2: August 24, Wednesday, 3 p.m. Build on the concepts in Part 1. Create formulas, work with charts, filter data, and more. Participants should have prior basic experience with Microsoft Excel.
 • **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, Or-

ange 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 CCCO. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.
 • **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
 • **Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See http://pack900.com for more information.

COVID-19 CLOSURE

Pittsboro town hall closure continues due to staffing shortages and health concerns

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro's town hall is still closed to visitors as staffing shortages and COVID-19 health concerns persist.
 The town is working to reopen the hall — located at 635 East St. in Pittsboro — as soon as possible, according to a town press release, though no specific date was mentioned.
 "We thank you for your patience as we work through these challenges and look forward to resuming our normal level

of service soon," the press release states.
 Visitors needing to speak with someone at the town hall are asked to call the front desk at 919-542-4621, ext.1100, and leave a voicemail if they do not get an answer. Residents looking to pay their water bill can pay by phone, use the dropbox in the drive-through or access the payment portal online at municipalonlinepayments.com/pittsboronc.
 The Pittsboro Police Department is also closed to the public and walk-in services, but

the department can be contacted at 919-542-3200 during regular hours. Chatham County Emergency Communications can be reached using the non-emergency number at 919-542-2911 during non-business hours.
 To receive free news alerts from the town, register at pittsboronc.gov/list.aspx?Mode=Subscribe#newsFlash.
 Colby Sawyer, the town's public information officer and emergency management coordinator, can be reached by email at csawyer@pittsboronc.gov or by phone at 919-

NEWS BRIEFS

Legion looking for local veterans to join organization

The American Legion, a fraternal, service-based organization, is seeking new members to help us better the lives of all residents here in Chatham County.
 There are currently four American Legion Posts in the county: Posts 93 and 277 in Siler City, Post 283 in Pittsboro, and Post 292 in Goldston.
 The posts would welcome new members wishing to establish a camaraderie with local Veterans and engage in service to our communities.
 For instance, Siler City Post 93 hosts the American Red Cross and assists with quarterly blood donation drives at the Moose Lodge on Alston Bridge Road.
 The post has also "adopted" Harold Andrews Road in Siler City and assists the NCDOT by conducting periodic litter and trash collections.
 Post 93 is looking forward to sending eligible students from the local high schools to Boys-Girls State, a North Carolina program that teaches young people all about the function of government, how the different branches operate and how to navigate the ever-changing world of politics. Post 93 is also wanting to start sending students to the Student Trooper Program of N.C.

where participants are given an up-close and personal view of the operational ins and outs of life as a trooper.
 An increase in dedicated members would allow other posts to engage in comparable community activities.
 If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to message the American Legion District Commander at NCDistrict13@gmail.com or call 919-704-1219.

Fans available for qualified seniors

The Chatham County Council on Aging has an ongoing fan distribution program for individuals 60 years or older. Fan recipients must be Chatham County residents and, if younger than 60 years old, have a disability.
 Pickup is available at both Council on Aging centers, including the Eastern Chatham Senior Center (365 N.C. Hwy. 87 North) in Pittsboro and the Western Chatham Senior Center (112 Village Lake Rd.) in Siler City.
 Recipients are limited to one fan per calendar year. For more information, contact the Eastern Chatham Senior Center at 919-542-4512 or the Western Chatham Senior Center at 919-742-3975.
 — CN+R staff reports

How did you LAND here?



HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?
80 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

- LAND (Representing Sellers) 28 Units**
 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
 0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)
 218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)
 0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)
 323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)
 106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)
 0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)
 180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)
 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)
 0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)
 1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)
 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
 1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)
 0 Chicken Bridge Road (10.051 Acres)
 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)
 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
 4831 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres)
 1571 Lydia Perry Road (3.007 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 Seller) 1 Units**
 175 East Salisbury Street (Pittsboro)
- RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 26 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 Meri 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)
 218 A Poplar Street (Chapel Hill)
 58 Lily McCoy 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

- LAND (Representing Sellers) 6 Units**
 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
 0 Old Graham Road (161.97 Acres)
 0 Moons Chapl Road (86.599 Acres)
 0 Pearleman Teague Road (23.1 Acres)
 0 Alston Chapel Road (10.23 Acres)
 10681 E US 64 Hwy (3.97 Acres)

- RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 3 Units**
 298 CD Thomas Road (Siler City)
 1637 Briar Chapel Parkway (Chapel Hill)
 390 New Salem Church Road (Pittsboro)

New URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdjGtoaywXQ

NEW TOPIC: Andy McPherson-Land Chatham County Land Buyer Agent

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

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Email your questions to **eric@ericandrewsrealtor.com**
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844 units coming to Pittsboro in preliminary phase of major development

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro commissioners have approved a preliminary subdivision of a development that will bring 844 single family units to the town.

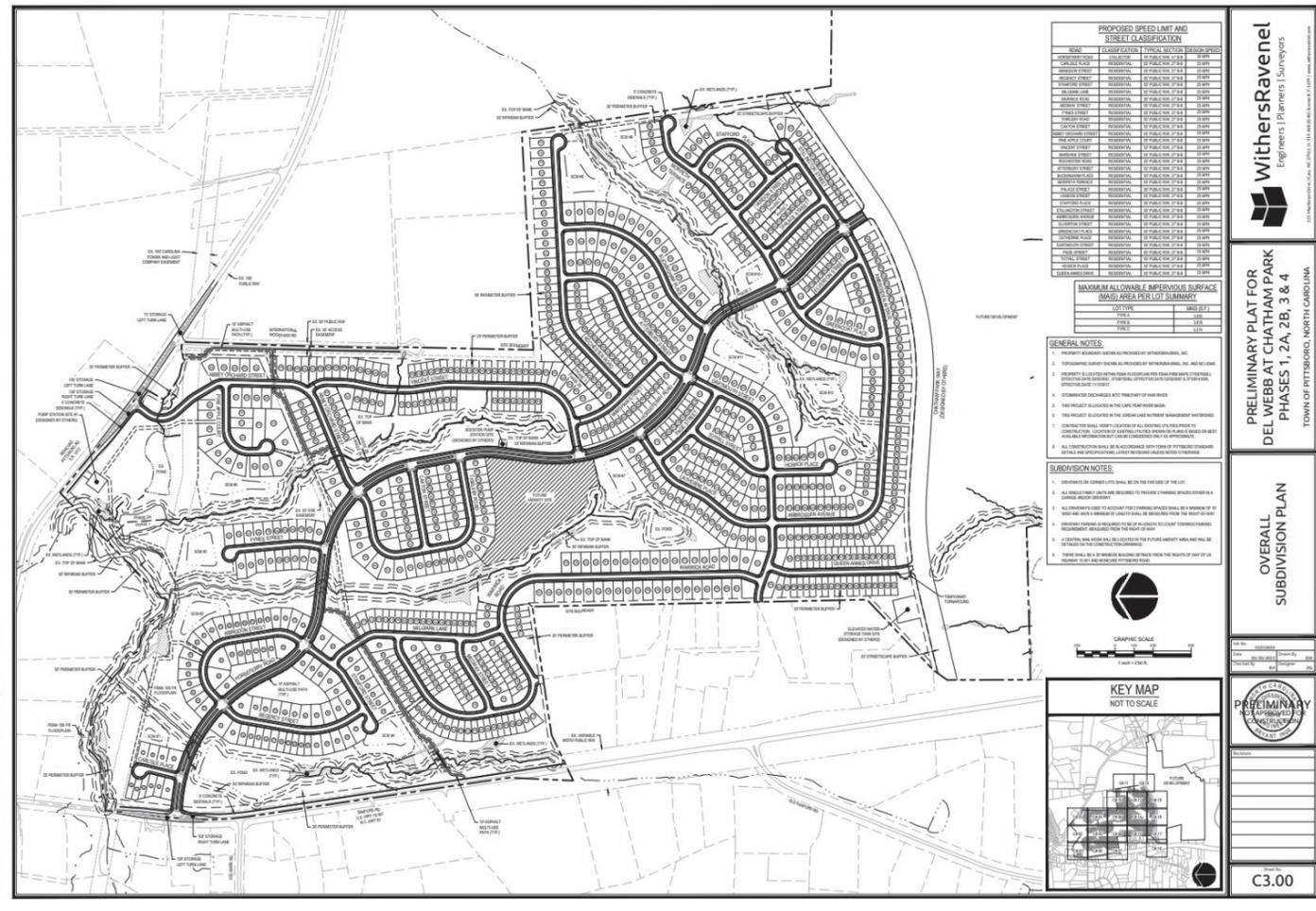
The major subdivision is expected to be around 362 acres, a little less than half of the expanse of the total development, which is called Del Webb at Chatham Park — formerly the Townsend Tract.

Though the development — located east of Sanford Road/N.C. Hwy. 87 S. and southwest of Moncure Pittsboro Road — is referred to as “Del Webb at Chatham Park,” it is not a part of the larger 22,000-home Chatham Park master plan.

It was approved at the board’s meeting last week.

According to a town staff analysis document, the three land parcels in the preliminary plat are in the northern part of the Del Webb development, and the proposed density of the plat is 2.33 dwelling units per acre. The majority of the units are intended for those 55 and above, the plan for at least 80% of the units to be occupied by such residents. The median lot size is 7,111 square feet.

As the town considers a merger of water and wastewater utility systems with the city of Sanford, the town’s staff memo on the preliminary plat also states that water in the subdivision will be provided by Pittsboro, while sewer treatment



A map of the overall subdivision plan for phases 1-4 of Del Webb at Chatham Park.

Courtesy of Town of Pittsboro

will be provided via Chatham Park’s portion of the Sanford force main line.

At the Aug. 8 commissioners meeting, the town’s Planning Project Manager Molly Boyle said the sewer doesn’t have to be available at the time of preliminary plat approval, but does have to be available at the time construction gets approved.

The preliminary plat item was pulled for dis-

cussion during the meeting, when Commissioner John Bonitz highlighted his concerns regarding requirements for parks and recreation, pedestrian access along Sanford Road and the phasing of the project.

The preliminary plat is expected to have around 75 acres of open space, which is roughly 20% of the subdivision. At the moment, Chatham Park investors have plans for a 40-acre

regional sports complex near the subdivision. Proposed pedestrian access in the Del Webb development also includes 5-foot sidewalks along both sides of interior roads, and along U.S. Hwy. 15-501 and Moncure Pittsboro Road.

The board’s approval of the preliminary plat at the Aug. 8 meeting encompassed phases 1 through 4 of Del Webb at Chatham Park. Phase 1 has 254 lots, phase 2 has 102 lots, phase 3 has 172 lots and phase 4 has 316 lots.

With regard to the phasing of the project, Bonitz said his major concern was about impacts to downtown traffic around the town circle, particularly as Chatham Park Way South is not complete as the Del Webb at Chatham Park project proceeds.

Kevin Dean, a transportation engineer with Kimley-Horn, a planning and design consulting firm, spoke to Bonitz’s

concerns at the meeting. Dean said the firm completed a traffic study for the build-out of the project, and noted that one of the benefits of senior adult housing — which will be the case for most of the homes in this subdivision — is a lower trip generation when compared to single family homes.

“Being senior adult housing, that’s only generating around 100 to 120 total peak hour trips in the morning and in the afternoon,” Dean said. “So in reality, what we’re looking at is something closer to only two additional trips per minute for the hour, so not as significant volume traffic.”

Chris Raughley, vice president of Land Entitlements and Development for PulteGroup, the project’s developer, was also present virtually at the Pittsboro commissioners meeting on Aug. 8. During the meeting, Raughley said if sewer

access becomes available in late 2023, he anticipates the first home in the project to be built by the middle of 2025.

“And we would start selling at that point to start closing loans in late 2025,” Raughley said.

He also said given that timeline, he believes Chatham Park Way would be online before the Del Webb development is finished with its first phase.

“So for us, that’s pretty exciting, because we actually prefer to have that part reopened as well, just because that does solve the same problem that the question is being asked about, which is getting people to some of the conveniences in town without having to route that traffic through downtown,” Raughley said.

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

Pittsboro Street Fair
Saturday, October 29

Town Heroes

The Rotary Club of Pittsboro would like to recognize & thank the orthodontic office of Dr. Tammy Severt and B&T HVAC for being this year’s top sponsors of the Pittsboro Street Fair!

Tammy R. Severt D.D.S., P.A.
Specialist in Orthodontics
www.severtsmiles.com

B & T HVAC

Their generosity is a reflection of personal investment, involvement & pride in our community and allows us as Rotarians the opportunity to expand our efforts to engage in more service projects. These projects build better tomorrows, connections with others, & strengthen the quality of life for all those living in and visiting our town. We couldn’t do what we do without the support of our sponsors & we humbly thank you ALL for being neighbors, friends, & believers in our mission.

Come join us Saturday, October 29, for a day of fun, festivity, and food as we welcome over 100 vendors to the streets in the heart of our downtown!

Sponsored by

KENNEDY

Continued from page A1
fall, staff bid the project, which came in 30% over budget; Kennedy said staff are hoping to bid the project again, and have asked the state for more loan proceeds in preparation.

What concerns do you or the board have regarding the merger?

Kennedy said the first hurdle is in determining whether the estimated rates make sense for both municipalities. For Pittsboro, the balance comes in trying to keep rates at a moderate pace and still doing projects, he said, while for Sanford, it’s a matter of showing the city that an investment in Pittsboro’s utility is worth the initial investment in the long run.

“If something’s gonna break and sever the relationship, so to speak, I think the rates will also do that,” Kennedy said. “That will do it.”

Still, he doesn’t anticipate that being the case. “We’re confident that it will (happen),” he said. “But we also know that there’s a lot of things in play here and we want to be very diligent on how we do it. And so if we feel like there’s a critical thing to answer, let’s try to answer early, and then

go on to the other particulars of the merger.”

One concern Kennedy has is how staff will be placed, if a merger takes place — something that Commissioner Jay Farrell also brought up at last week’s town commissioners meeting.

“Ever since we first started talking about this, one of the first things out of my mouth, every time we brought it up was, ‘I want you to take care of my people, if they end up coming over to you,’” Kennedy said. “If they’re not Pittsboro employees, I want you to take care of my people.”

The board is also examining specifics of the merger like whether Pittsboro will maintain a billing office so that residents can have someone to talk to in town without having to drive to Sanford.

Kennedy said commissioners are generally keeping their concerns close to the vest, but that the board has had some “thoughtful conversation” regarding the merger. Though he believes commissioners likely have lingering questions, from his understanding, he has no reason to believe that the board isn’t all in.

“There’s undoubtedly some anxiety, I think we all have that,” he said. “...I think it’s just different. It’s a departure from what we’ve done.”

What could rates potentially be?

In the last fiscal year, the town had a 43% increase to water and an 18% increase to sewer utility rates, Kennedy said that prior to that, the town went a number of years without an increase to either.

His recommendation to the board has been to adopt whatever the percentage increase is for utility rates based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ consumer price index for all urban customers.

This fiscal year, the board made 15% increases to both sewer and water. Though he didn’t provide a specific estimate, Kennedy said he expects rates to increase.

“It’d be my professional opinion that without Sanford, we’re going to struggle to keep the rates at a moderate level, and to keep the utility, the actual infrastructure, in a healthy condition in order to provide a high quality and expected level of service,” Kennedy said.

Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III contributed reporting to this story.

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

VIEWPOINTS

Flarp matters: A multiple-choice test

What is “flarp”? See if you can guess the correct definition of the word based on 10 actual events in my recent past.



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

father of the household testing positive for COVID-19.

2. Instead of unpacking the roughly 300 items necessary to take three young children anywhere for 24 hours or more, a flarp is dumping the full suitcases in various places all over the house.

1. A flarp is having to cancel the last vacation of the summer, the morning of, due to the

3. According to most medical opinions, including guidance from the CDC, people infected with COVID-19 can expect at least 90 days of virus-free protection. A flarp is when the virus fails to read the fine print of said guarantee.

4. A flarp refers to the specific kind of groan that an otherwise healthy, fully vaccinated and boosted 41-year-old white male makes when lying in bed unable to sleep due to dull body aches from COVID-19.

5. Actually, a flarp is the sound made by a reusable grocery bag stuffed with a fully prepared supper when carried up the steps to a sick person's front door.

6. When dear family friends invite non-isolating children and spouse to their home for a

scavenger hunt with clues that guide these participants from the front door to an inflatable swimming pool, then to the backyard playground, whereby Ring Pops are discovered to have been taped to the swings, a flarp is the noise of a joyous 4-year-old popping said Ring Pop from her mouth with gusto.

7. At the end of this scavenger hunt at the aforementioned home of dear friends, when the last clue leads to a gift-wrapped box that contains all manner of sweets and goodies, a flarp refers to the harmonized squeal of a 4-year-old with the shouts of exultation from older siblings, 6 and 9 years old, respectively.

8. Upon receiving texted images of beloved children

during a scavenger hunt, a flarp is the sigh of wonder from the father infected with COVID-19 — a flarp in equal parts awe and gratitude to the aforementioned dear friends and to his loyal spouse, who surely has the verve of a saint!

9. Flarp is “noise putty” that was found in the gift-wrapped box at the end of the scavenger hunt. It looks like regular putty, but when compressed into its plastic container, the putty makes a noise that COVID-19-infected father's Gran would hope he would refer to in print as “passing gas.”*

(*In truth, his Gran would not like for him to refer to “passing gas” in any sentence that likewise contains her

name, but he's pretty sure she wouldn't mind just this once.)

10. A flarp is a weekly columnist's effort to wield humor, patience and creativity at a difficult, disappointing situation in his life in hopes to bring a smile or perhaps a chuckle to his readers and possibly inspire their own grace under duress, which if said columnist was pressed to boil it down, is really why hope matters ...

But in answer to the question — What is flarp? — see No. 9.

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.”

GUEST COLUMN | TAMI SCHWERIN

On my father's death

Death is one of my favorite subjects, oddly.

I grew up with very little religion — as in none. I would like to think that I was a spiritual person, having had a Buddhist wedding and explored different flavors of faith. But when the sheriff knocked on our door at midnight to tell me about the death of our oldest son, I took a very different path.

I dove deeply into trying to figure out this thing called life — which also means figuring out death. I started reading about different cultures' approaches to loss and death and the rituals they used to cope with devastating news.

Being an event planner, Death Faire seemed like the exact antidote to my grief. We needed to understand this as a community. Death Faire is now an annual and incredibly healing event.

When my Dad started having back pain, I didn't take it too seriously. He was always a healthy, strong man. His partner called me to discuss his health and I could hear the gravity in her voice. We didn't know what was going on with all his mysterious symptoms. We started navigating the frustrating health system. I would drive Dad to doctors and demand appointments. It was a lot of urgent care and specialists.

We finally ended up in a liver doctor's office and, when the doc came back into the room after reviewing files, his face was white. He said my Dad was getting an MRI that same day, which was quite unusual in this over-taxed medical system.

From the MRI, we were sent to UNC to get another procedure which ended up telling us that Dad had pancreatic cancer.

Still in denial, I thought we could knock this out. Dad was only 77 and had just moved to Chatham County to a beautiful farm with his sweetie. Dad certainly was not ready to go and, all of a sudden, we were in charge of saving my beloved Dad's life.

We had the best team, consisting of his partner, a very detailed person, my brother and my Mom. Many others along the way formed the larger team: we were getting ready for battle.

Our job was to support Dad in his decisions. I would have started with alternative healing, but he thought that was “smoke and mirrors” and decided that conventional chemo was the way to go. Pancreatic is, of course, one of the worse cancers you can get. One doctor told us Dad had six months. We said: “No way.”

Dad ended up only having four months. We spent the four months researching, getting second opinions, making decisions and schedules and buying tons of pharmaceuticals to help with the side effects of all the pharmaceuticals. It was terrible at times and it was beautiful at times.

We got to get down to the important topics of conversation. One day, sitting in the emergency room, Dad gave my brother and me homework. “I want you to write your 10-year plan and submit to me,” he said.

An unusual thing Dad did when he got his diagnosis was to purchase his dream Grand Villa R.V., something he's always wanted. He had a smaller one in the yard, but it seemed like the thing to do as he started chemo. My brother and I were pretty surprised, but looking back, it was genius. It really gave us all something to focus on.

While we were figuring out cancer treatments, he was buying new tires, checking out solar panels and talking to some guy in Florida about the R.V. A trusted friend with a CDL license performed heroic acts of flying to Florida, picking up the 40-foot R.V. that, unbeknownst to us, had no A/C, driving it back in standstill traffic and 110-degree weather. Dad was getting sicker and sicker. The R.V. became more and more important.

Time was cascading as Dad said he couldn't quite describe what was happening, but something really cool was happening around time.

The R.V. was driven to Raleigh and parts were ordered for all the things that were broken. Every day we wondered how far things had gotten on this Herculean project.

We were texting from the emergency room to see the status. Dad ended up in Duke hospital for a week, then finally told us: “Tell them I'm not putting up with this sh*t anymore.” Dad didn't curse a lot, so we went to work on getting him out of Duke.

It was bittersweet. It was an admission that Dad was going home to die, not to get better and get into that R.V. to take his partner to Montana like he wanted.

Dad took an ambulance home so he could look out of his beautiful porch. His bed was set up in the living room and he witnessed a beautiful evening summer thunderstorm. “Dramatic” was all he could say.

Over the next few days, his family and close friends came to say their goodbyes. He lost his ability to speak but he could still smooch his partner, which I found to be remarkable. He was cognizant until the last day and we all were there when his spirit left his body at 3 a.m. It was peaceful — his suffering was over.

I'm so grateful that I got to be with my Dad during this time. It was an honor and a blessing. I'll miss him terribly ... Until we meet again.

Tami Schwerin is the founder of Abundance North Carolina and the co-owner of The Plant in Pittsboro.



LETTERS

Truth Social?

TO THE EDITOR:

Truth Social — what a guise!

Truth Social — the platform the Trump organization created after the former president was banned from other social media — is part of Trump's endless efforts to spew falsehoods to trick his followers into Jonestown frenzies.

Unfortunately, the lies are repeated and magnified by such political enablers as Kevin McCarthy, Marjorie Taylor Greene and Senators Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley.

The tragedy and danger of these nefarious activities were evident in the recent incident that led to the death of one of former President Donald Trump's loyal zealots who “drank the Kool-Aid” and became so inebriated with the propaganda that he tried to kill FBI personnel. Some of his last words posted on Truth Social were: “It is true I tried attacking the FBI.”

Earlier on Truth Social, he declared being “ready for combat.” He shared this threat after Trump pushed misinformation about the FBI's legitimate search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago compound. We have since learned the FBI recovered significant classified documents.

Let's be patient in seeing what our Justice system determines and presents regarding any illegal actions by the former president or others.

As U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland reminded us: “Faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and of our democracy. Upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly, without fear or favor.”

It is comforting to know we still have leaders willing to seek truth.

The radical who died following his misguided dedication to the former president had hearkened back to America's revolution. He would have done well to heed instead the words of George Orwell: “In a time of deceit, telling the

truth is a revolutionary act.”
Dennis W. Streets
Pittsboro

Searching for candidates with a moral compass

TO THE EDITOR:

As a life-long independent voter, I have been able and comfortable in choosing the candidates I feel will best represent not just my views but how they will shape the environment I live in. Not being an ideologue, I have much freedom in my choices. I believe in the two-party system for the best results. I, therefore, believe in compromise.

Do I have a bias or point of view? Sure; I'm human, but know there are other's views to be considered and learned from. Survival training taught me that group decisions are often better than those of any one individual, even an expert! I don't mean “group-think,” I mean the synergy of many minds.

I don't expect to get everything I want in any candidate. The world is in chaos and I'm looking for moral people, which is hard to find today. There are so very few who stand out and who, unfortunately, tend to stand alone. I'm reminded of the army of statues in China from 209 B.C.: the Terracotta Army, prompting me to what political parties look like today: silent of independent thought, following their “emperor” wherever he/she goes.

I feel a bit of a loss. I'm unsure whether there is any morality in our political system, not so much at the local level but at the state and federal levels. Politicians have become totally ideology-driven and surrounded by sycophant supporters. Is there any challenge to viewpoints? To statements made? To the way people who have different views are treated? To a party's stated platform? Is everyone just getting in line to drink from the same bucket of water? Is there no independent thought?

Voters will determine who and what we get. There is no

nirvana, but there is dystopia and we appear to be getting dangerously close to that. I will be searching for candidates with a moral compass — who I would respect and would respect others. Someone who would be welcome at my table. Someone whom I could trust with my grandchildren, male and female. Someone fiscally prudent who would invest in our future, even if the payoff was long-term and beyond the term of office. Someone who understands variation and all the differences that come with that fact of life. Someone who I could be proud of for how they speak and behave.

Quaint? Maybe. What is it that you will be looking for?
Jim Vanderbeck
Pittsboro

Solarize Chatham, and hot-weather football practice

TO THE EDITOR:

Pearl one about Solar Panels: The number that matters is dollar per kilowatt (1,000 watts) of electricity generated, installed and approved/inspected by Chatham County. I have had four companies bid on installing at my house over the past two years since rebuilding after a fire. The price has been all over the place, and now you should look for the turnkey price of \$2,000 per kilowatt or less.

Pearl two: hot weather football practice — prevent heat stroke! Most high schools don't have air-conditioned practice facilities, so have a garden hose handy. If any concerns, hose the player down right away. I recommend giving players free access to multiple on and off valves whenever they wish. They are wet with sweat already, but a hose in the face and inside the jersey and pants of the player will help them prevent heat stroke and recover energy faster. A tarp on the ground will also help prevent a mud puddle.

John R. Dykers Jr., MD
Siler City

Chatham News + Record

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | MADELEINE PARA & MINTA PHILLIPS

Passage of major climate legislation is victory for future generations

Those hoping to preserve a livable world for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren can find much to celebrate in the climate provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act recently passed in the U.S. Senate. The bill, now awaiting passage in the House, contains a huge investment — \$369 billion — in low-carbon technologies and is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% below 2005 levels by 2030.

The significance of this legislative victory cannot be overstated. For decades, scientists warned of the dire consequences we face for failing to bring down the heat-trapping emissions that are warming our world. For far too long those warnings were ignored and hopes that our nation would take action were raised again and again only to be dashed for lack of political will.

Now, at last, the political will is there. Our lawmakers have finally listened and delivered. With these policies in place, the United States will embark on a transformational journey

to wean ourselves off the fossil fuels driving climate change, and in the process remove air pollution that sickens millions of Americans and inflicts billions of dollars in damage to our economy.

The Inflation Reduction Act will speed this transition by providing tax credits over the next 10 years to develop and deploy clean energy like wind and solar. Money will also be used to help households become more energy efficient and to replace gas appliances with ones powered by electricity, like heat pumps and induction stoves. Middle- and low-income Americans will also be eligible for tax credits to help them buy electric vehicles, thereby reducing the carbon emissions and unhealthy air pollution from gasoline-powered cars and trucks.

The incentives in this legislation will provide further economic opportunity here in central North Carolina by increasing the demand for products and services making North Carolina a leader in clean energy transportation.

For example, the VinFast electric vehicle company's \$4 billion site development here in Chatham County will create 7,500 good-paying jobs over the next four years while the Greensboro-Randolph electric car battery plant Toyota Battery Manufacturing Company, North Carolina (TBMNC) will provide over 1,700 jobs.

Another important provision in the Inflation Reduction Act addresses the leakage of methane, a greenhouse gas many times more potent than carbon dioxide. It's a big contributor to global warming, and to reduce those emissions, this legislation imposes a fee that rises over time. The principle is simple: Discourage bad behavior by making it more expensive. It worked really well to reduce the number of people who smoke cigarettes.

Disadvantaged communities that typically bear the greatest burden from climate change and pollution will also get help. Some \$60 billion will be used on environmental justice programs in those communities.

This long-sought break-

through in climate legislation was made possible by grassroots support that was lacking in previous "inside the Beltway" efforts. Over the past year, for example, Citizens' Climate Lobby generated more than 200,000 letters and phone calls to members of Congress urging passage of a reconciliation bill that contains strong climate provisions. Members of other advocacy groups urged Congress to tackle climate as well. This victory was won by concerned citizens who made their voices heard by decision-makers in Washington.

Meaningful steps to fight climate change come not a moment too soon. Extreme weather-related disasters made worse by rising temperatures, like flooding this summer that killed dozens in Missouri and Kentucky, are becoming more frequent and could soon outpace our ability to adapt and recover. In North Carolina, the impact of an altered climate is being felt with more frequent and intense heat waves, hurricanes, flooding and forest fires.

Throughout the global community, the U.S. has been viewed as a laggard on climate change. This legislation will help restore U.S. climate leadership. Greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced in every country around the world, and our example will inspire and motivate other nations to increase their climate ambition.

We're grateful that our members of Congress will support the call for climate action by voting in favor of the Inflation Reduction Act.

More will be needed to meet the U.S. pledge to cut emissions in half by 2030, but for now let's celebrate the passage of this historic legislation, which brings hope that we and future generations can live in a hospitable climate. The best time to do something about climate change was 20 years ago. The next best time is now, and that's finally happening.

Madeleine Para is the executive director of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Minta Phillips is a Citizens' Climate Lobby member.

Prejudice makes us all worse off

Prejudice is morally wrong. It's also immensely foolish, producing self-inflicted wounds for individuals, companies, and communities.

If you refuse to hire certain workers because of their sex, race, or religion, you will end up with a less-productive workforce and a less-profitable enterprise. If you refuse to befriend people who are different from you in these and other ways, your life will be far less rich and interesting. And if your government refuses to offer equal access to schools and other public services to blacks and other minorities, your community will be poorer for it.

To say that discrimination is irrational is not to deny its reality and persistence. Human beings have done incredibly foolish things to ourselves and others for as long as we've been around. For example, consider how much better off we'd be if past generations had been more willing to hear and act on good ideas regardless of their source.

In 1912, Mary Beatrice Davidson was born into a family of inveterate tinkers in Monroe, North Carolina. Her father and grandfather had patented such inventions as a clothing presser for travelers, a stretcher design for ambulances, and a tricolor signal light for trains.

Mary caught the bug early. At the age of six, she came up with a self-oiling door hinge. In her teens, she turned her attention to the issue of sanitary products for women. Although sanitary belts and napkins were in existence by then, they were crudely designed and poorly marketed. For years, while working in a variety of other occupations, Mary experimented with a much-improved version of a sanitary belt with easily adjustable straps.

Finally, in 1956, Mary Kenner (her married name) possessed both the prototype and the money necessary for a federal patent. Shortly afterwards, the Sonn-Nap-Pack Company approached her about selling her invention. Dreams of long-denied acclaim and financial security passed before her eyes — but it was not to be.

You see, once the company discovered the holder of the patent was not only female but also African-American, they

backed away from doing a deal. So did other potential manufacturers. It wasn't until after the patent expired that her innovations were widely adopted.

Other female inventors from North Carolina enjoyed more financial success during their lifetimes. Just before the Civil War, Clinton native Abigail Carter designed a new kind of work overalls for her husband, a railroad engineer. His co-workers loved them and asked Abigail to make them some, too. Eventually the Carters opened the country's first manufacturing plant for overalls. A few years later, Harriet Morrison Irwin obtained a patent for her hexagonal house design. Irwin, the daughter of Davidson College's founding president Robert Hall Morrison, was the first woman in the country ever to secure an architectural patent. Quite a few homes were then built according to her design.

Some decades later, Raleigh native Beulah Louise Henry, whose grandfather W.W. Holden had been governor of North Carolina, launched a spectacular career as an inventor with a 1912 patent for a vacuum-sealed freezer for storing ice cream. Her subsequent creations ranged from designer umbrellas and children's toys to sewing machines and typewriters. At last check, no American woman has ever had more patented and marketed inventions than Henry.

Though they were privileged with more opportunities than Mary Kenner had enjoyed, each of these North Carolinians had to contend with the prejudices of foolish men. How much more might they have accomplished in its absence? And for every Abigail Carter, Harriet Morrison Irwin, and Beulah Louise Henry, there were many, many other women whose promising new ideas were either swiped, mangled, or ignored.

That makes them victims of discrimination, yes — but they weren't the only ones. Millions of potential consumers and employees lost out, too.

There was a lot more to Mary Kenner than victimhood. She was happily married, fostered and adopted multiple children, and kept tinkering with inventions into her 70s. Her lost economic opportunities, though, were also our own.

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).



Crawdads — the African connection

Was "Where the Crawdads Sing" set in North Carolina — as both the book and movie assert — and where, according to her publisher, the author Delia Owens now lives?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Or in Georgia where Owens grew up?

Or Louisiana where the film was made?

Or in the African country of Zambia, where Owens and her former husband are wanted for questioning in connection with an investigation of a death almost 30 years ago?

The bestselling book has sold more than 15 million copies and the film opened July 15 with domestic gross ticket sales of almost \$70 million.

The Crawdads story is summarized by Jeffrey Goldberg, editor of The Atlantic in the magazine's July edition. It is, he writes, about "a girl in 1950s North Carolina who, through a series of improbable events, is forced to raise herself in an isolated swamp. Kya Clark, the protagonist, is, like Delia, a naturalist and loner" and is accused of "the murder of a caddis local bigshot, Chase Andrews."

Was North Carolina the real setting Owens had in mind for Kya's story?

The lands and waters described in Owens' book fit the Georgia coastal areas better than North Carolina's coast. Also, many North Carolina readers and moviegoers were surprised at the idea that Asheville, as described in the book and movie, was just a

short drive from Kya's coastal marsh.

Something must be amiss.

The Crawdads moviemakers chose Louisiana and its swamps and marshes to film the movie version of Kya's story.

But Goldberg, The Atlantic editor, thinks that Owens found Kya through her own experiences, not in North Carolina or Georgia or Louisiana, but rather in Africa. In an April 5, 2010, New Yorker article titled "The Hunted: Did American conservationists in Africa go too far?" Goldberg described how Delia and her then husband, Mark, "two graduate students in biology at the University of Georgia, were seized by the idea of resettling in remotest Africa.

"When they arrived in January 1974, Delia, the daughter of a Georgia trucking executive, was twenty-four years old. Mark, who grew up on a farm west of Toledo, Ohio, was twenty-nine, the divorced father of a four-year-old boy named Christopher."

Operating first in Botswana and then in Zambia, "Despite penury, loneliness, and drought, they established a viable research station" and learned how to gain the trust of the animals and to work funding sources. They were determined to protect the animals from the rampant activities of poachers who threatened to destroy the ecosystem.

Relations with local authorities were often tense.

According to Goldberg, Mark "had gradually come to command a corps of game scouts in North Luangwa, outside of Zambian-government oversight, by buying their loyalty through the

provision of weapons, boots, and money; that they had militarized the 2,400-square-mile park (Delia wrote in one of their books that Mark created a special unit of scouts who would earn new guns, jungle knives, binoculars, and compasses for standout performance); that Mark Owens had led airborne raids against suspected poaching camps; that Mark's adult son from his first marriage, Christopher Owens, had been placed in charge of training the game scouts in hand-to-hand combat; and that Christopher Owens frequently beat the game scouts as a form of discipline."

In March 1996, ABC news aired a documentary about Mark and Delia and their work, including the killing of an alleged poacher. Goldberg writes that Zambian officials told him that "Mark, Delia, and Christopher Owens are still wanted for questioning related to the killing of the alleged poacher, as well as other possible criminal activities."

Like Kya, Delia Owens has had to deal with an overhang of possible criminal charges.

Goldberg writes that he was surprised that the book's themes "so obviously echoed aspects of Delia Owens's life in Zambia."

So, if we want to visit the place where Kya's story developed, perhaps we should go not to the marshes of North Carolina, Georgia, or Louisiana, but to the plains and forests of Zambia.

D.G. Martin, a lawyer, served as UNC-System's vice president for public affairs and hosted PBS-NC's North Carolina Bookwatch.

HOUSE

Continued from page A1

same name. And a relatively new discovery: Nail's former home near North Hollywood was also a scant five minutes from the home Bavier lived in before she made her move to Siler City in 1972.

So as its new owner and occupant, Nail is mulling, as she works on renovation plans for the home, about opening it as a bed & breakfast — or, alternatively, as an official tourist destination — for fans of “The Andy Griffith” show who remember, and love, Aunt Bee.

Her own labor of love

First, it'll need work. As that begins in earnest, though, this summer's ongoing focus has been mostly on the yard — a labor of love, but still, labor: Nail says she's lost 35 pounds in the last few months working by hand to clear the property of brush, tree stumps, unsightly boxwoods and saplings, and in unearthing hidden flagstone walkways and generally sprucing and clearing up the yard. Together with her right-hand-man, Robert Jones of Pittsboro, they've toiled in the heat to take down about 250 trees, she estimates; new friends Joyce and Earle Stout are frequent guests and help out, too.

“It was a mess,” Nail said. “At least now the grass in the backyard gets some sunlight.”

As for the house: “It needs a lot of Band-Aids,” she says. And a bit of surgery, too.

Some of it major.

In addition to the cost of the acquisition, Nail estimates she'll need to spend about \$250,000 on improvements and fixes, the list of which is lengthy. High on that list: new wiring, gutting the kitchen and her master bathroom and extensive renovations to the basement, once the site of exquisite parties thrown by the home's original owners and occupants, Dr. J.B. Earle and



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A porch at the home known as ‘Aunt Bee’s house’ in Siler City is filled with various planters, placed by new owner Kathy Nail. Actor Frances Bavier, who starred as Aunt Bee in ‘The Andy Griffith Show,’ lived in the house until her death in 1989.

his horticulturalist wife, whose long-ago commitment to beauty Nail is trying to resurrect in the yard.

The dual focus of the effort: first, bringing the home back more in line with its original appearance, when the Earles built it — though modernized (for example, to accommodate Nail's Italian gas stove in the kitchen). And second, adding Nail's own unique touches — a penchant for the idiosyncratic that her California friends took to describe as “Kathyland.” Among them are working on plans for an old-fashioned sitting room, creating space (possibly in the attic) for a toy museum and perhaps even adding a putting course on one part of the exposed roof. (Not to mention restoring the outdoor bench Bavier was known to sit on and uncovering a large mural that's been painted over in a dining area. Nail is also working to find brass door hardware to match what was once there; she says a previous owner thought brass “looked dirty.”)

The price tag seems not to faze her. Selling Nail's triplex in exorbitantly pricey L.A., now under contract, will make

it palatable.

The timeline: about a year.

It's a lot of work for this landmark of Siler City. Construction on the massive home — including the basement and porches, it's about 9,000 square feet — began in 1951. It was designed by a Greensboro architect named J.J. Croft Jr., who designed a few others along the same street in that tony section of Siler City. Dr. Earle was a much-beloved doctor in town, and it was the home's New Orleans-style architecture that first caught Nail's attention.

While watching a trivia show on television, no less.

‘A piece of history’

Nail seems to keep running into history. After spending those 20 years in Cairo, she shifted careers to teach English as a second language in Thailand, where she spent another five years.

While there, she earned a good bit of her own notoriety after playing a major role in apprehending one of the FBI's “Ten Most Wanted” fugitives: Eric Rosser, at one time a keyboardist in rocker John Cougar Mellencamp's band. Rosser, a child predator sought for his



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Shelves full of pots, pans and other cooking items line the kitchen of the home of Kathy Nail, who moved to Siler City from Los Angeles last year.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A view of the entryway of the ‘Aunt Bee’ house on West Elk Street in Siler City.

involvement in the production and distribution of child pornography, was in one of her classes; with help from her intervention, he was arrested in Bangkok in August 2001 and is now imprisoned in Colorado. (Nail has written about 400 pages of a manuscript about the experience she plans to publish.)

Language, another artifact of life, became important to her. From Thailand, Nail moved to London after being

offered a position operating an English school there. She also ran a B&B. Always curious, she'd occasionally drop in on film sets throughout London and Great Britain in her spare time, watching movies being made. On one of those sojourns, she noticed a paltry craft service table — the place where food and drinks were set out for actors and crew members.

See **HOUSE**, page A7

FRANCES BAVIER | 1902 - 1989

‘Aunt Bee’ didn’t necessarily gel with her TV castmates, but she found a home in retirement in Siler City

Frances Bavier was born in 1902 near Gramercy Park — a few blocks south of Central Park — in New York City. She planned to become a schoolteacher. But working in vaudeville and getting her first role on Broadway (in the play “The Poor Nut”) at the age of 22 led to expanded stage work that included roles on and off the Big Apple's Great White Way and even trips to entertain World War II troops in the Pacific with the USO.

In her final Broadway role, she starred alongside Henry Fonda in “Point of No Return,” the year-long run of which ended in 1952. It marked a full-time shift to television and film work for Bavier, which had begun a year earlier with her role in the science fiction classic, “The Day the Earth Stood Still.”

Of course it was Bavier's 10-year stretch — the longest of any Mayberry character — as Aunt Bee on “The Andy Griffith Show” and its spinoff, “Mayberry R.F.D.,” that brought her fame and instant recognizability. Along the way, she won an Emmy Award, in 1967, as Outstanding Supporting Comedy Actress for that role; her costar, Don Knotts, also won for comedic supporting actor the same year, one of the five Emmys he'd collect for his portrayal of Deputy Barney Fife.

“Aunt Bee” — it's typically styled “Bee,” instead of “Bea,” even though the character's name was Beatrice — was launched after she was cast, not as Aunt Bee, but as a character called Henrietta Perkins, in an episode on Danny Thomas's long-running “Make Room for Daddy” sitcom. That episode (the program was subsequently renamed “The Danny Thomas Show”) starred actors Andy Griffith and Ron Howard, who were portraying a North Carolina sheriff named Andy Taylor and his son, Opie; it served to introduce the new characters to a large TV audience.

Soon after, on Oct. 3, 1960, “The Andy Griffith Show” made its debut on CBS. Bavier was cast as Aunt Bee, the paternal aunt of the widower sheriff. In the show's premiere episode, “The New Housekeeper,” Aunt Bee returns to Mayberry from Morgantown, West Virginia — coincidentally, the real-life birthplace of Knotts — after Andy's housekeeper marries and moves away. Aunt Bee takes over management of Andy's household and becomes Opie's surrogate mother and grandmother.

A love/hate relationship

Numerous stories, some likely

apocryphal, are told of Bavier's clashes with her fellow actors and directors on the show, where she's described as professional but rather aloof from the hijinks-loving cast. That cast, which of course included Griffith — who got his start with comedic monologues — and Knotts, one of the most popular comedic actors in history, perhaps made an odd mix when factoring in the New York-trained Bavier.

A brief marriage earlier in Bavier's career didn't produce any children; Howard, who played Opie, was once quoted as saying he didn't think “she enjoyed being around children that much.”

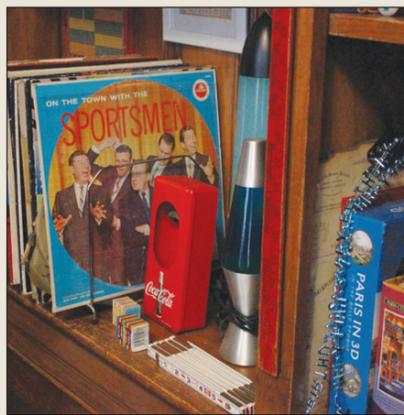
There's little doubt Bavier had a love-hate relationship with Aunt Bee, an unmarried, dowdy, homespun woman whose kitchen skills — despite her struggles in the pickle department, the focus of one of the show's most popular episodes — and star-crossed romances were prominent features of the sitcom. Bavier was a trained stage performer who knew Broadway's ins and outs. She was a pro's pro, but was suddenly thrown into a show with the 5-year-old Howard and the Mount Airy-born Griffith, who first earned stardom with his rollicking, Hicksville-inspired “What It Was, Was Football” monologue.

Some speculate Bavier felt her talents were overlooked. Griffith was quoted as saying he and Bavier sometimes clashed during their time on the set together, but he said during a 2003 appearance on “Larry King Live” that Bavier telephoned him a few months before her death to apologize for occasionally being “difficult” to work with.

Her behavior may have partly stemmed from that serious training as an actor and the conflict she may have felt for the notoriety “Aunt Bee” gave her. Bavier herself once told an interviewer: “I had played Aunt Bee for 10 years and it's very, very difficult for an actress or actor to create a role and be so identified that you as a person no longer exist, and all the recognition you get is for a part that's created on screen.”

She elaborated the point in an interview with a reporter for a newspaper in Charlotte.

“Once in a while,” Bavier told The Charlotte News, “I get a hankering to play a really bad woman. Once a few years ago I was really vicious in a ‘Lone Ranger’ episode, but so many people wrote in outrage at what I was doing, I guess it was a mistake. Sometimes it



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Old vinyl records and ephemera fill the bookcases of the property known as ‘Aunt Bee’s house’ in Siler City. New owner Kathy Nail is an avid collector of antique toys.

gets me down to think I've lost my own identity and my identity as an actress. But other times I get a lift when I realize that I'm really doing quite well.”

Television producer Sheldon Leonard once described her as “a rather remote lady. Highly professional and a fine comedienne, fine actress with very individual character. She was rather self-contained and was not part of the general hi-jinks that centered upon Andy on the set.”

A move to Siler City

Still, that didn't prevent Bavier from retiring, in 1972, to Siler City — famously, at least locally, named prominently in a Season 5 episode, and located not too far from Mount Airy, which, as Griffith's birthplace, stakes a claim as the “real” Mayberry.

“I, like a child, came here looking for a fairyland,” Bavier once said. She told another interviewer: “I fell in love with North Carolina, all the pretty roads and the trees.”

As a part of the Siler City community, Bavier was an active supporter of many charitable efforts — notably the Easterseals Society — and, in her will, left a \$100,000 trust fund that provides a Christmas bonus to members of the town's police force.

In 1986, Griffith pulled together 16 members of the cast of his old show for a TV movie reunion called “Return to Mayberry.” Bavier, by then in poor health, declined a reprisal of her famous role. In one of the movie's scenes, Griffith, as an aging Sheriff Taylor, is shown visiting Aunt Bee's

grave.

In real life, the decline of her health, combined with a seemingly endless stream of fans and the curious — who'd frequently knock on her door, asking for a photo or an autograph or a look around the house — naturally made Bavier more reclusive. That likely contributed to unflattering accounts of her leading up to and after her death. Even the Los Angeles Times, Kathy Nail's local newspaper during her California days, published a story shortly after Bavier's passing saying that she “lived her last years in seclusion in a dark, dingy house and kept a 1966 green Studebaker with four flat tires in the garage. The home of Frances Bavier reflects little of the coziness of the fictional house that Aunt Bee managed for Mayberry's sheriff and his young son on the popular television series of the 1960s.”

Some obituaries say Bavier died with 17 cats in her house and that the feline infestation ruined part of the home's interior — something those who knew her, and knew the house, have strongly denied.

Bavier's death, from congestive heart failure, came on Dec. 6, 1989, about a week before her 87th birthday.

She died a Siler City resident, but didn't turn her back on her legacy: Bavier's tall headstone at Oakwood Cemetery in town has her name boldly chiseled at the top, and “AUNT BEE” just below — along with an inscription at the bottom which reads, “To live in the hearts of those left behind is not to die.”

These days, in addition to living in Bavier's former home, Nail has found herself as caretaker of Bavier's gravesite, too. She goes out once a month or so with friend and neighbor Nancy Harris.

“Nancy took me out there one time, because I didn't know where it was,” Nail said. “And we're looking at it. And it was just awful. It hadn't been weed-eated and there were tons of pickle jars. And lots of change — you know, people leave pennies and things like that.”

The pair cleaned up the gravesite and have doing it regularly since.

“We decided to take care of it because she didn't have any family,” Nail said. “The people who took care of her have passed away. So I live in her house — I might as well take care of her new house, too.”

- Bill Horner III

CHATHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

One Chatham Strategic Plan receives final approval from school board

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Schools Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the final draft of the One Chatham Strategic Plan at its meeting Monday night.

The plan outlines five key priorities for the district in the next five years: curriculum & innovation; student health & safety; faculty & staff; facilities & infrastructure and communication & information sharing.

CCS Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson told the News + Record the main goal of the plan was to create equity across the district, regardless of geography. He said socioeconomic and cultural barriers within the county shouldn't limit access to quality education and resources.

"As one community, we want to provide the best education for every child," Jackson said in an interview prior to Monday's meeting. "One Chatham is a strategic overlay, it's not everything we are going to do as a district over the next five years."

Board members approved the final plan without raising questions.

CCS Public Information Officer Nancy Wykle told board members the plan will be formally introduced to the public at the district's convocation event on Aug. 24. She said the district is planning a video announcement, social media push and introduction of a new Instagram account to promote the priorities of the plan.

Amanda Moran, CCS

assistant superintendent for academic services & instructional support, said many stakeholders in the community are already aware of the One Chatham plan because of engagement efforts prior to its final approval.

Previous editions of the plan were edited based on feedback from superintendent listening tour sessions and community, staff and parent surveys. The district also hosted strategic plan focus groups, working groups, a One Chatham community engagement event and meetings with district leadership teams.

"Even though this is the final draft, we want to keep in mind that this is a living and breathing document," Moran told CCS board members, who met at George Moses Horton Middle School. "We want this to continue to grow over the next five years."

Moran said the rollout of the final plan will also include a sketched infographic by Jordan-Matthews High School teacher Wendi Pillars to present a one-page visual of the plan for community members.

Other business

The board approved a number of other items at its meeting Monday, including updates to its federal grant recipient schools, contracts for the upcoming school year and a new mural.

Ahead of the start of the school year on Aug. 29, the board heard an enrollment update presented by Moran. She showed the most recent counts of students at each school in the district. She said the

district is currently outpacing enrollment projections for the upcoming school year.

The district originally projected just over 8,600 students for the upcoming school year, but projections show the district has more than 9,000 students. Those differences may impact state funding allotments to the district. CCS is 486 students over projection and has a 239-student difference between state funding allotment and CCS projections. Moran said that may lead to reconfiguring class sizes to ensure the district is meeting state requirements. Those reconfigurations and changes will be made 10 days after the start of the school year when enrollment officially closes.

The board also heard an update on contracts with its substitute teacher supplier, ESS.

"In an ongoing effort to mitigate staffing shortages and extra duties being required of certified staff, the district has evaluated a full-service substitute program, ESS, as a possible solution," said Dr. Kelly Batten, CCS assistant superintendent for human resources.

The district currently contracts about 130 substitutes through ESS with an additional 58 substitutes who are fully trained and prepared if the district needs them throughout the school year. This fills more than 90% of the district's substitute needs, according to Batten. He said ESS does charge a markup rate for its substitutes of about 34%, but the district still saves money with this service because it eliminates the

constant onboarding and training of substitutes, Social Security taxes on wages earned, dealing with unemployment claims and eliminating the cost of absence management substitute software.

The district updated its list of federal grant recipients, including Title I schools. For the 2022-23 school year, CCS has an allotment of \$2.1 million, which is an increase of approximately \$103,000 from the previous school year. Federal grants are meant to supplement services provided by the district.

Data from the district showing the free and reduced lunch needs determined which school were given Title I grant funding, which provides financial assistance to schools with high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure all children meet state academic standards. The list of schools identified changed from the previous school year. CCS offers Title I grants to all schools with more than 40% of students receiving free and reduced lunch.

The identified Title I schools are Bennett School, Bonlee School, Chatham Middle School, J.S. Waters School, Moncure School, Siler City Elementary, Silk Hope School and Virginia Cross Elementary.

CCS approved its contracts with third-party services for janitorial and transportation services. The district will continue to utilize the Budd Group for janitorial services. Chris Blice, CCS assistant superintendent for operations, said this contract saves the district money because the it has struggled to hire its own

custodial staff in recent years. Blice said the contract saves about \$13,000 for the year. The not-to-exceed dollar amount of approximately \$1.1 million contract includes a maximum of 25 custodial positions. Blice said the district was unlikely to spend the full dollar amount or use all available positions.

The district also contracted services with T&L Transportation, which offers transit at a cost of \$0.87 per mile. The district sent requests for proposals, with T&L providing the lowest cost of use for all attendance zones in the district.

George Moses Horton Middle School will begin work on a new mural commemorating Black trailblazers from Chatham County. The board unanimously approved an artist-in-residence program in collaboration with the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham.

The mural will be fully funded by CRC-C and designed by Durham artist David Wilson in collaboration with students of Horton Middle. The 18-foot by 26-foot mural is expected to be completed by spring 2023. It will feature images of important African-Americans from the county including Reverend Rufus V. Horton, Cordie Glover Leake, Edgar Bland, Geraldine DeGraffenreidt, Lillie Rodgers, Charlie Baldwin Sr. and Isaiah Taylor.

CCS board member Melissa Hlavac was absent from the meeting.

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

HOUSE

Continued from page A6

"And I thought, 'Oh, no — just a big 10-gallon thing of tea and some

cookies?'" she remembered. "I thought, I can do better than that."

So she did, eventually starting a craft service business on the Isle of Man — a highly successful venture, she says, that fell apart after she discovered her business partner was making off with the company's cash.

That's when she decided to move back stateside, to Los Angeles, and start a craft service business there — and L.A. is also where she met her late husband, Walter.

He'd been a soldier in Vietnam before embarking on a career as an HVAC engineer for AT&T. Nail helped care for his ailing mother, then did the same for Walter when his health began to decline. At the time of his death, in 2015, the couple lived in one unit of a triplex they'd bought, renting out the other two for income. (He made the trip to Siler City, too — his ashes rest in an urn in a place of honor in Nail's office, along with mementos from his career and their life together.)

She eventually occupied all three units of the place in Los Angeles, tiring of making repairs after tenants trashed the places. And finally, one night, a year ago this week, Nail's exposure to the Bavier house came via a segment on a television quiz program after a commentator's remark about a chance to "own a piece of history."

That history was 503 West Elk, where Aunt Bee retired.

"I just fell in love with it," Nail said. "I found a real estate agent and had him come over and make an offer. And there you go."

'Every room has a story'

She didn't spend her first night in the home until December, and it wasn't long before she began to experience what previous owners have.

"You know, people wanting to come over ... driving by to take a picture of the house," Nail said. "And some people ask if they can see it. Of course they can — I don't mind."

She grew up watching "The Andy Griffith Show" and she knew about Bavier — that she was from New York City [see sidebar story] and that her fame came from her portrayal of the fictional Mayberry housekeeper. After moving in, Nail subsequently learned more, particularly from neighbors and friends like Joe and Jane McEvoy, Bennie and Trudy Walters, and long-time resident Ed Spence.

The endlessly-curious Nail is also actively researching Siler City, the Earle family and the home, building a knowledge bank that comes in handy, particularly when the curious inevitably stop by.

Steve and Wanda Cape passed through a week or two ago with their daughter, Heather, vacationing from their home in Chattanooga. Steve, a pastor, said the trio got curious after visiting Bavier's gravesite and searched online to see whether they could find the Aunt Bee house.

"To our surprise, we were only about a mile and a half away," he said. "We put the address in GPS, and were there within minutes. Kathy was outside doing yard work and graciously invited us in to see her home."

The Capes toured the house, learning from the ebullient Nail about its history, a little about Bavier and about some of the pre-Bavier history of the place as well (as well as the fact that the Earles, the home's original owners, are interred not far from Bavier at Oakwood Cemetery).

"Every room had a story to tell," Cape said. "The lovely house is themed very nostalgically. We were thrilled to visit the home of a famous and beloved actress, but more appealing was the history. Kathy has these great plans to turn it into a beautifully preserved B&B for others to enjoy."

Accompanying Nail on a tour gives you an opportunity to drink in some of what she's discovered. The 11-foot ceilings, the crystal

chandeliers, and the fact that each room has two entrances, meaning you can tour the entire structure without having to turn around, are just part of its allure. She's also carefully placed evidence of Bavier's — and Aunt Bee's — lives here and there inside the house, along with artifacts and mementos from her own world travels. Everywhere you look, there's something to fascinate.

Visitors also hear rebuttal to some of the more unflattering stories about Bavier and her fussy eccentricities.

"Some of the things people say about her are unbelievable," Nail said. "Like that she had 75 cats ... No, she didn't. The neighbors around here all knew her. Some people said she was mean. No, she wasn't. She was very nice to everyone. It's people who came up to bother her that made her cranky. There were times she just didn't like to be bothered."

Nail says there are the "nice" curious who come by, and the "weird." She engages them all, using her gift of discernment to determine who's tour-worthy and who's not. The Capes were. They'd made the trip from Tennessee to Mount Airy, and were polite.

"And Wanda said, 'Can we take a picture of the house?' And I go, 'Sure you can.' And she said, 'Can we come in and look?' And I go, 'Sure you can.' And she asked, 'How much does it cost?' And I said, 'Nothing.'"

Nail's compensation came from the joy her visitors experienced from being in Aunt Bee's home; why not spread it?

She's not fully settled on what's next for the house on West Elk Street. But Nail has been there, and in Siler City, long enough to figure out one thing — something Bavier learned, too.

"I love Siler City," she said. "It's the best place I've ever lived."

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



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We had a great time kicking off our 3rd annual Tiger Day 5K virtual fun run on International Tiger Day, July 29th, with a celebration at The Plant!

Thanks to all who came out to support the cats at Carolina Tiger Rescue!



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OBITUARIES

JOE WESLEY BURKE



July 4, 1936 ~ August 11, 2022

Joe Wesley Burke, 86, of Pittsboro passed away at Cambridge Hills Assisted Living on Thursday, August 11, 2022. He was born on July 4, 1936, in Bonlee, to the late Jasper Foushee Burke and Mary Moore Burke.

Joe graduated from Siler City High School in 1954, immediately joined the U.S. Army and was stationed for two years in Germany. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Studies Education from East Car-

olina University and Master of Arts degrees in Political Science and Public-School Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill.

During his 30-year career with Chatham County schools, Joe taught at Pittsboro Middle and High School, Northwood High School and served as the principal of Northwood and Pittsboro Primary. After retiring, he became the first headmaster of Chatham Academy and later served as interim principal at North Chatham Elementary. He also conducted lectures on World War II and Chatham County history at Carolina Meadows and Fearrington Village.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ann Baldwin Burke; daughters JoAnn Norwood (Bob) and Frankie Glosson (Robert); grandchildren Kristen Oakes (Stephen) and Ryan Thompson (Brooke) and great-grandchildren, Grady Oakes, Charlie Jo Oakes and Sam Thompson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Charlie Bright (Lillian), Calvin Burke (Mary) and W.F. Burke (Jane), and sisters Annie Alley (Lionel), Hilda Ferguson (Gene) and Sarah Scott (Lester).

Joe was a devout Christian who lived his faith by example, a passionate gardener who graciously shared his harvest, a voracious reader and lifelong student of history, an avid Duke Blue Devil fan and a doting father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was known for his storytelling, engaging lessons and loyalty to his students and colleagues. Joe was a faithful member of Pittsboro United Methodist Church where he taught Sunday School, led Bible Studies, and served on several different committees over the years.

A private burial will be held at Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery. A Celebration of Joe's life was held Saturday, August 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Pittsboro United Methodist Church Family Life Center with Rev. Lucas Nelson and Rev. Ben Alexander presiding. The family will receive friends immediately following the celebration of life.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Joe's memory to Pittsboro United Methodist Church Family Life Center, P.O. Box 716, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

The family would like to express their gratitude and appreciation to the staff members of Cambridge Hills and Community Hospice for their loving care and support.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

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

MILLICENT LAING VAN NESS



Millicent Laing Van Ness, 71, died at home with her husband by her side on August 3, 2022, after a long illness with Alzheimer's disease. Born to the late Stuart W. and Millicent E. (Philp) Dawson of New Jersey, she was affectionately known as Millie. She was predeceased by her brother Kenneth R. Dawson.

Millie is survived by her husband of over 47 years, David E. Van Ness, her daughter Laura F. (Dustin) O'Neil, her son Peter D. Van Ness,

and her grandson, Reed A. O'Neil.

Millie graduated from Albright College with a B.S. in Biology. She played field hockey through middle school, high school, and college. While at Albright, Millie was a fierce advocate for women's rights and a member of Phi Beta Mu Sorority. She earned a Medical Technologist certification through ASCP (American Society of Clinical Pathologists) at Morristown (N.J.) Memorial Hospital School of Medical Technology.

Millie proudly spent a long career as a Medical Technologist and a Clinical Research Coordinator. For over 40 years she worked in hospitals, labs and research centers around the world. Her creative talent shined in the many clothes and Halloween costumes she sewed for her kids.

Millie enjoyed talking about her passions — history, cinema, and genealogy. She had a deep love for the many pugs she called pets. She raised her kids to love spending time outdoors, camping and exploring states along the East Coast.

A lifelong Girl Scout, Millie graciously served as a troop leader for 12 years. She was also an active member in the Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches throughout her life. She and Dave are members of the Pittsboro United Methodist Church where she enjoyed singing in the choir and participating in Bible Study. Millie had an energetic spirit, generous nature, and a hunger for knowledge. Her family and friends will greatly miss her loving presence.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at Pittsboro United Methodist Church-Family Life Center, with the Rev. Lucas Nelson presiding. Memorial contributions can be made in Millie's honor to the Alzheimer's Association, 5171 Glenwood Ave. #101, Raleigh, N.C. 27612 or to the Pittsboro U.M.C., 71 West St., Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Van Ness family.

Visit www.donaldsonfunerals.com to leave memorial tributes for the family.

BETTY JEAN BERRY OLDHAM

March 11, 1955 ~ August 7, 2022

Betty Jean Berry Oldham of Siler City, passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2022, at her residence.

She was born in Siler City, to the late Susan and William Berry.

The funeral was held on Thursday, August 11, 2022, at the Church of God with burial following at the Goldston U.M.C. Cemetery.

MOLETA WADDELL FREEMAN

Moleta Waddell Freeman, 102, of Pittsboro, passed away on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care.

The funeral service was held on Friday, August 12, 2022, at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church with burial following at Pleasant Hill U.M.C. Cemetery in Seagrove.

ANNA CATHREN 'CHIGGER' ADCOCK TILLMAN



May 17, 1931 ~ August 13, 2022

Anna Cathren (Chigger) Adcock Tillman, 91, of Siler City, went to her heavenly home on Saturday, August 13, 2022.

She was born on May 17, 1931, in Chatham County, the daughter of Paul C. and Pauline Smith Adcock. Cathren was a lifelong member of West End United Methodist Church where she was involved in the Adult Sunday School Class, sang in the church choir and served on the

Pastor-Parrish Committee. She was retired from Kellwood and enjoyed working in her flower garden and going to antique sales. Chigger was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 66 years, June Tillman; daughter, Kimberly T. Fadley; and brothers, Patrick (Pat), Archie and Bill Adcock.

A family graveside memorial service will be held at Hope Cemetery at 4 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2022, with Rev. Linda Yow officiating.

She is survived by her daughter, June Carol T. Stout and husband Phillip of Pittsboro; son, Marty Craig Tillman and wife, Angela of Siler City; son-in-law, Lewis Fadley of Siler City; sisters, Clara A. Langley, Carol A. Hammer and husband Garrett, Ann A. White and husband Bob, Brenda A. Fields and husband Gary, all of Siler City; and a sister-in-law, Louise B. Adcock; grandchildren, Morgan and Jennah Fadley, Chris and Patrick Stout, Lauren (Allie) and Jason Tillman; and great-grandchildren, Renay, William, Virginia, and Catherine.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to West End United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1017, Siler City, N.C. 27344, or to the SECU Jim and Betsy Brian Hospice Home of UNC Healthcare, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Tillman family.

Online condolences may be made at smithbucknerfh.com.

LILLA CARLEEN JOHNSON JACOBS

April 20, 1936 ~ August 13, 2022

Lilla Carleen Johnson Jacobs, 86, of Pittsboro, died Saturday, August 13, 2022.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, August 20, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Bynum United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Evan Smith presiding.

Carleen was born in Chatham County on April 20, 1936, to the late Allie Johnson and Effie McDuffie Johnson. She was also preceded in death by her son, Ronnie Wayne Jacobs, and several brothers and sisters.

Surviving relatives include two daughters, Elaine Petty and husband Allen Crittenden of Moravian Falls, Tammie Jacobs Spivey of Goldston, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Carleen's memory to CORA Food Pantry, P.O. Box 1326, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 204 West Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

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

JOSEPH EDWARD ROBINSON

September 13, 1952 ~ August 12, 2022

Joseph Edward Robinson, 69, born September 13, 1952 to Ruth and Edward Robinson, went to his eternal home August 12, 2022 at UNC Hospitals.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Linda Robinson of the home; daughters, Misty Batten (Jeff), Penny Coker (Randall); 13 grandchildren, one great-grandchild; brothers, Wille Lee Robinson and Roy Dean Robinson.

Joe was a proud truck driver of 50 years. He was preceded in death by his son Jason Robinson.

JEAN HUSSEY RUSH

December 4, 1939 ~ August 12, 2022

Jean Hussey Rush, 82, of New Hill passed away on Friday, August 12, 2022, at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice of UNC in Pittsboro.

No services will be held at this time.

Jean was daughter of Eli Herman Hussey and Lessie Alice Lamberth Hussey. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Richard Earl Rush, and her siblings.

Survivors include her son, Ricky Rush of New Hill.

Online condolences can be made to www.smithfuneral-homeoncure.com.

LANNIE HUGH GODWIN

November 25, 1949 ~ August 13, 2022

Lannie Hugh Godwin, 72, of Clayton, passed away Saturday, August 13, 2022, at UNC Rex Hospital in Raleigh.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2022, at Calvary Missionary Methodist Church with Rev. Curtis Norris officiating. Prior to the service, the family will receive friends at 12:30 p.m.

He was born in Lee County to the late Hugh Dougald Godwin and Dorothy Lee Worley Godwin. Lannie worked in the meat department for Winn Dixie.

He is survived by his brother, Roger Dale Godwin of Sanford.

Online condolences are available at www.bridgescameron-funeralhome.com.

MATTIE BELLE STEWART

October 20, 1929 ~ August 7, 2022

Mattie Belle Patterson Stewart, 92, of Broadway, passed away at her home on Sunday, August 7, 2022.

The funeral service was conducted at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at Holly Springs Baptist Church with the Rev. Jerry Parsons officiating. Burial will follow in the Holly Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

She was born in Harnett County, the daughter of Leatie Patterson. She was preceded in death by her mother, a son, Johnny Stewart and her sister Betty McLain. She was a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church. She retired from Moen Corporation.

She is survived by two daughters, Delores Patterson of Sanford, Cynthia "Cindy" McDougald of Sanford; son, Douglass Stewart Sr. of Sanford; six grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

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

LINDA LOUISE SWART

November 7, 1952 ~ August 8, 2022

Linda Louise Swart, 69, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, August 8, 2022, at The Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro.

JUDIE MOORE RICE

November 19, 1942 ~ August 7, 2022

Judie M. Rice, 79 of Durham, passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2022, at Transitions Life Care in Raleigh.

JUDITH W. GODFREY

December 29, 1944 - August 7, 2022

Judith W. Godfrey, of Alabama, passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2022, at her son's home.

A funeral service was held on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 11 a.m. at the Chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Dr. Gail Dickens officiating. Burial followed at New Life Church Cemetery.

She was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, to the late Carlie Joseph Wilson and Beulah Mae Limbaugh. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Johnny M. Godfrey; sons, Carlie Dale Godfrey, Mark Anthony Godfrey; a daughter, Angelia Gail Godfrey; and one granddaughter. She worked as an accountant until her retirement.

She is survived by sons, Johnny Scott Godfrey of Albe-marle, Randall Scott Godfrey of Sanford, Billy Justin Godfrey of Anniston, Alabama; a daughter, Amber Gail Godfrey Buive of Albe-marle; nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

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

CARRIE LYNN CRAIG SMITH

Carrie Lynn Craig Smith, 98, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at Westfield Rehabilitation and Health Center.

Smith was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard Craig and Carrie Pendergraf Craig; her husband, Adrian Leonard Smith Sr.; a daughter, Carolyn Sue West; two brothers and two sisters. She worked at Cornell Dubilier and was a member of Jonesboro Presbyterian Church for 70 years.

She is survived by two sons, Adrian Leonard Smith Jr. and Robert Lynn Smith of Sanford; sister, Shirley Mutter of Durham and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

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

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

ELOISE THOMAS ROSSER

February 11, 1935 ~ August 12, 2022

Eloise Thomas Rosser, 87, of Broadway, passed away Thursday, August 12, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Her funeral service was held on Sunday, August 14, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Barbecue Presbyterian Church with Rev. Bucky Holmes officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born to the late Neil Allen Thomas and Luzen Howard Thomas. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis Carr Rosser Jr.; sister, Mary Beatrice Brownlee and brother, Neil Allen Thomas Jr. She was a member of Barbecue Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by a daughter, Jennifer Rosser Goodwin of Broadway; sisters, Rebecca Rosser of Broadway and Roetta Taylor of Lillington; one granddaughter and two great-grandchildren.

Online condolences are available at www.bridgescameron-funeralhome.com.

GEORGE WAYNE HORTON

September 13, 1937 ~ August 8, 2022

George Wayne Horton, 84, passed away Monday, August 8, 2022, at Chatham Hospital in Siler City.

The funeral service was held 1 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at Donaldson Funeral Home and Crematory with Rev. Bob Wachs officiating. Wayne was laid to rest at the Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery in Cary.

Wayne, the son of the late George Watts and Grace Olivia Horton, was employed with the Tip Top Bread Company, Sunbeam Bread Company and Fisher-Rex Sandwich Company for nearly 45 years before retiring. He was preceded in death by his wife, LaVerne Ransdell.

Survivors include his son, Gregory Wayne Horton of Siler City; his daughters, Deborah Carolyn Horton and Michelle Horton Rimmer, both of Siler City; two granddaughters; and his sister, Frances Horton Williams of Raleigh.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A9

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

ANN MCLEOD FIELDS-MADDOX

Ann McLeod Fields-Maddox passed away Sunday, August 14, 2022.

A service was held at Jonesboro Presbyterian Church in Sanford, on Wednesday, August 17. A brief graveside service followed at Buffalo Church Cemetery.

She was born the daughter

William Garner McLeod and Nannie Belle Brown McLeod. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Judith Kaye McLeod and her husband, Roy Bright Maddox. Ann spent her career in sales and management with Stanley Home Products.

Survivors include; daughters, Vicki Baker Hall, Jayne Baker Sturdivant, Nan Baker Moretz, and Judy Baker Bullard; six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com)

[home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

BILL G. BOND

Bill G. Bond, 96, of Pittsboro, passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2022.

WILLIE DELORIS (MCKINNEY) DAVIS

July 12, 1944 ~ August 3, 2022

Willie Deloris (McKinney) Davis, 78, passed away at home on Wednesday, August 3, 2022.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022,

at Knotts Funeral Home in Chapel Hill.

GEORGE FULTON LEE, III
August 7, 1980 ~ August 12, 2022

George Fulton Lee III, 42, of Sanford, passed away Friday, August 12, 2022, at his home.

ELBERT COLLINS MCDUGALD

May 19, 1938 ~ July 30, 2022
Elbert Collins McDougald, 84, of Sanford passed away on Saturday, July 30, 2022, at

Central Harnett Hospital in Lillington.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, August 13, 2022, at Johnsonville Community Cemetery.

ANNETTE SELENA ALSTON

Annette Selena Alston, 57, of Durham, passed away on Friday, August 5, 2022.

She leaves among her survivors, her sisters, Elna A. Smith of Topsail Beach, and Cynthia A. Suggs of Durham.

As Chatham Transit prepares for growth, transportation equity concerns linger

BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Susanne Dalton visits the Western Chatham Senior Center five days a week.

The 76-year-old says she enjoys the crafts, activities and food the center provides her. But like many of her friends at the center, Dalton isn't able to drive herself.

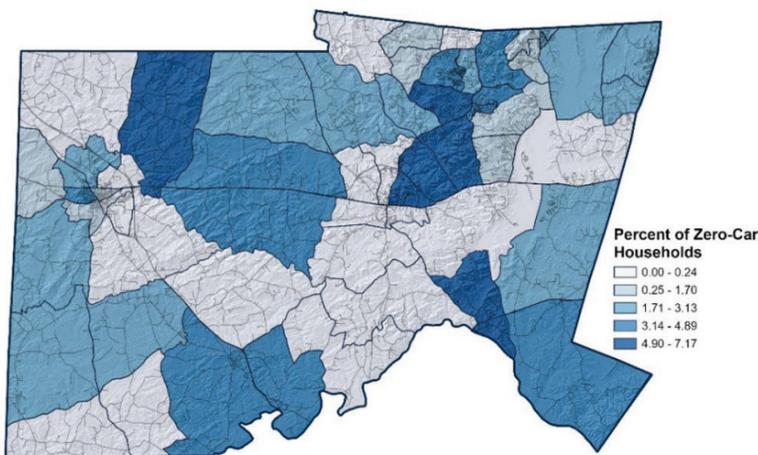
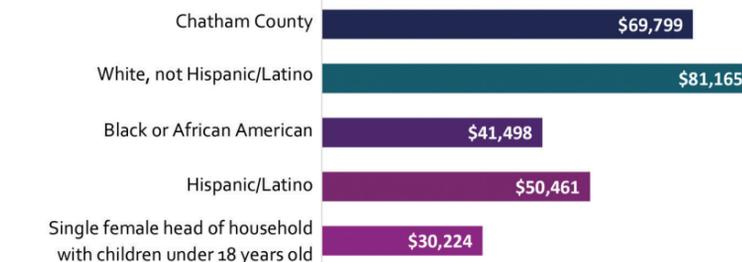
Instead, she relies on Chatham Transit. The on-demand shuttle service comes to her front door, picks her up and takes her home from the senior center — something she's enjoyed since she joined the center more than 20 years ago in 2001.

"It's like a family, they really care for you," Dalton said. "The drivers are good, always on time and helpful."

Dalton and her senior center friends are members of the Chatham County Council on Aging. In 2021, COA members made up 17% of Chatham Transit ridership and in 2019 they made up 23%. That makes COA one of the largest blocs of Chatham Transit's operation, behind only general public rides, which account for 35% of trips.

That percentage may soon increase since the Council on Aging recently reopened its senior center in Pittsboro following a series of renovations. On Aug. 1, COA also announced it is operating both centers five days a week for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Barbara Woody, who oversees transportation for the COA as its integrated services manager, said there are about 20 residents at each center utilizing Chatham Transit each day. The transition back to a five day schedule has been



SOURCES: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (5-YR) (2014-2019), EOC, NCGS, NCDOT

Contributed graphic

Chatham County has a relatively high number of zero-car households.

difficult for her.

"We spent from April until August coordinating between the clients and Chatham Transit," Woody said. "Getting the clients to confirm what days they want to come has been the hardest part. They may tell you a certain schedule the first week of April, but last week they changed their minds."

Despite the scheduling difficulties, Woody said they could not have made the operational increases without the flexibility of Chatham Transit.

"They're so reliable," Woody said. "They offer two routes out of the Western center and three routes out of the Eastern center. We're at capacity for most of the routes at this time."

Each route is made up

of about six to eight clients, according to Woody. She then coordinates with Chatham Transit to ensure availability of shuttles and drivers. If the transportation service is unavailable, then clients are placed on a wait list and must be driven to the center by friends or family — Woody said the current waitlist is just two clients.

Chatham Transit also said it was prepared for the service shift. Anna Testerman, its executive director, said she hired additional drivers in anticipation of the increased need.

"COA opening both centers is not placing a burden on our organization," Testerman said. "It was something we were prepared for."

She said the organization is fully staffed and still has applications coming in for driving positions. This success comes despite bus drivers shortages in Chatham County Schools and nearby Chapel Hill Transit.

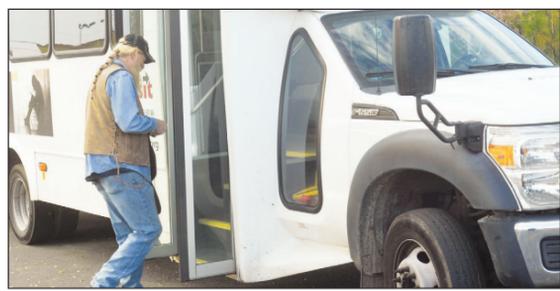
Preparing for growth

At COA and beyond, Chatham Transit is going to need to continue to grow along with the county. Development, job opportunities and population booms have become seemingly inevitable in Chatham County, but not all of that population is going to have access to personal vehicles.

Testerman said Chatham Transit is preparing for the growth. She attends regular meetings with the developers of Chatham Park and discusses potential collaboration opportunities.

"It all kind of boils back down to figuring that need out," Testerman said. "What is going to be the need when this these clients come in."

For example, transportation planning for employment looks differ-



CN+R file photo

Robert Gullie boards a Chatham Transit bus at Lowe's Home Improvement in Pittsboro. Gullie, a construction worker, uses the service to get to work daily.

ent than planning for recreation, Testerman said. Figuring out how to serve new VinFast employees, for example, differs from carrying people from one place to another inside Chatham Park.

The transit director added she's exploring including a fixed bus route inside Chatham Park and including weekend service within Pittsboro.

"We're planning for the eventuality," Testerman said. "One of the most frustrating things is looking at these developments, and there's nowhere for my buses to go. So, we're trying to ensure these developers keep that in mind going forward."

The need for transportation equity

According to the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment, 94.8% of residents say they usually take a car or truck to get to work, school or shop for groceries. Meanwhile, 5.7% said they get rides from family or friends and 3.5% said they walk.

This may become an inflection point of future growth, with many Chatham residents already reporting above-average commute times. The average travel time to work for residents is 29.8 minutes with 10.4% of commuters taking 60 minutes to travel to work.

According to Scientific American, people with longer commute times frequently have higher workplace and social stress. Long commutes can also lead to increased chances of pain, dizziness, exhaustion and severe sleep deprivation. Yet, the data shows

Chatham County is still heavily car-dependent, which is disproportionately harming low income and minority communities.

"Poor transportation decisions can harm health and are not always fair across all communities," the American Public Health Association reports. "Communities near a highway or major roadway are often low-income and communities of color."

Black and Hispanic adults were significantly more likely to report using public transportation than White, non-Hispanic adults. These populations, however, also reported the highest difficulty getting to transit access points — one in four Hispanic adults reported not having adequate access to sidewalks as a barrier to transportation.

While these demographic groups make up the largest portion of riders, they also report significant issues in getting adequate service. Twenty-two percent of Hispanic adults reported lack of knowledge about using Chatham's public transportation was a barrier in the past year.

These same populations — Black and Hispanic adults — are also shown to have proportionally lower incomes to the county average. The average income in Chatham County is \$69,799. For Hispanic adults, however, it's \$50,461 — and \$41,498 for Black adults. This means the median household income for white residents is 1.6 to 2.7 times higher than other demographic groups in the county.

There are also clear geographic divides when it comes to transportation. According to the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, the Moncure area reported the highest concentrations of zero car households at nearly 7%. Overall, the data shows zero car households align directly with income of each tract in the county.

For more information about the state of transportation in Chatham County, read the 2021 Community Health Assessment at www.chathamcountync.gov/health-reports. And to learn more about Chatham Transit such as viewing available services and making a future ridership reservation visit www.chathamtransit.org.

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

Saint Julia Festival 2022

Festival de Santa Julia 2022

Date: August 27 Time: 11am to 6pm
Fecha: 27 de Agosto Hora: 11am a 6pm

210 Harold Hart Rd, Siler City.

Join us!

Food/Comida Games/Juegos Music/Musica

Folkloric Dance "Mexican Tradition" / Ballet Folclórico

Talent Show / Show de Talentos

Car Show / Show de Carros

Children playing

Girl riding a horse

Food

LIONS CLUB TRUCKLOAD CHICKEN SALE!

TRUCKLOAD SALE!

FRESH BONELESS BREAST
10 LB. CASES
\$25 Each
(\$2.50/LB)

FRESH TENDERS
10 LB. CASES
\$30 Each
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FRESH LEG QUARTERS
40 LB. CASES
\$30 Each
(\$.75/LB)

FRESH BONELESS THIGHS
10 LB. CASES
\$25 Each
(\$2.50/LB)

ONE DAY SALE

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • VERY LIMITED SUPPLY
Cash or Credit/Debit Cards • No Limit On Any Items • All Sales Final

THURSDAY, August 18, 2022
5:30 PM UNTIL 8:00 PM
Truck Parked at Wilson Brothers
20412 NC HWY 902-Bear Creek, NC

SALE SPONSORED BY: SOUTH CHATHAM LIONS CLUB. PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THE LIONS CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS. AVAILABLE ITEMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO AVAILABILITY OF PRODUCTS



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ARE YOU RETIRED?

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SENIOR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM!

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- Engage and participate in your local community
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PLACE YOUR AD HERE FOR \$5 PER WEEK. CALL 919-663-3232

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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

\$1000 per month. Move-In ready! Call 919-742-1250. Au11,18,25,3tc

RENTAL - New 2022 16x76 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Deluxe residential package singlewide manufactured home. Features painted drywall throughout, smooth finish ceilings, elegant walk-in shower. Located in Hampton Village in Siler City. \$1200 per month. Call 919-742-1250. Au11,18,25,3tc

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

in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Additional Employment Requirements: Must obtain and/or maintain Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications at all times with no lapse during the course of employment. - Must complete training in the areas of traffic, investigations, and community-oriented law enforcement within 18 months of hire. Annual Hiring Salary, \$51,905 - \$66,684 depending on qualifications. -- Please refer to our website for full job descriptions. **To Apply:** This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required and may be found on our website at www.silercity.org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. Au18,1tc

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 1415 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. 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

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.

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

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, Executor 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

OFFICE SPACE RENT

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

HOMES FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT - Bennett area; 2 bedrooms, 1 bath; appliance included, one year lease. \$1,000 per mo, \$1,000 Security deposit. Call 919-427-2122, leave message. Au11-Oct14,10t/c

MOBILE HOME SALES

FOR SALE - New 3 Bedroom 2 Bath singlewide manufactured homes located in Hampton Village in Siler City. Starting at \$94,500. LIMITED TIME ONLY receive a \$4000 discount through the month of August. Call 919-742-1250. Au11,18,25,3tc

MOBILE HOME RENTALS

RENTAL - Brand new 3 Bedroom 2 Bath singlewide manufactured home located in Hampton Village (Siler City).

YARD SALES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 - Yard Sale - 7 a.m. to 12 noon, Ladies and Young Teens, at the gray house across from Entrance Door to the Ernest Ramsey Gym, Au18,1tp

FOR SALE

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

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

SERVICES

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

HELP WANTED

CHATHAM CARES COMMUNITY PHARMACY is hiring a part-time Executive Director/Pharmacy Manager. Must be a licensed pharmacist and located in the Piedmont region of the state. Bilingual English/Spanish skills a plus. For more info, or to apply: Chatham-Cares.com/executive-director. Au18-06,8tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY - CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE - LICENSE PLATE AGENCY: Performs intermediate administrative work receiving, processing, recording, accounting for the Siler City License Plate Agency and North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, preparing and maintaining records and files, entering data, and assisting the public. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications, High School diploma or High School equivalency, Extensive customer service experience involving money handling/ collections with heavy public contact. Moderate computer skills including MS Word, Excel, and Outlook, Possession of a valid NC driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications, Experience working in a License Plate Agency, Possession of NC Notary Public Certification upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish - Additional Employment Requirements: Must obtain NC Notary Public Certification within six months of hire. All required certifications and licenses must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. Anticipated Hiring Salary, \$31,984 annually.

TOWN OF SILER CITY - Police Sergeant - Performs difficult protective service work; participates with, and supervises, a squad of police officers on an assigned shift or performing a specialized activity in the Police Department; supervises the community-oriented policing program; maintains files and records; prepares reports; serves all members of the public with dignity and respect. -- Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Graduation from a community college with an associate degree in criminal justice or related field and considerable experience in law enforcement, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. - Current certification through a Training and Standards program (transfers from other agencies or out-of-state must meet Training and Standards' criteria for a Police Department). - Possession of Intermediate Law Enforcement certification or 640 hours of law enforcement training, which must include 40 hours of first line supervision training, upon hire (BLET hours do not count towards these 640 hours). - Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license or ability to obtain. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Extensive training in the areas of traffic, investigations, and community-oriented law enforcement training upon hire. -- Possession of Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications upon hire. - Bilingual

LEGALS

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 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**, Buck, Wall, Starnes and Davis, P.A., Attorneys-at-Law 11 North Market Street Asheville, NC 28801 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tx

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
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
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. THALMAN**, 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,Au25,4tx

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quired and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, any Land Transfer Tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)(1). The real property described above is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be sold subject to all superior liens, unpaid taxes, and special assessments. Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the holder of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Substitute Trustee or the holder of the Note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. The sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. If the Trustee or Substitute Trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey title include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the sale and reinstatement of the loan without knowledge of the Substitute Trustee(s). If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the Substitute Trustee(s), in its/their sole discretion, if it/they believe(s) the challenge to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice where the Real Property is Residential with less than 15 Rental Units:

An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the Clerk of Superior Court of the County in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the Notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in the Notice of Sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the Notice of Termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of such termination. This is a communication from a debt collector. The purpose of this Communication is to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose, except as stated below in the instance of bankruptcy protection. If you are under the protection of the bankruptcy court or have been discharged as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding, this notice is given to you pursuant to statutory requirement and for informational purposes and is not intended as an attempt to collect a debt or as an act to collect, assess, or recover all or any portion of the debt from you personally. FN# 3130.01222 59142 Au18,Au25,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SANDOR ALAN BALOGH** [22-E-449] late

of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporation indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022. Melissa Young Allen, Executrix 210 Hillsborough Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO: 22-E-448 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY JOHN RESCH

A.K.A. MARY L. RESCH **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** THE UNDERSIGNED having qualified as co-Executors of the Estate of **MARY JOHN RESCH, a.k.a. Mary L. Resch**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said Decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before November 21, 2022, said date being at least three months from the date of the first publication or posting of this Notice as indicated below, or the same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 28A-14-1. This the 18th day of August,

2022. Mary Resch Lloyd Margaret Resch Morgan ESTATE OF MARY JOHN RESCH a.k.a. MARY L. RESCH 3853 Philip Ludwell Williamsburg, NC 23188 Taylor Avioli Narron Wenzel, PA 5400 Glenwood Ave., Suite 201 Raleigh, NC 27612 Au18,Au25,S1,S9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN IV** a/k/a HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN, JR., 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 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 18th day of August, 2022. HUGH F. BRESLIN V, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN IV Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **MARVENE L. HILKEY**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 10th day of August, 2022, the undersigned

does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 20th 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 18th day of August, 2022. James Harold Hilkley, Personal Representative c/o Larry H. Rocamora, Attorney for the Estate, McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson & Hinkle, PLLC 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

IVAN GALLEGOS DBA MAXX USED CARS LLC 506 WEST STREET PITTSBORO, NC 27312 **NOTICE OF SALE** The petitioner will be selling a 2018 SUBARU FORESTER, Under Lien, on Wednesday, 08/31/2022 at 11:00 a.m. at 506 West Street Pittsboro, NC 27312 Au18,Au25,2tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 450 The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MARY STROWD WARD RIGGSBEE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 18th day of August, 2022.

Lunday A. Riggsbee, Executor of the Estate of Mary Strowd Ward Riggsbee 3868 Mt. Gilead Church Road Pittsboro, NC 27312 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 460 All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH MCCOY MASON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th 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 15th day of August, 2022. Pattie Mason Sturdivant, Executrix 3867 Crawford Dairy Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27516 Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 459 All persons having claims against **DONALD LEE BRAY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th 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 15th day of August, 2022. Sara Neal Bray, Administrator 295 Henry Bray Dr Siler City, NC 27344 Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board approves budget amendment, considers downtown community space

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN News + Record Staff

Siler City commissioners heard a feasibility study report on a downtown community space and approved an amendment to the town's budget at the board's regular meeting Monday.

Cecil Wilson, chairperson of the Downtown Advisory Committee, presented a summary of a feasibility study. The study looked at identifying a multi-use community space in the downtown area on the corner of S. Chatham Avenue and E. Beaver Street, in a vacant lot across from the former location of The Oasis.

The spot could be a good starting point for expanding the possibilities of activities in downtown, Wilson said.

"I'm sure you all have heard for years that 'There's nothing to do in Siler City, there's nothing to do downtown,'" Wilson said to the board. "So this is something to head us in that direction."

Besides the N.C. Arts Incubator's stage, Siler City has no location downtown capable of hosting a medium-sized event.

The feasibility study involved a market survey with community members on the potential use of the lot, which

'I'm sure you all have heard for years that 'There's nothing to do in Siler City, there's nothing to do downtown.' So this is something to head us in that direction.'

CECIL WILSON, chairperson of the Downtown Advisory Committee

found a "clear desire" for more family activities and community-based events in the downtown area. Survey respondents also highlighted parking challenges in the growth of downtown. Based on the survey, the committee recommended a short-term pilot, focusing on using a "lighter, quicker, cheaper" method in placemaking.

Placemaking is the process of strengthening connections between the public and the places they inhabit and share, Wilson said. Funding sources for the project could include crowdsourcing campaigns and community grant programs.

Board members expressed interest in and support for the use of the lot.

"It makes complete sense and utilizes an underused property," said Mayor Pro Tempore Bill Haiges.

As part of the consent agenda, the board also approved an amendment to the annual budget that was discussed at the Aug. 1 regular meeting. Town Manager Hank Raper

expressed confidence in the amendment, which decreases the general budget fund by \$829,223 and increases the utilities fund by \$740,536.

According to a memo from board members to Finance Director Tina Stroupe, some of the identified areas requiring budget adjustments included:

- A decrease in ABC revenue from the ABC budget
- Salaries and benefits transfers between funds because of staffing realignment
- Removal of all capital outlay, pending a complete asset inventory and an update to the Capital Improvement Plan
- An increase in a Mountaire Farms incentive payment due to property revaluation
- An increase to purchase a sludge press at the wastewater plant
- An increase for a creek restoration cleaning at the water plant

The board ended the meeting with an hour in closed session, taking no action.

Other business

- During the town manag-

er's report, the board gave consensus to move forward with pursuing engineering proposals for water plant upgrades and proposals for a new land use plan and Parks and Recreation Department's master plan.

Raper also provided a status update to the town hall project, saying he anticipates another month for the construction punch list to be completed. When Commissioner Lewis Fadely pressed further on an opening date, Raper stated he believed it could be in October.

Siler City also received a \$5 million grant for a blood run pump station relocation project from FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program. The town is one of 10 North Carolina awardees for the BRIC competition, according to an Aug. 12 announcement from the N.C. Governor's Office. A description of the project on FEMA's website states that the project "includes the demolition and reconstruction of the pump station outside the 100-year flood plain (of Blood Run Stream) at a higher elevation to mitigate future flood damage."

"This is a big win for us in Siler City," Raper said during the meeting. "We don't get

\$5 million grants every day. And this will go a long way to addressing our INI [infiltration and inflow] issues that we have in the town, which is one of the biggest challenges that we're facing with various utility systems."

The board also considered an amendment to the town's current window signage ordinance, which stipulates that signs should not cover more than 75% of the surface area of the transparent portion of the window or door to which they are attached. As part of the Siler City 2021-2026 Economic Development Strategic Plan, staff from the Main Street and Rural Planning Center implemented a visual assessment of the downtown area. The amendment to the ordinance would limit signs to a 25% maximum window coverage and discourage window tinting, but board members decided to conduct further research on window tinting and bring about a recommendation at a later date.

The board will meet on Sept. 6 in a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the Wren Memorial Library in Siler City.

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

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SCHOOL

Continued from page A1

have a set of strategies that will assist in helping meet the overall goals.

A key piece of the plan is ensuring equitable opportunities across the district, regardless of geography. There are extreme socioeconomic divides between the eastern and western portions of the county, but Jackson wanted to ensure those divides don't also exist in educational outcomes.

"As one community, we want to provide the best education for every child," Jackson said. "One Chatham is a strategic overlay, it's not everything we are going to do as a district over the next five years."

Workforce challenges and vacancies

Another challenge for the upcoming school year — also not unique to CCS — is filling open faculty and staff positions. Jackson said the district has a number of vacancies in the central office as well as for teachers and support staff.

"We need to make sure we have enough, and the right adults to put in front of our children," he said. "It's going to continue to be a challenge for us."

Jackson said the district currently has 59 teacher vacancies, according to the most recent CCS data. The number

may sound high, but it's down from the peak when the district had nearly 200 teacher openings. [See related story, this edition.]

The district also has about 50 support staff vacancies including instructional assistants, counselors, etc. The district does not have data on janitorial or bus driver vacancies because it contracts those services through third-party private entities.

"Our plan to fill the gap is the 4Rs," Jackson said. The 4Rs are recruitment, retention, recognition and reward. The program includes bonuses of \$3,750 for retaining employment and referral bonuses of \$300 for employees who recruit new people to join the district.

It also includes recruitment signing bonuses for permanent employees. This provides a \$3,500 signing bonus for licensed staff and a \$1,500 signing bonus for classified staff. As of August 15, there are 29 new employees providing names of referrals. A total of \$50,000 was allotted to schools to reward employees for the 2021-2022 school year.

"We have a pretty intentional plan around workforce," Jackson said. "But I will also say this about workforce: I'm starting my 34th year as an educator; there has not been one year that I've started and had everybody I need or everything has been perfect."

He said 4Rs approach has

been successful because it is sustainable over time by valuing both long-term and new employees. It has also led to leaders in comparable districts using the CCS recruitment strategy as a model to fill workforce gaps.

The superintendent said CCS's workforce issue is heightened this year because of fallout from COVID-19, but that doesn't mean it's a new challenge. He said the district has always had to be intentional about workforce.

Addressing learning loss and 'leaps'

One of the other repercussions in the wake of COVID-19 has been learning loss. According to the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard, students missed the equivalent of seven to 10 weeks of math learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Making up that gap hasn't been easy.

CCS has tried to solve this issue by allocating portions of its Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding toward the problem. Jackson said looking at the districtwide data on learning loss, CCS has also learned ways it could improve its education as a result of online learning.

"We have also been examining learning leaps," Jackson said. "Not all kids lost as a result of the pandemic."

He cited increased enroll-

ment and improvement of the CCS Virtual Academy — a permanent online option for students — as a way the district has expanded in the wake of the pandemic. Jackson said too often the learning outcomes from the pandemic are characterized as losses, but he believes that isn't accurate.

"We have had really intensive summer programming and we've put in place strong restorative practices for those students who are having social and emotional challenges," Jackson said.

One of the other hidden benefits in education to come out of the pandemic is the common usage of electronic devices. Jackson said the widespread nature of personal computers for every student has allowed the district to cater to individual needs. He said not every student's experience of the pandemic has been the same.

"It's about every stakeholder getting the support they need at the point of their needs," he said. "Overall, we want to ensure everyone has the resources they need during this time."

Jackson acknowledged that providing those needs for parents, teachers, students and staff is a privilege that may be temporary because the ESSER funding expires at the end of 2024.

Equity and diversity

Last school year, Chatham County Schools made headlines when a group of students

at J.S. Waters School in Goldston held a mock slave auction. The incident drew an outcry from the community and calls for anti-racism and diversity training in schools.

Jackson said the incident couldn't be ignored and caused a needed reckoning in the district about how to respond to racism.

"We made it very clear that we were going to address this matter head-on and I believe we have," he said.

Following the incident, the district implemented trainings and roundtable discussions. Jackson said those trainings did prove to reduce harassment and bullying complaints by the end of last school year. This summer, CCS also held other trainings for administrators about how to handle incidents of racism, homophobia and xenophobia.

The CCS Board of Education also approved a new code of conduct, now called the code of civility, for the new school year. The code now includes specific language around racism and racist incidents.

"We need to teach students how to support and value one another," Jackson said. "It shouldn't be under the threat of punishment, but rather the enticement of building a better community."

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

TEACHERS

Continued from page A1

bonuses for new permanent employees — a \$3,500 bonus for licensed staff and a \$1,500 bonus for classified staff.

In addition, the plan includes an employee referral incentive program. Current employees who recruit candidates to the district are eligible for bonuses once the recruited employees are hired: \$1,000 for teacher referrals, \$300 for instructional assistant referrals and \$250 for other staff level positions. The pool for the referral program is capped at \$75,000.

Jackson said those programs have been helpful for the district, with 29 employees hired so far through referrals.

The superintendent also applauded the district's efforts given its ability to recruit amid wealthier surrounding districts. Jaime Detzi, executive director of the Chatham Education Foundation, agreed.

She pointed to neighboring districts with signing bonuses of up to \$10,000 for in-need positions in districts like Guilford and Alamance-Burlington or recruitment bonuses of \$4,000 to \$5,500 in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

While these local incentives can be helpful, none of them get at the root cause of the problem of teacher vacancies, which begins at a state level.

Performance pay proposal

A recent proposal from the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC) aims to fill teacher vacancies by restructuring the way teachers are paid in North Carolina.

Rather than paying teachers based on their career longevity, the proposal aims to pay teachers based on performance evaluations from student feedback, principals and other administrators. It would also compensate teachers for taking on additional duties such as mentoring, leadership or administrative roles.

State Superintendent Catherine Truitt and State Board of Education chairman Eric Davis have been vocal advocates of the plan, despite strong pushback

from statewide teachers' associations.

"Teacher vacancies are soaring in schools across our state while enrollment in our colleges of education has fallen over the last few years," Davis said in a joint statement with Truitt last Thursday. "In short, our state is in a teaching crisis that's having a significant negative impact on today's students and if not corrected will damage our state for generations to come."

Currently, the state base salary for teachers is \$37,000 with annual raises for the first 15 years. The compensation is then supplemented through district bonuses. In Chatham County Schools, teachers are supplemented based on their experience and licensure, with starting salaries beginning at around \$41,500.

Davis argues the current model is preventing effective teachers from staying in the classroom because they aren't being adequately paid. He said changing the model is essential to providing students with a sound basic education.

Under the new model, there would be seven levels ranging from \$30,000 for aspiring teachers who haven't yet received a bachelor's degree up to the highest level, where the proposed minimum salary is \$73,000. The average starting base salary for new teachers would be \$45,000.

Increasing teacher salaries beyond the new base of \$45,000 require an "expert teaching" license that comes with both higher pay and higher responsibilities. Expert teachers would get a proposed salary of \$56,000, with a \$5,000 raise whenever they successfully renew their license every five years.

Teacher bonuses would also be determined based on whether the teacher is considered "effective", rather than their experience in the profession.

PEPSC plans to present a final model in September to the state board for its approval later this year. It would be up to state lawmakers whether to fund the plan.

Pushback to the proposal

While the proposal isn't finalized, it has received strong negative feedback from the North Carolina Association

of Educators and other teacher groups who say the process has lacked transparency.

Critics say guidelines about determining effectiveness have been unclear. Truitt has said the system is not "merit-pay" because it doesn't utilize student test scores to determine the level of pay. Instead, pay would be determined through evaluations with administrators.

Truitt also said the model does not revoke licensure for existing teachers. Teachers would have two five-year licensure renewal cycles to show they've been effective for three years.

Local education advocates expressed concerns about the plan. Detzi said while it is clear teachers need to be better paid to keep them in the profession longer, she believes some of the mechanisms in this proposal will lead to unfair results.

"For teachers licensure, we believe that research shows that having a well-qualified teacher directly correlates to student success," Detzi said. "We do not believe the answer to the teacher shortage lies in decreasing the qualifications for teachers, but in increasing the support of teacher development, teacher morale and the public understanding on the importance of the teaching profession."

Detzi said she believes the teacher shortage wasn't caused by an individual policy decision, but rather by years of underfunding of public education at the state

level. She said the reason we're witnessing the shortage now is not solely because of COVID-19, but rather because of decades of poor policy and lack of support for teachers.

"We do not have a teacher shortage, there are plenty of well-trained teachers still out there," she said. "But they are unwilling to work in an environment with low pay, low appreciation, constant parent complaints, struggling with curriculum development that has become politicized and working in an environment with kids struggling with mental health and not enough school and community resources to support their basic needs."

The director said Chatham Education Foundation continues to advocate for increasing teacher pay and supporting the advancement of teachers through improved professional development. She said she believes one major way to do that would be by fully funding the Leandro Plan, a \$5.8 billion investment for K-12 funding over the next eight years.

Edward Walgate, the president of the Chatham County Association of Educators and a science teacher at Northwood High School, echoed Detzi's concerns about the performance pay proposal.

"We are seeing a record number of teachers leaving the profession," he said. "Regardless of what the state says, this

is merit pay, plain and simple. Teachers will end up competing for a small sliver of higher-paid positions. It's a radical change to how teachers have always been paid."

Walgate said he believes the proposal will lead to competition between teachers in one of the few environments of our society where competition isn't supposed to happen. Schools, he said, are supposed to have a collaborative process, for all stakeholders.

"It looks great on paper to say you're going to pay teachers \$70,000 for an expert teacher," Walgate said. "But there's only going to be a small handful of those."

The other consequence of this plan, according to Walgate, may be an increased burden on district officials. He said the plan to continually assess the effectiveness of staff takes time and resources away from an office that is already stretched thin. Walgate believes experience matters in teaching, and this plan clearly advocates for effectiveness over longevity.

"For the past decade or so, the legislature hasn't placed value on experienced educators," he said. "They haven't valued middle-year teachers. There have been increases for beginning teachers, which is good, but very little for teachers with 10-15 years of experience, which is part of why we are seeing record highs

in early retirements and resignations."

The CCAE president said the pay model is due for an overhaul, and pay is certainly part of why potential teachers are choosing other careers. But doing so through what he believes is a merit-pay model is not the proper way to fix the broken system.

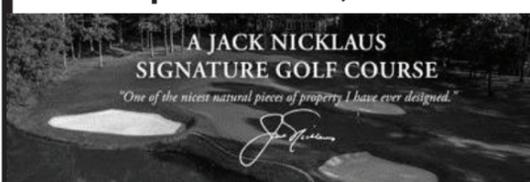
"We know that things like student surveys and even principal evaluations don't actually show teacher effectiveness," Walgate said. "Administrators are subjective and the reality is sometimes teachers have adverse relationships with them ... we're trying to quantify a really qualitative job of teaching."

Walgate also says there's more to the vacancies than just pay. He said federal and state politicians have disrespected teachers for the past decade and started false culture wars in the classroom, which create panic over public education.

PEPSC said its subcommittees will work with staff from the Department of Public Instruction to finalize the plan and anticipate its completion by the end of the summer. To submit feedback, questions or concerns about the licensure and compensation plan, email feedback@dpi.nc.gov.

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

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SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

AUGUST 18 - 24, 2022 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Chargers, Jets prep for season at Jack Shaner Jamboree

BY SHELBY SWANSON
News + Record Correspondent

On Friday, the Northwood Chargers hosted Jordan-Matthews, Trinity Christian, Apex, Carrboro, Overhills, Green Hope and Ragsdale at the annual Jack Shaner Jamboree for a series of pre-season scrimmages.

In several 30-minute, half-field scrimmages, the Jamboree gave Northwood head coach Chris Kenan the first opportunity to see his Northwood Chargers in a live, 11-man setting.

With the dynamic duo of senior Will Smith and junior Carson Fortunes at quarterback, the star power of sophomore Gus Ritchey and an athletic wide receiver squad, Northwood showcased its newly diversified offensive arsenal on Friday. The Chargers spread the ball effectively to keep opponents on their toes throughout their three scrimmages.

“Our guys are just willing to compete until the end,” Kenan said. “Regardless if something good happened or something bad happened our guys just kept playing. I was really proud to see our kids not looking for excuses but looking for solutions.”

One of the solutions that the Chargers need to identify is how to iron out the fundamentals of its linemen.

Blocking and tackling basics

See **JAMBOREE**, page B2



Staff photo by Simon Barbre
Jordan-Matthews freshman Douglas Lucas waits for a pass from his quarterback during pregame warmups at the Jack Shaner Jamboree on Aug. 12.

‘And a very pleasant good evening’

Vin Scully started every broadcast the same way: “Hi everybody, and a very pleasant good evening to you wherever you may be.”



BEN RAPPAPORT
Columnist

It always felt so pleasant. Like he cared about me and wanted me to feel included.

That is what baseball has always felt like for me, inclusive. It has always been my haven and my gateway to manhood. While my scrawny 5-foot-6 frame was never going to hit home runs or throw no-hitters, being able to talk baseball with my father was always a point of connection.

I always had an adversarial relationship with my father, but one thing that united us was our love of Dodgers baseball. We could talk about the players, the standings, the statistics. It was what kept us together.

He is gone now, but sometimes when I watch the Dodgers, I imagine he is sitting on the couch next to me drinking a beer. “Ooh, that one was filth,” he would say to me about Clayton Kershaw’s curveball that seemingly dropped from the sky into the strike zone. Those moments make me feel like we can still communicate in some abstract way.

Now, Vin is gone too. His passing this month hit me much harder than I expected. So much so that I delayed writing this very column a whole week because I kept getting too choked up to make any progress on it.

It felt like losing a piece of my dad all over again. Vin reminded me of all the best parts of my dad — the stories full of infinite wisdom

See **EVENING**, page B2

Chatham Charter girls tennis wants to improve on 2021 1A final visit

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

While Chatham Central had the best record of any Chatham County girls tennis team in 2021 — finishing the year with an overall record of 12-3, the main thorn in their side were the girls at Chatham Charter, who had their own storybook season last fall.

Charter opened up the 2021 season with a 6-2 win over Central and defeated the Bears two more times, the second time in the third round of the 1A state playoffs. The Knights ended up finishing the year 14-8 overall, advancing all the way to the 1A state finals before falling to Mount Airy, 5-0.

The Knights will have some work to do to reach those same heights this fall, as they graduated three of their top four singles players in Emily Stecher, Ashlyn Hart and Lorelei Byrd. The top returner this season for Chatham Charter is senior Rebecca Brookshire, who went 14-4 at No. 5 singles in 2021 and 8-3 in doubles with Stecher.

Still, the Knights hope the experience of playing some of the toughest competition in the state during their playoff run will help the entire program moving forward.

“They gave it all they had and left everything out there on the courts,” Eldridge told the N + R after the 2021 state title match. “They never gave up and they handled the match with grace

and sportsmanship. I can’t even begin to express how proud I am of this team. I will use them as an example for years to come.”

Speaking with the News + Record earlier this week, Heather Brooks, the coach of the Chatham Central tennis team, said she’s looking forward to the rivalry between Central and Charter this fall.

“I hope to get at least two wins off them this year,” Brooks said. “We already have them twice on our schedule. That’s kind of our rivalry in tennis.”

Before last season, Central had won nine matches in a row against Charter. Their last loss to the Knights prior to 2021 came on Sept. 3, 2014, when Charter upset Central, 5-4.

Chatham Charter head coach Kelly Eldridge has led the Knights’ girls tennis team since the school opened back in 2013. She has an overall record of 79-50 in her eight seasons as varsity head coach so far.

Charter opened the 2022 season Tuesday on the road at Raleigh Charter. The Knights also play at North Moore on Friday.

Eldridge, Brookshire and the rest of the team only have one other school — Southern Wake Academy — competing in their conference. The Knights were 2-1 against the Lions last fall.

Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jerny@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@jbo_ernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_ernon).

Northwood returns 1 as volleyball season starts; Woods Charter finding groove

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Spectators got their first look at the Northwood and Woods Charter volleyball teams Aug. 10, as the Chargers and Hawks scrimmaged at Northwood ahead of this week’s season-opening matches.

Those in attendance who watched Northwood might not have recognized the Chargers’ varsity squad. In total, Northwood returns just one player from last year’s team — senior Theryn Elmore. Over the offseason, the Chargers graduated seven seniors and lost junior Asia Thigpen — the reigning Central 3A Conference Player of the Year — who transferred to Green Level High in Cary.

“I look at it and I’ve tried to turn it into a positive,” Northwood Head Coach Cameron Vernon said about his inexperienced roster. “It’s an opportunity for them to step up and play and accomplish some of the goals they have as volleyball players and as a team. It’s just next woman up. Someone has to step up and fill the roles we need.”

Thigpen, a Kentucky commit and daughter of UNC football assistant Tommy Thigpen, is considered the top

high school volleyball prospect in the state of North Carolina by PrepVolleyball. She finished the 2021 season with 545 kills, 63 aces, 27 blocks and 276 digs while leading the Chargers to the fourth round of the 3A state playoffs.

Vernon is a newcomer to the Northwood varsity program as well. Serving as the school’s athletic director and former girls basketball coach, Vernon had to take over head coaching duties for the volleyball team this fall after he was unable to find an interested candidate for the job.

The long-time coach admitted he has never coached volleyball before now, but he is taking the correct approach in shoring up some of the areas he’s less knowledgeable in. Much like it is for his players, this season will be a learning opportunity for Vernon as he tries to navigate his first season leading an entirely new team.

“I’ve really been teaching myself, and I’m not too proud to say I don’t know a lot about the sport,” Vernon. “I’ve been asking a lot of questions. I’ve asked a couple of individuals who have coached at the club level to observe our practice and give me some advice afterward to give some communication. But on the

drill front we’re doing a great job. The girls are working hard with the passing and the rotations. It’s kind of a work in progress, not only the team, but me as a coach.”

Northwood opened the season Tuesday with a road match at Apex. The Chargers actually lost to Apex in non-conference play last season, one their five regular season defeats on the year. With such an inexperienced roster, Vernon said he’s focused on making sure his players are taking steps in the right direction.

“My goals for them are to compete on a nightly basis, whether we’re playing one of the top teams in the state or when we’re playing a team that’s inferior to us,” Vernon said. “I just want us competing at all times, I want them to come in and have a great attitude, and I want to see them have a great energy and effort level. I think those three things are controllable every day. We can’t control the referees. We can’t control the temperature of the gym. But those are three things that we can control on a daily basis that I’m really stressing to them.”

On the other side of the court, Woods



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Northwood volleyball coach Cameron Vernon, center, gives a pep talk to the girls varsity team in between periods during Northwood’s game against Woods Charter High School on Thursday in Pittsboro. Vernon continuously encouraged his players to communicate with one another and have fun during the game.

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B3

3 players who will help you win your fantasy football league

Outside of my life as the News + Record's sports editor I like to think of myself as some sort of fantasy football savant. I have won two of the past three league championships in my main dynasty league and have thoroughly embarrassed my friends in the process (please don't let them read this).

I've been following the NFL as a fan for years, and when I'm not casually hating myself while watching the Panthers play, my favorite thing to do is manage my team and analyze players like any real general manager or scout would. It makes me feel more connected to the game and gives my brain something other to do than go, "Ooooooh ... football."

With that in mind, I feel like it's my duty to impart some wisdom this week as the start of the regular season in the NFL — September 8 — quickly approaches. It's finally draft season, and I know many of you need help making those tough decisions before you're on the clock. Well, look no

further. Here are three players who can help you win your fantasy football league in 2022 — ranging from first-round studs to mid-round targets to late sleepers.

Justin Jefferson, WR, Minnesota Vikings

You might need a top-five pick to roster Minnesota Vikings third-year receiver Justin Jefferson, but if he's available when you're on the clock, drop whatever you're doing and click that draft button.

As the driver of the "Justin Jefferson is the GOAT" bus, I need to tell you two reasons why he'll succeed this year, his third in the NFL. The first is because he already has the past production to make you feel safe about taking him. Jefferson was the fourth-ranked receiver last season in fantasy points with 222.4, and he finished the previous season — his rookie year — as the No. 6 receiver. In just two seasons, Jefferson has totaled 196 catches, 3016 receiving yards and 17 touchdowns, putting him in elite company as one of the best young receivers in the NFL.

The second reason you should take Jefferson with your first pick is his new head coach —

Kevin O'Connell. O'Connell was the offensive coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams during last year's Super Bowl-winning run, and his play-calling was a big reason why the Rams were so successful.

O'Connell is partially responsible for the season of Offensive Player of the Year Cooper Kupp, who finished the year as the league leader in catches, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns. With O'Connell now calling plays for Minnesota, the expectation is Jefferson should slide into a similar role to what Kupp filled in Los Angeles last season.

Jefferson's production at Kupp's volume. The mind boggles. Don't overthink it.

George Pickens, WR, Pittsburgh Steelers

If the Steelers play anymore preseason games, Pickens' ADP might jump clear out of the stratosphere, so best to take him now before your less-privy buddies catch on.

Pickens is a rookie, but he should have the opportunity to contribute right away for the Steelers, who are finally moving on from the fantasy nightmare scenario of Ben Roethlisberger at quarterback. Pickens fell

in the draft after suffering an ACL tear during his final year at Georgia, but many analysts feel like if that injury hadn't happened, he would have been the first receiver off the board in this year's NFL Draft.

The place you'll want to target Pickens is in the middle rounds of the draft, as he does come with his risks. He's currently in line to become the team's No. 3 receiver behind Dionte Johnson and Chase Claypool, but it's uncertain how much of a target share in the offense will be available when you have to feed those two, tight end Pat Freiermuth and running back Najee Harris. Still, if anyone can overcome the odds, it's Pickens who has recovered brilliantly after tearing his ACL in March 2021.

Pickens — who stands at 6-foot-3 and 195 pounds — has the ideal frame to be an outside receiver, but he's not afraid to get his hands dirty, as evidenced by his viral pancake block in Pittsburgh's first preseason game. He also has just exuded an irrational confidence that I find completely mesmerizing. Sign me up for the George Pickens show.

James Cook, RB, Buffalo

As I can't let my receiver

bias completely take over, here's an attractive late-round running back option: James Cook.

Like Pickens, Cook is a rookie who played collegiately at Georgia. During the Bulldogs' title-winning campaign in 2021, Cook totaled over 1,000 yards from scrimmage and scored 11 touchdowns. Unlike Pickens, Cook has a clear path to production in Buffalo.

Cook is currently the No. 2 back in Buffalo behind Devin Singletary, who has been generally underwhelming in his first three seasons in the league. The former figures to handle the late-down work as well as situations where he's a pass-catcher.

Luckily for Cook, the Bills were a top 10 passing offense in the league last season with an average of 252 yards per game, meaning he should get plenty of opportunities to prove himself. As someone who could rack up PPR points, Cook feels like a no-brainer, especially when you consider the other players who might go around him in drafts.

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JAMBOREE

Continued from page B1

were discussed heavily by the Northwood coaches in their post-jamboree huddle, with an emphasis placed on some missed tackles and faulty positioning on the defensive end. Coach Bryce Smith, the Chargers' offensive line coach, told his players they needed to be the "hammer, not the nail."

Although Kenan said it was "a positive to see that we still made some open field tackles later on in the games," he agreed that the team has to sharpen up its fundamentals in regards to blocking and tackling. He said both will be areas of focus as Northwood prepares for the beginning of the season this week.

"I think we gotta do a better job on finishing blocks," Kenan said. "We got to finish blocks. We had some good initial contact in some places but we got to find a way to finish blocks and play to the whistle. And then tackling, I felt like we missed some here and there, some that we should've had."

On Friday, many Chargers



Photo by Simon Barbre

A Northwood defender makes a tackle during the Jack Shaner Jamboree on Aug. 12.

were forced to play both ways due to a large number of players absent due to COVID-19, concussion or injury protocol. Kenan estimated that 15 or 16 players were unable to play on Friday, dropping his roster size from the 50s to the 30s.

Smith emphasized the importance of the mental game at the Jamboree, especially with the lack of depth in the North-

wood roster.

"It's important that we play with a lot of intensity," Smith said. "Because a lot of intensity can make a team, an opponent crumble easily if you're playing really intense. If you're constantly coming at them it makes it easier for us to dominate or control the game and the tempo. It also lets us rest a little bit because the oth-



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Matthew Monore looks to make a play during the Jack Shaner Jamboree on Aug. 12.

er team isn't coming as hard."

The Chargers will look to take this intensity and revitalized fundamental approach to the Lee County Yellow Jackets in Northwood's first game of the season on Friday.

As for Jordan-Matthews, Friday's jamboree provided an opportunity for a young Jets team to — as head coach Ryan Johnson put it — "grow up quick".

Coming off of a 1-9 season,

the Jets are returning an especially underclassmen-heavy team. Johnson estimates that almost a third or fourth of the team are freshmen.

"We're young but we need to grow up fast," Johnson said.

The Jets had a rocky start in the team's first game against Trinity Christian, dropping the scrimmage, 14-0. In the Jets' second game against Carrboro, Jordan-Matthews looked much more solid across its position groups, improving upon the mistakes of the first game.

Still, several plays exposed a lack of discipline for the young team, such as a lazy pass that Carrboro converted into a Pick 6. Later in the scrimmage, missed tackles became a common occurrence for the Jets' defense.

Despite this, Johnson was impressed by the resilience his squad displayed on Friday.

"Things didn't go our way every single time but we came back and fought. I like to see that. So a lot of times, the aggression of a young team that we have, sometimes you have a tendency to quit. We kept grinding and grinding and grinding and I like to see that."

EVENING

Continued from page B1

and a comforting presence in times when I felt the most lost.

I grew up in southern California and watching Dodger games was a nightly tradition. When I moved to North Carolina at 14 years old, falling asleep with Vin in my ear was my connection back to the place I once called home. Suddenly, the string that once tethered me to home and my dad has come undone.

To me, like so many Dodger fans, Vin was a friend and a role model — an icon of all that was pure about the game we love. If you asked 6-year-old Ben what he wanted to be when he grew up, he would've told you he wanted to be a sports broadcaster, just like Vin Scully.

On several occasions, I tested the waters as a public address announcer at my brother's all-star games or the Miracle League — a baseball league for children with special needs.

I would watch old Dodgers clips on a loop and feel the goosebumps at every iconic moment of franchise history, all narrated by the common soundtrack of Scully. I wasn't alive for the impossible Kirk Gibson's Game 1 home run, Rick

Monday swiping the nearly burned American flag or Sandy Koufax's perfect game, but hearing Scully's calls of those historic baseball moments, I felt like I was there. I can recite each of these scenes from memory — sitting in my bedroom trying to emulate the magnitude of the moment.

I used to close my eyes when I would watch games with my dad. I would let him and Scully paint the picture of the game in my mind's eye. Understanding the game helped me appreciate the power of language and the magic of storytelling.

Scully is an icon to the sports world because he could explain the game so

vividly you felt like you were there with him. He could tell you about the action of the game, the story of a player's family, and even the scenery of the ballpark.

"Cotton candy sky with that deep canopy of blue" he would say as the sun set over Dodger Stadium. "Good enough to eat."

Vin is, in many ways, the reason I wanted to be a storyteller. He wove the mundane into magic and the magic into history. He showed me the power of voice, the grace of silence and the beauty of listening. It is that captivating feeling and the goosebumps of amazement that I hope to emulate in my own work. I learned it

from Scully and connected to it because of my father.

Despite the qualms I had with him, it was my dad that gave me the gift of Dodger baseball. And in a way, it is because of him that I want to be a writer and a journalist who connects with people — the way Scully did for me.

"High fly ball deep left field," Scully says in the bottom of the ninth of his final broadcast from Chavez Ravine. My dad

and I rise from the couch in anticipation of the miraculous. "Back it goes — would you believe a home run? The Dodgers have clinched the division and will celebrate on schedule!"

A walk-off from a little-known utility player named Charlie Culberson who's now etched himself into the history books. It was the perfect storybook ending to the historic 67 years of Scully as the voice of Dodger baseball. It's also one of the last

good memories I have with my dad — a very pleasant good evening indeed.

Whooping and hollering ensue in the family room as the Dodgers win the National League West Pennant. My father and I embrace and for a fleeting moment, I feel included.

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



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THE CLIPBOARD | PAUL CUADROS

Cuadros, Northwood boys soccer enter 2022 season hungry for more

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports
Editor

How have these first few weeks of practice gone? What are your feelings about the team entering the season?

PAUL CUADROS: I thought we had a good tryout. We had a good number of players come and try out, and we'll probably have a few more come in soon here because school hasn't started and people are on vacation. We'll at least take a look at some other guys. I thought the tryout went well. I think that we're going to be in good shape. We still have some question marks to answer with regards to positions and who's going to start, but we're returning a good group of experienced players, so that should help us during the season.

You graduated eight seniors, including your three senior captains -- Alexis Ibarra, Brian Hernandez and Cristian Cruz. How hard will it be to replace what they brought to the field and the locker room?

It's always a challenge to replace experienced players, especially experienced leadership ... But we've already got some leadership I think. We have some good vocal players, players who want to speak. Sometimes players are leaders but they don't know how to do that verbally. I think we'll have two players that people listen to and who are vocal on and off the field. But there are some question marks we need to answer, and we'll find out this week what those questions are going to be and who's going to step up and fill these roles.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews head soccer coach Paul Cuadros gives instruction to his team during a workout.

Two of the senior captains you lost were starters in the midfield. Who are some guys you're expecting to step up at that position who might not have gotten as much playing time in the past?

I think one of those guys is going to be junior Paul Lujan. We're really looking for him to be an impact player in the middle. And then we're searching for who's going to work with Paul in the center. As far as our wide midfielders, we should be returning people with some experience there with juniors Anthony Rodriguez and Giancarlo Aguila. Both of those guys did well in those respective positions last year, so we expect them to be stronger this year. We expect them to step

up. Junior Jonathan Campos will be strong for us in the middle and on defense, and we're looking for him to have a stellar season.

Obviously you have a great striker in senior Zander Ocampo. How special was his season last year, and what is the next step for him?

That's a great question. Zander had a breakout season last year, so we're looking for him to be consistent in that this year hopefully. You never know. But he's going to be helped out a lot up front. We have a lot of firepower to go along with him with senior Juanito Hernandez Soto and sophomore Francisco Ibarra. Both those guys will be able to score a lot of goals.

We still have some question marks to answer with regards to positions and who's going to start, but we're returning a good group of experienced players, so that should help us during the season.

PAUL CUADROS, soccer coach, Jordan-Matthews

And we have some new guys this season who for some reason didn't try out the previous years who can step it up on offense too, we think. Offensively we'll be pretty strong.

These first few weeks of the season you will go through your non-conference schedule. What do you want to see from your team before the start of conference play?

What I really want to see is cooperation and coordination from the players. Are they coop-

erating with each other? Are they coordinating their defense and coordinating the attack? Are they organized? That comes from just experience in play. We can train for that and we can drill for that, and of course these guys know each other pretty well, but we want to see them under pressure from an opposing team to see how they coordinate their defense or their attack.

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VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page B1

Charter return a handful of players from last season's 18-4 campaign, leading the way for the Wolves — who open the 2022 season Wednesday

against Research Triangle Academy — this fall are junior Lexi Smollen (474 kills, 69 aces, 193 digs), and sophomore Maya Sheridan (542 assists, 65 aces, 120 digs).

Woods Charter will have its work cut out for itself in a tough Central Tar Heel 1A Conference that features fellow

county power Chatham Charter, which finished last season 17-7 overall. The Wolves and Knights tied for the conference lead last season at 9-1 during the regular season.

Woods Charter was 2-1 against Chatham Charter a season ago, dropping one match on the road and

defeating the Knights twice, the second time in the conference tournament. The Wolves eventually fell to Neuse Charter in the third round of the state playoffs.

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Annual Siler City music festival, celebration set for Saturday

Siler City's Downtown Music Series continues this Saturday with a special event: the annual Koo Day Tah celebration, which also serves as the

birthday party for celebrated Siler City luthier Terry McInturff — the renowned electric guitar-maker who's produced instruments for some of the greats of rock 'n roll.

To prepare, we caught up with Michael Feezor, the executive director of the N.C. Arts Incubator, to get a preview.

We spoke back in April, just before the "re-start," of the Siler City Downtown Music Series. As we get ready for Koo Day Tah, let's start with a so-far: how have the four events in the series gone? Have you been pleased?

We've been thrilled with the community support. We consistently have great crowds averaging about more than 100 people. We've managed to have worked around those famous North Carolina Summer rainstorms. It's absolutely wonderful to reconnect with the community and see old friends and supporters, and welcome all of the new faces to Downtown.

What's it been like for you to be a part of that scene in downtown Siler City — live music, food, all post-pandemic?

We've been an anchor in historic downtown for over 20 years so we've seen the ups and the downs. It's amazing to see change and redevelopment on this scale in downtown. We are proud to be part of the history of downtown and honored to be a driving force in the evolution of downtown. Together with The Chatham Rabbit (a coffee shop), we plan to continue offering events to welcome our community downtown. We are welcoming new



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Terry McInturff, who's built guitars for some of rock's luminaries, poses with a new creation. The Koo Day Tah event, which, in part, honors his birthday, is set for Saturday in Siler City.

neighbors to downtown on a daily basis as our community grows and rebounds post-pandemic. In addition to the music series in partnership with community members, we are hosting pottery classes, voice lessons, yoga and a chess club. There is something for everyone!

Let's shift to Koo Day Tah. For those who aren't familiar with this event, and with Terry McInturff, give us some history and background.

Koo Day Tah was conceived in 2016 by Brooke Simmons at The Chatham Rabbit and Terry McInturff. Brooke was organizing the Downtown Music Series at that time. Terry had been having an annual show as part of his birthday celebration at his home and Brooke invited him to make it part of the music series in Siler City.

This year we also will be celebrating Terry's recent marriage to Terri Nobles. We are beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to celebrate with the community!

Brooke, the operating partner of The Chatham Rabbit, says Terry is the longest-running studio artist and a fixture in Downtown; he adds a lot to the eclectic culture there.

He's has created cus-

tom guitars for over 40 years for some of the best guitarists in the world, including Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page of Led Zepelin and Dave Hidalgo of Los Lobos. He is a true master of his craft and we are so lucky to have such a talent working right here in Downtown.

This event will feature two bands, and Terry himself is known to take the stage and join in — it is a guitar fanatic's dream.

What's the set-up for this year's event, which will be held from 6 - 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20?

We've got two bands: Whoop and El Mirage; Whoop will take the stage at 6 p.m.

Formed in the fall of 2020, North Carolina's Whoop is a mélange of backgrounds and influences spanning indie, jazz, rock, reggae and hip-hop. Whoop thrives by letting raw musical instinct be the band leader. Nothing is overplayed or overproduced; nothing is superfluous or gratuitous in their innately authentic, ego-free explorations of groove, melody — and of the everyday human condition.

El Mirage will take the stage immediately after. Hailing from Chatham County, El Mirage is a four-piece combo playing high-energy, instrumental surf music originals.

We will have great food from The Travelling Café — meals are available by donation. This month we will have French roast beef on baguette with pistou French country salad, mini cheese assortment, palmier cookies and dark chocolate mousse. We will also have some amazing local food from Siler City's own Pupusa y Taco.

Beer is being provided by Chatham County's newest independently owned craft brewery, Thirsty Skull Brewing, The only brewery in Siler City, it was started in 2018 "by four individuals that shared a vision for creating a small, high quality and locally focused

brewery."

Why should people attend?

It's a great opportunity to connect with members of the community, support local businesses and hear some great music.

We've really worked hard to expand our community outreach. There is so much exciting revitalization happening downtown, together with our partner, The Chatham Rabbit coffee shop, we love opening our doors to everyone.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Terry McInturff's guitars are hand-crafted for performance — and, as evident here, beauty.



Council on Aging Activities Calendar

August 22nd through August 26th

<p>Monday, August 22nd</p> <p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center - 365 Highway 87 North, Pittsboro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. - <u>Body Conditioning w/Jackie</u> (masks required) 9 a.m. - <u>Chair Yoga w/Liz</u> (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom) 9:30 a.m. - <u>Strong & Fit w/Jackie</u> (in-person and on Zoom) 10 a.m. - <u>Games and Coffee</u> 11 a.m. - <u>Cornhole & Ladder Ball</u> 6 p.m. - <u>Caregiver Support Group</u> (On Zoom, RSVP to Rodney Dietrich) <p>Western Chatham Senior Center - 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30 p.m. - <u>Strong & Fit w/Olivia</u> 2 p.m. - <u>Geri-Fit</u> 	<p>Tuesday, August 23rd</p> <p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. - <u>Body Conditioning w/Jackie</u> (masks optional) 9 a.m. - <u>3G's Men's Group</u> 10 a.m. - <u>Blood Pressure Screening; Woodcarvers; Games and Coffee</u> 10-10:15 a.m. - <u>Moving w/Jackie</u> 10:15 a.m. - <u>Bingo w/Joe</u> 11 a.m. - <u>Music w/Front Porch Ministry</u> 1-3 p.m. - <u>Rummikub</u> 2-3 p.m. - <u>Ladies Tea w/Juliana</u> (RSVP to Jackie Green or Juliana Walton) <p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 a.m. - <u>Chair Exercises w/Olivia for Beginners</u> 10:30 a.m. - <u>Dementia vs. Normal Age-Related Changes w/Tammy Curry, Therapeutic Alternatives</u> 1 p.m. - <u>Book</u> 2 p.m. - <u>Crafting with Kathryn</u> (Collage Canvases) 	<p>Wednesday, August 24th</p> <p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 a.m. - <u>Chair Yoga w/Liz</u> (in-person and Zoom); <u>Games and Coffee</u> 10:30 a.m. - <u>Chair Volleyball</u> 11:30 a.m. - <u>Calendar Review</u> 1-3 p.m. - <u>Open Art Studio</u> <p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. to Noon - <u>Veterans Benefit Assistance</u> 9 a.m. - <u>Strong & Fit w/Olivia</u> 10 a.m. - <u>Bible Study</u> 2-3:30 p.m. - <u>Cornhole</u> 	<p>Thursday, August 25th</p> <p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. - <u>Body Conditioning w/Jackie</u> (masks optional) 10 a.m. - <u>Needleworking Group ; Games and Coffee; Let's Move w/Jackie</u> 10:30 a.m. - <u>Calendar Review w/Jackie</u> 11 a.m. - <u>Monthly Topic w/Therapeutic Alternatives</u> 1:30 p.m. - <u>Line Dancing</u> 3 p.m. - <u>Gentle Yoga w/Liz</u> <p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 a.m. - <u>Horseshoes</u> 2 p.m. - <u>Geri-Fit</u> 2 p.m. - <u>Book Club</u> (Western Center Library) 3 p.m. - <u>Karaoke</u> 	<p>Friday, August 26th</p> <p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. - <u>Body Conditioning w/Jackie</u> (masks required) 9:30 a.m. - <u>Strong & Fit w/ Jackie</u> 10 a.m. - <u>Games and Coffee</u> 11 a.m. - <u>Shuffleboard</u> <p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 a.m. - <u>Strong & Fit w/Olivia</u> 10 a.m. - <u>Birthday Party for August Birthdays</u> 1 p.m. - <u>Memory Makers Club</u> 7 p.m. - <u>Friday Night Dance</u> (fee required for participation) 	<p>For more information on these and other programs, call our centers Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center 919-542-4512</p> <p>Western Chatham Senior Center 919-742-3975</p> <p>Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org</p>
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CHURCH NEWS

SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

Sandy Branch will celebrate its annual Homecoming on Sunday, August 21. Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the worship service at 11.

Rev. Rob Roberts, pastor at Brookdale Baptist Church and former youth pastor here, will be the visiting speaker. Special music will be provided by members of the travelling youth choir formed by Rev. Roberts back in the 1970s. There will also be a memorial service for those who have passed away since last year's Homecoming.

After the service, a potluck lunch will be held in the activities building, where there will be a "Walk Down Memory Lane" on display to remember the past. There will be a group photo taken, and a time capsule buried.

Join us at 715 Sandy Branch Church Rd., Bear Creek. All are welcome.

ROCKY RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

The Harvester's Quartet will be in concert at Rocky River Baptist Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday, August 21.

A love offering will be taken. Everyone is welcome.

ROBERTS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Roberts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Goldston will celebrate its 146st homecoming

celebration at 11 a.m. on Sunday, August 21.

Revel services will be held on Monday, August 22 through Wednesday, August 24, at 7 p.m. each night. All are welcome.

CHATHAM IS BOLD!



FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

JORDAN-MATTHEWS FOOTBALL

Jets aim to improve recent struggles in Johnson's 2nd year



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews quarterback Nick Glover runs during the Jack Shaner Jamboree at Northwood on Aug. 12.

BY HUNTER NELSON
News+Record Correspondent

With 22 underclassmen on the roster, a new starting quarterback under center and just five wins to its name over the past five seasons, you wouldn't fault the Jordan-Matthews football team for being less than confident heading into the 2022 season.

Instead, second-year head coach Ryan Johnson is playing things close to the vest.

In Johnson's first year at the helm last fall, the Jets lost their first nine games, suffering six defeats by 45 points or more. Despite the struggles, an encouraging sign presented itself when the team wrapped up the season with a 24-0 win over East Chapel Hill.

Although the win was a small consolation after a long gauntlet of disappointment, Johnson said he has been pleased with how the positive momentum has carried into the offseason as his young, rebuilding team prepares for the new year.

"Our main focus this offseason

Our main focus this offseason has been the aspect of changing the culture. We want to be competitive in every game.

JORDAN-MATTHEWS HEAD COACH,
Ryan Johnson

has been the aspect of changing the culture," Johnson said. "We want to be competitive every game."

One of Johnson's biggest roadblocks in accomplishing those lofty goals begins with replacing the production of Calvin Schwartz, the team's most dynamic weapon — who led the Jets in passing, rushing and passes intercepted last season. Despite the loss, Johnson said several freshmen have already emerged as key pieces that can step into the spotlight and help the team turn the corner.

Manning the quarterback position will likely be freshman Nick Glover, who has already impressed the coaching staff with his leadership and com-

2022 Schedule

- Aug. 19 at Southwestern Randolph
- Aug. 26 at Northwood
- Sept. 2 vs. Providence Grove
- Sept. 9 vs. Trinity
- Sept. 16 at Seaforth
- Sept. 23 vs. Chatham Central
- Sept. 30 vs. North Moore
- Oct. 7 at Cummings
- Oct. 14 vs. Graham
- Oct. 21 at Bartlett Yancey

munication throughout the preseason.

As a dual-threat signal caller that can make plays with both his arm and his legs, Glover could be an ideal fit in a run-heavy offensive scheme expected to include both options and designed quarterback runs.

See **JETS**, page B8

SEAFORTH FOOTBALL

'Wins don't necessarily come on the scoreboard'



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The Seaforth football team will play varsity football for the first time during the 2022 season.

Gary leads Seaforth football into first varsity season

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Staff

Terrance Gary is admittedly nervous, and there's a good reason why.

This Friday, the first-time high school head coach will lead the Seaforth football team into its first game as a varsity program against Purnell

Sweat. Gary, who played football collegiately at Guilford College, knows things will take time to develop. But he's also excited about the opportunity to coach a group of players he feels uniquely connected to.

"The players already know, all wins don't necessarily come on the scoreboard, but the amount of effort we're putting in during practice translating to the game," Gary said. "We know that we're building a foundation. The goal is always to win, but our wins are going to be about how much football we're learning as we go, because

there's not much football experience here. It's also about the mindset we come in with."

Gary is no stranger to coaching in Chatham County. Before joining Seaforth ahead of the 2021-22 school year, he served the previous four seasons at Northwood as the team's special teams coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

After Seaforth hired Gary in 2021, he helped lead the school in its first JV season in 2021. The Hawks finished the year with a 6-3 overall record, winning

See **SEAFORTH**, page xx

CHATHAM CENTRAL FOOTBALL

Bears enter season with 26 varsity players, ready to 'man up'

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

With only 26 varsity players on its roster, the Chatham Central football team is in for a long season of "iron man football," according to head coach Sherman Howze.

The Bears have struggled with numbers this offseason, something Howze hasn't had to really deal with in the past. He expects all of the players he does have to play both sides of the ball out of necessity, but the hope is that gritty mentality will serve the team well as it enters the season.

"You've just got to man up and be a ballplayer," Howze said. "If we need you somewhere, you've gotta go there ... I love the kids (we have) — they're physical and they work hard ... I can't worry about who's here and who's not here."

On offense, the Bears are planning to run a three-quarterback system that will feature seniors Hasten Paige and Brandon Toomer, along with junior River Warren. All three play other positions as well, with Toomer comfortable lining up at receiver and Warren in the backfield as a running back.

Also expected to step up offensively for Chatham Central in 2022 are junior running back Devonte Johnson and junior fullback Omar Brower. Neither player had many carries with the varsity team last season, but Howze said the pair have been running "hard as they ever have," in practice over the past few weeks.

"We're missing some people, but with what we've got, we should be competitive," Howze said. "The main thing is, I want to play a whole season, I want to get in the playoffs, I want

See **BEARS**, page B8

NORTHWOOD FOOTBALL

Ritchey, Chargers ready to 'surprise some people'

BY SHELBY SWANSON
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Gus Ritchey, a rising sophomore and star of the Northwood football team, has never been more ready to be on the field.

"I think we're going to surprise some people," the tight end/defensive end said. "A lot of people are like, 'Oh, you lost 25 seniors, you got some new players coming in,' but we have a lot of athletes, good athletes and a lot of good players. Yes, we're a young team, but I think we're going to make it far."

This season, with a new head coach and revitalized purpose, Northwood is looking to diversify its offensive game plan from its run-heavy tendencies of last fall. Chris Kenan, who took over as Northwood's head

2022 Schedule

- Aug. 19 at Lee County
- Aug. 26 vs. Jordan-Matthews
- Sept. 2 at Chapel Hill
- Sept. 16 vs. Burlington Williams
- Sept. 23 at Cedar Ridge
- Sept. 30 vs. Person
- Oct. 14 at Orange
- Oct. 21 vs. Eastern Alamance
- Oct. 28 at Western Alamance

coach in January, is implementing new, college-style offensive schemes to take advantage of the Chargers'

strong receiving corps and the quarterback skills of senior Will Smith and junior Carson Fortunes.

"We want to use our playmakers' advantages to the best of our ability," Kenan said. "I think this year we have to use our best players and give them the ball wherever they see fit. Whether it's in space or tight up the middle, I think we have to be creative in the way we give our playmakers the ball this year."

Friday's annual Jack Shaner Jamboree once again showcased this season's biggest impact players will be the trio of Ritchey, Smith and Fortunes. All three starters played both ways for the Chargers and were effective in various positions.

See **CHARGERS**, page B7



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood quarterback Carson Fortunes scrambles during the Jack Shaner Jamboree on Aug. 12.

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross country programs dealing with unexpected losses entering the season

BY BLAIR MITCHELL
News + Record
Correspondent

and second, respectively, at the 1A Mideast Regional in 2021.

Head coach Karen Hawkins has plenty of talent to work with, as senior Colin Thompson on the boys side and junior Ellie Poitras, senior Maddie Sparrow and sophomore Anna Peeler on the girls side after strong 2021 seasons.

The Wolves will be without their top runner last season in senior Wiley Sikes, who will not run this season to focus on swimming. Sikes finished second at the 1A Mideast Regional race in a time of 17:07.58.

The Northwood Chargers boys team has an exciting top seven that Isenhour definitely seems confident in, and she has

some undoubtedly big goals for the team this year. Isenhour said the team is working towards winning the Central 3A Carolina Conference, the NCHSAA 3A Mideast region title and the NCHSAA 3A State Championship — which will be held November 5th.

The Chargers return four of their top seven from last season and their top three returners placed 33rd, 40th and 63rd, respectively at the state Championship last year while the team placed 5th overall in the race. The Chargers are led by senior Christian Glick, who is their top returner and has a



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A member of the Woods Charter cross country team stretches out before practice last week.

The fall 2022 Cross Country season is officially upon us and many teams in the area are ready to make some noise this coming year. Coaches Tanelle Smith and Donnell Mitchell of Seaforth, Coach Karen Hawkins of Woods Charter, and Coach Cameron Isenhour of Northwood are all expecting big things this season and hope to improve on their 2021 campaigns.

Arguably the top program in the county entering the season is Woods Charter, who saw its boys and girls teams finish first

See **LOSSES**, page B8

BOYS SOCCER

GIRLS TENNIS

Jordan-Matthews look like team to beat as boys soccer season opens

Chatham Central, Charter the teams to beat this girls tennis season



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews soccer players Emir Vargas (7) and Paul Lujan (9) try to dispossess a teammate during last week's practice.

BY HUNTER NELSON

News + Record Correspondent

As the summer heat blasts down on asphalt tennis courts throughout the area, several high school women's teams are braving the elements to prepare for the season that lies ahead.

Following two seasons that were impacted by strict COVID-19 guidelines, a sense of normalcy is in the air in 2022. Heather Brooks, the 11th-year head coach for Chatham Central, said her team has had an eventful summer

as it gears up for the season opener on Aug. 15 against Lee County.

"Some of the girls have been playing in some tournaments on their own," Brooks said. "Many of the girls were managers for the boys team, so they would come out and practice with the boys, and we've done open courts here and there as weather permits."

After a first-place finish in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference in 2021, there are reasons to believe the

See **TENNIS**, page B7

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports
Editor

was a highly-competitive campaign in Chatham County, as three local teams — Jordan-Matthews, Northwood and Woods Charter — all made the state playoffs in their respective classifications.

The top team in the county last year was Jordan-Matthews, which amassed a 20-1-1 over-

all record and won the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference title before eventually falling to Greene Central in the fourth round of the 1A Tournament. The Jets kick off their 2022 season Aug. 16 at home against Research Triangle.

See **SOCCER**, page B8

After a fairly normal offseason by recent standards, the 2022 boys soccer season is set to begin Aug. 15 as one of the first Olympic sports to kick off the 2022-23 school year. The 2021 fall season

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Chatham, Wolves Charter volleyball aim to improve; Northwood begins anew



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Northwoods varsity player Angela Watson (#11) jumps to spike the ball over the net during Northwood's game against Woods Charter High School on Thursday in Pittsboro. The Chargers lost the first three periods against Woods Charter and came back to win the fourth.

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

The floor burns have returned as high school volleyball matches have kicked off across the state. In Chatham County, several local teams are entering what should be their second normal season following the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The shock of the offseason was the rush of change that swept over the Northwood volleyball program, which is fresh off a 24-6 campaign in 2021. The Chargers finished second in the Central 3A Conference behind Cedar Ridge during the regular season and fell to the Fighting Red Wolves, 3-0, in the fourth round of the 3A state playoffs.

Northwood — which started the 2022 season Monday at Apex — graduated seven of its 10 players over the offseason, including all-conference selection Hannah Forbes (507 kills, 48 aces, 22 blocks, 360 digs), Ainsley Fauth, Kayee Atkins, Natalie Bell, Olivia Thrill and Annika Kearsley. The Chargers will also be without 2021 Central 3A Conference player of the year and junior outside hitter Asia Thigpen, who is committed to play collegiately at

See **WOLVES**, page B8

Should You Own Bonds When Interest Rates Rise?

As you know, the stock market has attracted a lot of attention — and for good reason, as we've seen considerable volatility almost from the beginning of the year. But if you own bonds, or bond-based mutual funds, you might also have some concerns. However, it's important to understand why bonds should continue to be an important part of your portfolio.

To begin with, let's look at what's happened with bond prices recently. Inflation has heated up, leading the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates to help "cool off" the economy. And rising interest rates typically raise bond yields — the total annual income that investors get from their "coupon" (interest) payments. Rising yields can cause a drop in the value of your existing bonds, because investors will want to buy the newly issued bonds that offer higher yields than yours.

And yet, despite this possible drop in their value, the bonds you own can still help you make progress toward your financial goals. Consider these benefits of bond ownership:

- **Income** — No matter what happens to the value of your bonds, they will continue to provide you with income, in the form of interest payments, until they mature, provided the issuer doesn't default — and defaults are generally unlikely with investment-grade bonds (those rated BBB or higher). Your interest payments will remain the same throughout the life of your bond, which can help you plan for your cash flow and spending.

- **Diversification** — As you've probably heard, diversification is a key to successful investing. If you only owned one type of asset, such as growth stocks, and the stock market went into a decline, as has happened this year, your portfolio likely would have taken a big hit — even bigger than the one you may have experienced. But bond prices don't always move in the same direction as stocks, so the presence of bonds in your portfolio — along with other investments, such as government securities

and certificates of deposit — can help reduce the impact of volatility on your holdings. (Keep in mind, though, that by itself, diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses in a declining market.)

- **Reinvestment opportunities** — As mentioned above, rising interest rates and higher yields may reduce the value of your current bonds, but this same development may also offer you some favorable reinvestment opportunities. If you own bonds of varying durations — short-, intermediate- and long-term — you should regularly have some bonds maturing. And in an environment such as the current one, you can reinvest the proceeds of your expiring short-term bonds into new ones issued at potentially higher interest rates. By doing so, you can potentially provide yourself with more income. Also, by owning a mix of bonds, you'll still have the longer-term ones working for you, and these bonds typically (but not always) pay a higher interest rate than the shorter-term ones.

It might not feel pleasant to see the current value of your bonds drop. But if you're not selling them before they mature, and you take advantage of the opportunities afforded by higher yields, you'll find that owning bonds can still be a valuable part of your investment strategy.

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

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Before investing in bonds, you should understand the risks involved, including credit risk and market risk. Bond investments are also subject to interest-rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of bonds can decrease, and the investor can lose principal value if the investment is sold prior to maturity.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

GIRLS' GOLF

Returning talent abounds as girls golf season returns

BY EVAN ROGERS
News + Record Correspondent

As the summer comes to a close, many girls golf teams across Chatham County will hit the links in the coming weeks to display the diverse talent found in the Piedmont area. From the consistent play of Northwood to the rise of second-year program Seaforth, there are many headlines worth watching heading into this season. Just two years removed from the modified spring season impacted by COVID-19, golfers have started to acclimate themselves back into the normalcy of high school athletics.

“Last year coming off of the COVID year, that was my first normal season,” Northwood senior Lillian Jordan said. “It was very interesting to be a part of a competitive atmosphere again.”

The revival of the competitive spirit generated success for many teams. Jordan represented Northwood at the 2021 NCHSAA 3A state championships, while the Chatham Central Bears and Woods Charter Wolves each won their respective conference tournaments. With most squads returning key golfers from last season, similar results should be expected this fall.

Fresh off her team’s Mid-Carolina conference title in 2021, Chatham Central head coach Lynda Burke has her sights set on winning back-to-back league championships. With the return of three seniors — Reagan Mize, Jaylee Williams and Ashton Wilks — the Bears boast one of the most experienced rosters in the state.

But sometimes talent beats out experience, and Seaforth retained last year’s player of the year in the Mid-Carolina Conference in sophomore Avery Fauth. Led by Fauth’s 50.3 nine-hole average, the Hawks earned four first-place finishes in the program’s inaugural season.

With a full year under the tutelage of head coach Landon Jones’ belt, Seaforth is primed to take the next step forward. Junior Jenna Thompson and sophomore Ellie Johnson also return to the Hawks, so an improvement from last year’s third-place conference finish is within the realm of possibility.

At the 3A level, Northwood bolsters a state-championship qualifier in Jordan, who placed seventh in last year’s competition. Though rostering

Lillian is the best player in the county, and she’s one of the best players in the state. She really works at her game and she’s an outstanding student and person.

MACK HERNDON, Northwood coach, on senior Lillian Jordan

a high-level player may appear enough for the Chargers to repeat as Central Conference champions, head coach Mack Herndon has had his hands full this offseason.

“Right now (Jordan) is just the whole team — we’re having trouble getting some girls out there to have a complete team,” he said. “We’re working on it and have two or three girls that we are trying to get organized and get with us.”

Even so, the second-year coach for the Chargers is confident he’ll fulfill the statewide requirement of three girls to roster a full team. With Jordan leading the charge, Northwood should be in good hands.

“Lillian is the best player in the county, and she’s one of the best players in the state,” Herndon said. “She really works at her game and she’s an outstanding student and person.”

Another team looking to repeat as conference champions is Woods Charter, which took home first place in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference tournament last year.

Spearheaded by junior Elise Taylor and senior Shaye Phillips, the Wolves will be a force to be reckoned with in the 1A ranks. Taylor’s 46.4 average on nine-hole rounds stood as one of the best marks in Chatham County, and combined with Phillips’ experience, Woods Charter will look to repeat the same success it had last year.

Chatham Charter also returns its best competitor from last season with Mackenzie Crossman (42.3 average on nine-hole rounds) coming back for her junior season.

With the season just weeks away, coaches and golfers alike eagerly anticipate the return to competition and renewal of golf’s camaraderie.

“Golf is a competitive sport but it’s also a really good way for girls to come together and bond over something that is so meaningful to all of us,” Jordan said.

TENNIS

Continued from page B6

Bears can take another step forward this year. Seniors Livvy Brooks and Ellie Phillips each posted an 11-1 record last season and will return as the No. 1 and No. 2 singles, respectively. They will also aim to continue their dominance in doubles play, where they finished as the state runner-up after falling to Mount Airy partners Carrie Marion and Ella Brant in the 1A doubles final.

“The girls really look up to Livvy and Ellie,” Brooks said. “They feel like they understand the game and the strategy of the game, and the girls always feel like they can ask them for help.”

Although the top of Chatham Central’s lineup is a strength, Brooks said that creating a solid foundation in the No. 4-6 singles spots will be a priority if the team hopes to build on its 12-3 record from a season ago. She cited the 2019 team as an example of depth paying dividends, as that year, a deep lineup propelled the Bears to a second-place finish in the West Regionals.

As Chatham Central looks ahead to the new year, Brooks said the team’s biggest obstacle will be Seaforth, who finished last season with a 9-4 record despite the roster being made up entirely of underclassmen. With an added year of experience, the young Hawks

team still has plenty of room to grow and could emerge as a serious threat within the region.

Another challenger will likely be Chatham Charter, who finished with a 14-8 record and dealt the Bears their only three losses of the season. The Knights lasted the longest of any county tennis program in last year’s girls dual team playoffs, as they made it all the way to the 1A finals before losing to Mount Airy, 5-0.

Chatham Charter graduated three of their top four singles players from last season, but the team still features junior Elphie Spillman, who collected 10 wins as the team’s No. 1 singles player in 2021.

“I hope to get at least two wins off (Chatham Charter) this year,” Brooks said. “We already have them twice on our schedule. That’s kind of our rivalry in tennis.”

After a solid 2021 season that saw the team finish with a 10-6 overall record and 8-2 mark in the Central 3A division, Northwood is another program that will look to maintain its success despite losing several key pieces.

The team will miss quality talent and leadership from five graduating seniors in singles play, including Evelyn Lippers, who finished 11-1 at the top of the Chargers lineup last season. One key returner for Northwood in 2022 is junior Ryan Tinervin, who was 9-0 as the team’s No. 3 singles spot while also competing in two matches at No. 1.

SEAFORTH

Continued from page B5

six of the final seven games they played.

Luckily for Gary, he returns almost every player from last year’s roster. Seaforth will run a pistol-style offense with Wing-T concepts, while they’ll line up defensively with an odd front, which can feature either a three- or five-man defensive line.

“It’s very encouraging (having so many guys back),” Gary said. “They’ve been our biggest recruiters, and they’re the biggest fans of our program, the guys that were there Day 1. I owe a lot to them for what they’ve done.”

Starting at quarterback this season for Seaforth will be sophomore Josh Brown, who also plays baseball for the Hawks. Gary said Brown has spent the offseason working with a quarterback

coach to improve his arm strength and form.

At the skill positions, players expected to step up include sophomore running back Broden Jones and sophomore running back Anthony Vesce. Anchoring the offensive line will be sophomore Roger Eubanks, who also plays linebacker for the Hawks.

Seaforth does have some green players who will likely take longer to come along, but Gary said everyone who has showed up at practice this offseason has had the right attitude.

“They want to work and they want to learn,” he said. “The ones who are out here, it doesn’t take much to motivate them. We just have to show them and coach them on what it looks like to be a football player. Some of them come from other sports. Some have never played before. But they want to be coached.”

This season, Seaforth will compete in the

Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference along with Chatham Central and Jordan-Matthews, who had a combined record of 2-17 last season. The top teams in the conference are expected to be Cummings, which finished the 2021 season 9-2-1, and North Moore — which was 10-2 overall and 4-1 in league play.

Regardless of results this fall, Gary wants his players to carry themselves the right way, whether they have a future playing the game or not.

“Our thing is, we want to make them the best high school players they can be, whether they want to go to college or not,” Gary said. “If you’re playing for us, we’re going to bring the best out of you. That takes sacrifice.”

Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@jbo_vernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_vernon).

CHARGERS

Continued from page B5

While Smith and For-

tunes have been in a heated battle for the starting quarterback position, the Jamboree saw the duo split time at signal-caller

and slot in as effective running backs. Both players were a consistent defensive presence as well — Smith recorded an

interception at safety and Fortunes made clutch tackles at the outside linebacker position.

“Both of those guys are the best two athletes we probably have on our team, arguably,” Kenan said. “So they both have to be on the field in some capacity most of the time to give us our best chance to win the football games. We’re so banged up right now we have to put guys on the field the best we can to give us the best team. I thought both options looked good on the team, Carson at quarterback and Will at running back and vice versa. They both bring a different element to the game but their elements are very needed for us to win.”

Ritchey, who Kenan considers the “No. 1 athlete in his class in the state of North Carolina,” put his dominant size on display on Friday. At weakside defensive end, Ritchey’s unique combination of strength and elite footwork make the sophomore a consistent threat to rush the passer and has drawn him offers from the likes of Georgia, UNC and Michigan. At tight end, the 6-foot-5, 230 pound sophomore alternated between making critical blocks and receptions to move the Chargers down the field.

“Gus is a big two-way player for us because he’s a good defensive end so he’s really locking that down,” Northwood junior and fellow defensive end

Mason Powell said. “And it helps us with teams because they’ll focus on him and try to go right at him versus focusing on the team as a whole.”

The Chargers, who finished last season with a 4-6 record and first-round state playoffs loss, quickly found themselves in a hole after dropping the first game of the 2021 season in a 61-0 loss to Lee County.

Despite picking up quality wins against conference opponents Person and Orange down the line, the Chargers’ reliance on the Power-I formation quickly turned against them as opponents began stacking the box.

“Our coach last year was highly against passing,” Smith said. “It was kind of our fault at the same time because we weren’t executing the pass plays during practice so he kind of said, ‘Scratch that, we’re going to run.’”

Northwood’s upcoming schedule, which features the same first four teams Northwood faced last year, will provide the Chargers a chance to test its new spread offense against some familiar faces. Northwood’s first game is Friday at Lee County.

Along with this challenging non-conference schedule to begin the season, Northwood will likely face depth issues this fall after graduating a senior class that included the Chargers’ top three rushers in Dashaun

Vines-McSwain (574 rushing yards, 8 TDs), Jalen Paige (590 rushing yards, 3 TDs) and Ryan Hilliard (376 rushing yards, 3 TDs).

This presented a recruiting challenge for the coaching staff in the offseason that Kenan described as “challenging” but “fun.” This fall, Kenan said nearly half of Northwood’s roster is composed of newcomers, a combination of incoming first-years and athletes gleaned from other sports.

“It’s going to be fun to see how these guys’ hard work pays off,” Kenan said. “I know we have an inexperienced team and we lost a lot, we didn’t win much last year, but I love our group.”

This youth and inexperience were on display in Friday’s jamboree. Blocking and tackling fundamentals were emphasized by the coaches in the postgame huddle after several scrimmages exposed a lack of discipline in positioning by the Chargers’ linemen.

However, if you ask Smith, one of Northwood’s captains for the upcoming season, he has faith in the mentality of his undersized team.

“It’s not about size, it’s about dog and your heart,” he said. “It’s not about how big you are and how fast you are, it’s about how much effort you put forth. So we’re just going to see, we better not be giving up, that’s all I’m saying, we won’t be giving up.”

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FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

LOSSES

Continued from page B6

5k personal best of 16:57 heading into the season.

Isenhour is very optimistic in his younger core as well, stating “we have two underclassmen that really stepped-up during track season and can really take that four and five spot on the team.”

The Chargers girls team is very much relying on its younger group of athletes, as they have no seniors on the team this season. Northwood’s top returner from last year looks to be junior Rokia Sissoko, who has a 5k personal best of 23:36. The goals for the Chargers this season are to place first or second in the conference and make it to the state championship meet.

The Hawks of Seaforth are also set to have big improvements over the previous season, with this being only the second year for the program. Even though the Hawks haven’t been around nearly as long as many of the other teams around the county, they are no stranger to success in this sport.

Last season, the Hawks managed to win the 1A/2A Mid Carolina Conference in both the boys and girls competitions. Mitchell and Smith both have high expectations for their teams and hope they both can improve on last year’s finish at the NCHSAA 2A state championship meet.

On paper, Seaforth is anticipating many returning athletes, as last year’s roster consisted entirely of freshman and sophomore runners. Unfortunately for the Hawks, they have lost talent on both sides to other fall sports. The boys team will compete this year without their number two runner from last year in sophomore Will Cuicchi.



The Woods Charter boys and girls cross country teams finished first and second, respectively, at the 2021 1A Mideast regionals.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Instead, sophomore Jack Anstrom will be at the front of this Seaforth Hawks boys team, and he’s someone definitely to look out for this upcoming season. As a freshman last year, Anstrom ran a 16:23 personal best over the 5k distance, which ranked him as the third best freshman in the state in 2021. He also finished 2nd at the 1A Mideast Regionals last year, leading his team to an 8th place finish. Sophomore Claire Morgan will head into the season as Seaforth’s top returning girls runner with a 5k personal best of 22:54.

To achieve the goals they have set out to reach, both Northwood and Seaforth have already been preparing for the 2022 season in multiple ways. The Northwood team has been training since Memorial Day and have put in a lot of focus on general body strength and core exercises along with the running.

Isenhour said that a couple

members of the Seaforth team attended the Appalachian State cross country camp during the last week of July to help build team camaraderie and to start working toward their goals for the year. Mitchell also said that his team had a significant number of athletes participate in optional practice.

Despite each of the teams in the county having big postseason ambitions, there are multiple races early on this season that coaches hope will help build towards the eventual conference and state meets. Both Isenhour and Mitchell are excited about racing at the Friday Night Lights invitational on Sept. 9 and at the Great American XC festival on Oct. 7 to see where their teams stand against some of the best teams around the state and region. Both of these races are premier meets that attract hundreds of athletes on both the boys and girls side.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews senior keeper Ricardo Rocha returns for his final season in 2022.

SOCCER

Continued from page B6

Jordan-Matthews graduated senior captains Cristian Cruz, Brian Hernandez and Alexis Ibarra over the offseason, but there is still plenty of talent returning for the Jets. At striker, senior Zander Ocampo returns after scoring 39 goals, tallying seven assists and winning Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Player of the Year honors in 2021. Also back for Jordan-Matthews are senior goalkeeper Ricardo Rocha and senior midfielder Juan Hernandez Soto.

“We have some good vocal players, players who want to speak,” said Jordan-Matthews head coach Paul Cuadros. “Sometimes players are leaders but they don’t know how to do that verbally. I think we’ll have two players that people listen to and who are vocal on and off the field. But there are some question marks we need to answer, and we’ll find out this week what those questions are going to be and who’s going to step up and fill these roles.”

Also a member of the Mid-Carolina Conference, Seaforth is looking to rebound after going 2-13 in its first season as a varsity program last fall. Head coach Giovanni Vianni and his players will try to right the ship beginning Aug. 18 at home against Southern Wake Academy.

Among the top returners for the Hawks this fall are sophomores Julian Bozzolo and Blake Price, who combined for 13 goals in 2021. Seaforth didn’t lose any players to graduation over the offseason.

In the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference, the Woods Charter boys will try to build on last season’s 10-9 campaign that saw them win the conference with a 9-1 league record after overcoming an 0-7 start. The Wolves open the 2022 season Aug. 22 at home against Leadership Academy.

Woods Charter brings

back most of its top players from last season, including junior Motasem Mamoun (11 goals, one assist), senior Vanner Weakley (six goals, one assist), senior Ethan Heatherington (four goals, four assists) and senior goalkeeper Coyt Neagle (2.81 goals against average).

At the opposite end of the conference, Chatham Charter returns to the field after a disappointing 0-18 campaign in 2021. The Knights’ last win as a team came Oct. 14, 2019 at home against River Mill.

Chatham Charter begins the 2022 campaign at home Aug. 17 against Leadership Academy. The Knights’ top returning field player is sophomore Ryan Jones, who totaled nine goals and three assists as a freshman in 2021.

At the 3A level, the Northwood boys soccer team will try to put together its fourth straight winning season under head coach Martin Slavina. Last fall, the Chargers finished third in the Central 3A Conference with an overall record of 11-10-1 and a conference mark of 8-3-1 before losing to Harnett Central in the first round of the state playoffs.

The Chargers will have quite a bit to replace in terms of production, as last year’s top scorer – Ayden Turner – is gone after notching 14 goals and totaling eight assists for the team last season. Also no longer with the team are Walker Johnson (six goals, seven assists) and Bryan Ramirez (five goals, four assists).

Among those expected to step up in their place are senior Jose Barajas (seven goals, two assists) and senior Benjamin Schoolcraft (three goals, eight assists). In net, senior goalkeeper Jay Callis returns after averaging 5.9 saves per game and boasting a 1.28 goals against average as a junior in 2021.

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WOLVES

Continued from page B6

Kentucky. Thigpen — who totaled 545 kills, 63 aces, 27 blocks and 276 digs last season — transferred to Green Level High in Cary.

The Chargers also have a new head coach in Cameron Vernon, Northwood’s athletic director and former girls basketball coach. Vernon — who has no prior experience coaching volleyball — is looking at the year as an opportunity to reset.

“I look at it and I’ve tried to turn it into a positive,” Vernon said. “It’s an opportunity for them to step up and play and accomplish some of the goals they have as volleyball players and as a team. It’s just next woman up. Someone has to step up and fill the roles we need.”

Outside of Northwood, a majority of the county action this season will take place in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference, where Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews and Seaforth are all fighting to win a league championship. The best of the three teams in 2021 was Central, which finished the year 12-14 overall but finished second in conference play with a

9-3 record.

The Bears, who opened the season with a 3-1 loss to Burlington Williams on Monday, return several key contributors from last season, including sophomore Outside hitter Karaleigh Dodson (202 kills, 21 blocks) and senior outside hitter/setter Abby Johnson (90 aces, 33 digs). Chatham Central will try to maintain its perfect record against Seaforth and Jordan-Matthews this season after dropping just a set between the four combined matches it played against them last season.

Both Seaforth and Jordan-Matthews finished with a 5-7 mark in conference play last season, with the Hawks ending the year 7-10 overall and the Jets wrapping up at 7-13.

Seaforth will be led by a handful of returners from last season, including sophomore Maris Hunneycutt (35 kills, 63 aces, 95 digs, 199 assists), sophomore Mia Kellam (41 aces, 124 digs, 251 serves received) and junior Lilian Dulin (60 kill, 12 blocks). The Hawks opened the season with two matches Monday and Wednesday against Southern Lee and River Mill.

The Jets, meanwhile, hosted South Davidson in their first

match Monday. Expected to lead the team this season are junior middle hitter Reagan Smith and junior setter Janeyra Guerrero-Jaimes.

Switching gears to the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference, the Woods Charter and Chatham Charter volleyball team will try to pick up where they left off after finishing 1-2 in the league standings last fall.

The Wolves, who finished the year 18-4 overall after falling in the third round of the state playoffs, will be led this season by junior outside hitter Lexi Smollen (474 kills, 69 aces, 193 digs) and sophomore setter Maya Sheridan (542 kills, 65 aces, 120 digs).

The Knights, meanwhile, went 17-7 overall in 2021. Chatham Charter graduated a few senior contributors, but it returns the bulk of its production from a year ago. Expected to lead the charge on the court are seniors Emerson Clark (332 kills, 90 aces, 25 blocks, 375 digs), Alison Perez (430 assists) and Tamaya Walden (83 kills, 47 aces, 162 digs).

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JETS

Continued from page B5

“(Nick) works on his skills and leadership with his receivers outside of practice, he does it on his own,” Johnson said. “He’ll be a bright shining star for us.”

On the defensive side of the ball, the Jets return Connor Redding, a junior All-Conference defensive back, and also bring in freshmen Jakari Blue and DeAntaye Smith, who have

showcased their versatility in preseason camp by playing both running back and line-backer.

Both Blue and Smith will be key cogs in the Jets’ 4-2-5 base defense, which features two deep safeties able to adapt to however their opponents line up.

“Jakari has a motor on him, he doesn’t stop,” Johnson said. “And DeAntaye — we call him JoJo — has the skillset you don’t see in freshmen, he’s the total package.”

While improving on-field production has taken up a significant portion of the team’s offseason, a growing camaraderie has also been sparked thanks to a series of team-bonding activities.

Earlier this summer, the Jets traveled to Greensboro to watch the Carolina Cobras indoor football team. In practice, the Cobras participate in a drill called “lean on me,” where teammates are tasked with working together and leading one another.

“It’s kind of a conditioning drill, where the key is to take ownership and responsibility of your teammate because otherwise, it’s going to hurt you in the end,” Johnson said.

Improvement from last season’s 1-9 mark is expected, but regardless of results, Johnson won’t be ready to dial down his emphasis on getting better. According to him, three to four wins would constitute a step in the right direction while still saving room for more growth down the line as his young

players gain valuable experience.

Although the long road to building a program from the ground up may take some time, the Jets seem to be enjoying the journey just as much as the destination.

“We’re going to be better than last year,” Johnson said. “We have a plan, and we plan on sticking to that plan.”

Jordan-Matthews opens the 2022 season Aug. 19 on the road at Southwestern Randolph.

BEARS

Continued from page B5

these guys to have fun playing. Enjoy playing football.”

One group with several returning members is Central’s offensive line, which will be led by senior captains Austin Reed and Nicolas Rinell. Reed is the team’s resident bulldozer at 6-foot-1 and 311 pounds, and he’ll contribute on the defensive side of the ball as well as a defensive tackle.

Defensively, there is plenty of room for improvement after allowing an average 33.9 points per game a season ago. The Bears finished the year on a defensive slide, as they allowed 36 or

2022 Schedule

- Aug. 19 at Trinity
- Sept. 1 vs. North Stokes
- Sept. 9 at Wheatmore
- Sept. 16 vs. Cummings
- Sept. 23 at Jordan-Matthews
- Sept. 30 vs. Seaforth
- Oct. 7 vs. Graham
- Oct. 14 at Bartlett Yancey
- Oct. 28 at North Moore

more points in each of their final four games to wrap up the season.

One newcomer expected to contrib-

ute this season defensively is junior Conner Kitchens, a transfer who will play some defensive end this season. Kitchens is one player Howze highlighted as someone who has come into practice early on with the right mentality.

“We have pieces we can put together and just enjoy the game,” Howze said. “My thing is, if you have that drive and that will, the main thing is you got to have a love for the game and you have to have a passion for it. I know I sound discouraged, but I’m not. I’m not discouraged at all about it, because what I got, I can win ball games with.”

Chatham Central has had a rough go of it in recent seasons. The Bears have

won a total of seven games over the past five seasons and have an overall record of 7-40 during that stretch.

Central has not had a winning season over the past two decades. The closest the Bears came to a winning record was a 6-7 mark in 2005 that ended with a loss to Union High in the second round of the state playoffs.

The Bears will compete in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference this season along with fellow county team Jordan-Matthews. Chatham Central has an overall record of 1-14 against the Jets since the start of the 2004 season.

Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@jbo_vernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_vernon).

American Legion Post 93 celebrating 100 years

BY BOB WACHS
News + Record
Correspondent

SILER CITY — The date was March 15, 1919, a scant four months after the end of World War I — the “war to end all wars,” as President Woodrow Wilson called it.

That day, approximately 1,000 American officers and men gathered in Paris and adopted a tentative constitution establishing the American Legion.

Later, in early May, a similar convention in St. Louis endorsed the Paris group and eventually the two combined into what typically is known today as “the Legion.” Among the notables in the organization’s creation were Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Sgt. Alvin York and Col. Henry L. Stimson, who would become Secretary of War under presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

Since that small beginning, the Legion has grown to almost two million members in 12,000 communities, including all 50 states, the District of Columbia, France, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the Philippines. They all have the same aim, as their charter states, of being a “patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.” It is the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization.

Now, one of the four Legion posts in Chatham County is on the edge of a significant step into the future: Post 93 in Siler City will celebrate its 100th anniversary and move into its second century at a celebration luncheon at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Siler City Moose Lodge on Alston Bridge Road. In addition to the meal, which is free of charge to veterans,



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

American Legion Post 93 Commander Carin O'Brien poses for a portrait next to the West Chatham Veterans Memorial at Bray Park in Siler City. O'Brien is the first female commander for Post 93.

their guests and visitors, there will be door prizes and a raffle for a shotgun.

And while the deadline to RSVP to the event has passed, Legion commander Carin O'Brien says the door is still open to anyone wanting to attend.

“We’d like to know how many are coming for planning purposes,” she said. “But mainly we want to connect with the vets around here. While there are veterans from older times still around, we also want to connect with those from later years. Even if someone hasn’t responded, we want them to come.”

Membership eligibility originally was limited to personnel serving between April 6, 1917, and Nov. 11, 1918. It has since been expanded to include American citizens on active military duty from Dec. 7, 1941, through the present day and those who were honorably



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Members of the American Legion Post 93, including Vice Commander Scott Busenlehner (far left) and Commander Carin O'Brien (second from left), pose for a group portrait next to the West Chatham Veterans Memorial at Bray Park in Siler City. This year, Post 93 will be celebrating its 100th anniversary as an organization for veterans.

discharged.

Nationally, the Legion has a distinguished service record, including presenting the first draft of the “G.I. Bill of Rights” which sent many service personnel on to higher education and an effort that resulted in creating the U.S. Veterans Bureau, which later became the Veterans Administration.

But not all the action has been on the national scene. Given, as Commander O'Brien says, that the Legion is “a positive organization wanting to uplift and help the community,” Post 93 has a resume of considerable local achievements. They include hosting the Red Cross and assisting in a quarterly blood drive, “adopting” a portion of the Harold Andrews Road for periodic

litter and trash collection and sending high school students to Boys State and Girls State, a program that teaches them about the functions of government.

In addition, a future goal is to send students to the state Student Trooper Program where participants are given an up-close and personal look at life as an N.C. State Trooper. And through the years, Post 93 has been synonymous with summer baseball in the county as the sponsor of a Chatham County team.

“The Legion is all about membership,” says O'Brien, a 20-year veteran of the Army’s 82nd Airborne. “All ages in the community benefit from what the Legion does.” And to that effort, Post 93 is working to

help strengthen the three other posts in Chatham County — 292 in Goldston, 283 in Pittsboro and 277 in Siler City.

Scott Busenlehner, 93’s vice commander, and other members have been working, as he says, to “get the posts more active. We’re looking for members who will get involved and step up to leadership positions so the posts can remain alive.”

Any veteran who is interested can contact him or District Commander John Gerlett by email at NCDistrict13@gmail.com. Gerlett also serves as Post 93’s adjutant and treasurer.

“An increase in dedicated members,” O'Brien says, “would allow other posts to engage in comparable community activities. That’s what we’re all about.”

Chatham County EDC hires Phillip Thompson as project manager

From the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Economic Development Cor-

poration (EDC) is pleased to announce that Phillip Thompson has joined the organization as a project manager. He will manage the organization’s business attraction and recruitment efforts.

Thompson earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration at Appalachian State University, where his studies focused on risk management, insurance, finance and banking. Prior to joining the EDC, Thompson was a commercial lines account manager for First Bank Insurance in Sanford.

“Phillip will bring valuable business insight to this role with his experience in the commercial insurance industry,” said

EDC President Michael Smith. “Phillip’s passion for his community and helping to bring new opportunities to our citizens is what caused him to move into economic development. We’re excited to have him on staff and for him to be a part of the great things happening in Chatham County.”

Thompson is joining the EDC as the VinFast project begins to take shape, investing \$4 billion and creating 7,500 jobs at the Triangle Innovation Point

in Moncure. A key part of his role will be working on projects for the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site, which offers over 1,800 acres of industrial land ready for development.

Chreatha Alston, vice chairperson of the EDC board, said Phillip brings “a distinct professional skillset and a plethora of transferable skills to the EDC. I am confident he will serve as an awesome project manager and be a tremendous value-add

to the team. The board looks forward to working with him and officially welcoming him to the family.”

To prepare for the role, Thompson has taken courses in East Carolina University’s North Carolina Certified Economic Developer program and recently completed the UNC School of Government’s Basic Economic Development course.

Thompson’s first day with the EDC was Monday.



Chatham County Farm Bureau's "Food Drive for Chatham Raffle" at Silk Hope Old-Fashioned Farmers' Days September 3rd and 4th, 2022

Chatham County Farm Bureau will provide raffle tickets in exchange for food:

- 5 cans of food or \$5 donation for 1 ticket.

- \$20 donation for 5 tickets.

All food and money collected will be divided between Chatham's CORA food pantry and West Chatham Food Pantry.

RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE A BLACKSTONE GRILL, LOAD OF GRAVEL AND BIRD HUNT AS A GRAND PRIZE AND OTHER PRIZES.

Prizes to be given away hourly



Prizes donated by Chatham Co. Farm Bureau, Lutterloh Trucking, Hickory Mountain Upland Preserve, Quality Equipment in Pittsboro, Southern States, Liquidambar Gallery and Gifts, Guiding Hand Woodturning, 2911 Boutique, Tractor Supply, Pittsboro Feed/Pittsboro Pet Supply, Liberty Farm and Garden, Country Farm and Home, San Felipe Siler City, Siler City Country Club, Best Foods and others.

You do not have to be present to win. You may get tickets at the Chatham County Farm Bureau office or at Old Fashioned Farmers Day.

NEWS BRIEFS

Siler City's 'Friday Night Flicks' free movies series

SILER CITY — Siler City Parks and Recreation announces the sixth season of Friday Night Flicks, a popular movie in the park series held at Bray Park on the fourth Friday night of August, September and October.

The series will kick off Friday, Aug. 26, featuring “Raya and the Last Dragon,” a 2021 Disney animated film that takes place in the fantasy world of Kumandra, where humans and dragons lived together in harmony. However, when sinister monsters known as the Druun threatened the land, the dragons sacrificed themselves to save humanity. Now 500 years later, those same monsters have returned and it’s up to a lone warrior to track down the last dragon and stop the Druun for good. Grab your blankets, and chairs and enjoy this free, family-friendly movie under the stars.

The movie will premiere at dusk (approximately 8 p.m.). The community is invited to come early for fun activities, free inflatable attractions, music and more. Delicious concessions will be available for purchase by Customized Dogs and Catering. In case of inclement weather, the event rain date is Saturday, Aug. 27, for the movie only.

Friday Night Flicks is made possible by the following sponsors: Southern States Siler City Service, Brookwood Farms, Little Caesars, North Carolina National Guard, The Cowboys Café and Catering, Central Piedmont

Urgent Care, Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site, Crossroads Grill, Mountaire Farms, Salvation Army and Chatham News + Record.

In conjunction with the Aug. 26 Friday Night Flicks event, at 6 p.m., the Siler City Police Department will be hosting a Bicycle Rodeo, featuring an obstacle course, safety tips and a free helmet give-away.

“Sing 2” will premiere on Friday, Sept. 23, and “Encanto” will take the big screen on Friday, Oct. 28. These community events bring families, friends and neighbors together for a fun evening, watching their favorite movies on the big screen. Be sure to follow Siler City Parks and Recreation on Facebook and Instagram for up-to-date information.

The Bray Park Sports Complex is located at 200 Bray Park Complex Dr., Siler City.

For more information, please contact the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at 919-742-2699, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit the Town Website at www.silercity.org.

NCDOT, SHP stress move over law

RALEIGH — Two state first responder professions are facing the same major problem.

The Move Over Law requires drivers to change lanes when passing a stopped emergency vehicle with flashing lights. But drivers aren’t always adhering to the law, and that can cause life-altering situations.

“It’s just sad because it’s totally preventable,” N.C. State Highway Patrol Trooper Joseph Atwell said.

You have to move over, but if you are unable to because of the traffic conditions, you have to significantly reduce your speed.

Roger Hawkins, an N.C. Dept. of Transportation safety patrolman said, “this is a thing we deal with every day.”

“You have to keep your eyes peeled all the time,” Hawkins said.

Atwell and Hawkins agree drivers do not follow the law often. Both careers put them on the side of an interstate week after week with vehicles whizzing by.

“Vehicles are more than likely our No. 1 threat here on the highway patrol...” Atwell said. “There’s no excuse and it’s something I’ve dealt with personally.”

This summer, both Hawkins and Atwell encountered drivers not moving over: Hawkins got ear-ended which he was in his car, but did not experience any major injuries, and a suspected drunk driver hit Atwell’s car, thankfully without him in it.

Together, NCDOT and NCSHP have a simple message: move over.

Hawkins said, “so you can slow down and take your time, not only for your life, but everyone else’s life that’s around you too. Because almost all of us have family too.”

“If you just look up and quit texting and driving, quit drinking and driving — just move over — all this could’ve been avoidable,” Atwell added.

For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov or follow NCDOT on social media.

— CN+R staff reports

CCL presents 'Women of Chatham' conversations

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Community Library continues its series of quarterly discussions highlighting women changemakers in Chatham County on Sept. 17. The series will address areas of interest to county residents, viewed from the perspective of women engaged in both traditional and non-traditional careers including agriculture, entrepreneurship, education, the arts, public safety and social activism.

Celebrating Women of Chatham series will take place virtually from 1 to 2:30 p.m. that Saturday.

Third in the series is a panel featuring Chatham County women in public safety including Chief Deputy Tracy Kelly, Chatham County Sheriff's Office; Maj. Tammy Kirkman, Chatham County Sheriff's Office; District Court Judge Sherri Murrell (District 15B); Assistant District Attorney Kayley Taber; and Renita Foxx, Chatham County Courts

program director

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry will moderate the panel. Panelists will discuss the challenges and rewards of working in public safety in Chatham County among other aspects.

This virtual event is free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Participants should register online to receive the meeting link. Residents may visit the libraries' website, www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact

the Library at 919-545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for more information.

The Celebrating Women of Chatham series was created in response to the library's March 2021 virtual forum celebrating Women's History Month: "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: A Woman's Perspective of Chatham County." A recording of this program and those in this series are available on the library's YouTube channel.

Siler City's new pop-up market



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A line of vendors set up tents and tables to sell a variety of goods during the Siler City pop-up market on Tuesday in the parking lot across the railroad tracks from the fire department. Roughly 20 vendors sold food, flowers and other goods during the market.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck



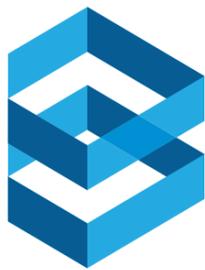
Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A booth selling items from Twin Birch & Teasel is set up under a shade tent during the pop-up market on Tuesday in Siler City. Many of the baskets being sold by the vendor were made in Africa.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

A line of vendors set up tents and tables to sell a variety of goods during the Siler City pop-up market on Tuesday. Some of the businesses present included Bear Creek Blooms, Little Way Farm, Branch & Hollow, Rock Meadow Farms and more.



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Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

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ZZZZZZZZZZ

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT. I TOLD YOU COWS SLEEP STANDING UP.

WHAT I WOULD GIVE FOR A FLYSWATTER. ZZZZZZZZ

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

YES!

MAKING GREAT TIME ON THE ROAD TO NOWHERE

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GETTIN' TO BE THAT TIME OF YEAR, SIM!

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The Spats by Jeff Pickering

I WAS JUST THINKING...

...OR AT LEAST I "THOUGHT" I WAS!?!

CRIN the BEAR IT by Wagon

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

I LOOK AT MYSELF AS A "WORK IN PROGRESS," BUT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WORKING ONLY PART TIME?

"Here, this will lessen the pain of the bill."

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

TV REPLACEMENT

ACROSS: 1 Small order of greens, 10 Weighing devices, 16 Hostility halter, 20 Preach from place to place, perhaps, 21 Arm bones, 22 Nights before, 23 People who yearn to take part in a lunar landing?, 25 "Tall" story, 26 Wd. division, 27 Scratch, e.g., 28 Give help to, 29 Divvy up, 30 An award-winning new device?, 38 With little space in between, 40 Crosswalk user, in brief, 41 "Hear, hear!", 42 "I refuse to repeatedly forgo this rule for you?", 48 Scratch (out), 49 Cartoon "Explorer", 50 Ruby-colored, 51 Notes after sol, 55 Boxing weapons, 58 Wild, irrational talk of the highest quality?, 64 Be a suitor of, 66 Great delight, 67 New Delhi-based flag carrier, 68 Greek city near Athens, 72 Traffic tangle, 74 Symbolize, 75 Plan to pay later, as for bar drinks, 77 Go very fast, 79 Gaming cube, 80 Vacillate about building a hydroelectric structure?, 83 Spandex brand, 87 Polar vehicle, 88 Age, 89 Couples, 91 "Inferno" director, 92 Venue for a large conference?, 99 1987 Hoffman-Beatty film, 103 Mex. matron, 104 Gofers' tasks, 105 Football passer who hasn't eaten all day?, 111 Swing's quality?, 112 Liquid in un lac, 113 Wee bit, 114 4G — (cellphone standard), 117 Wee bit, 118 Booking to stay at a humble hut?, 125 Sacked out, 126 Tot's bodysuit, 127 Entered surreptitiously, 128 That gal's male, 129 Letter-shaped metalworking grooves, 130 Alienates, 1 Unleashes (on), 2 "That's my goal", 3 Telephone sounds, 4 Stamped thing: Abbr., 5 Look at, 6 Part of ETA: Abbr., 43 Stiffly formal, 7 "Leaving — Vegas", 8 Wee particles, 9 Make lean, as meat, 10 "Quiet down!", 11 Actor's nudge, 12 Jordan's capital, 13 Pope before Benedict III, 14 Eat away at, 15 Ungodliness, 16 Oinker kept at home, 17 "Elena of —" (Disney series), 18 Pop diva, 19 Fearsome fly, 24 Common motif, 29 Antlered male, 31 Pres. after FDR, 32 Comics cry, 33 Ran, as colors, 34 "Beauty is in the — the beholder", 35 Not many, 36 Lupino of old Hollywood, 37 Writer Anaïs, 38 B-G linkup, 39 Trickster god, 44 R&B singer Staples, 45 Writer Levin, 46 Aloe —, 47 Actor Elba, 51 Actress Laura, 52 Me, myself —, 53 9-to-5'er's cry of relief, 54 "Oho, old chap!", 56 Interwoven, 57 Sub tracker, 59 Painter Max, 60 Pathogenic bacterium, for short, 61 Factor of nine, 62 Rainless, 63 Night watch, 65 Filmmaker, 68 Dairy animals, 69 Iridescent gemstone, 70 Dream, in French, 71 "— got a deal for you!", 73 Caused, 76 Swiss capital, 78 Sunup, 81 Maze-running rodent, 82 U-Haul renter, 84 Sounding like a potato chip bag, 85 Big crucifix, 86 Writers Rule and Radcliffe, 90 Belgrade native, 92 Cover with tar, 93 "... — quit!", 94 Columbus sch., 95 Monkly title, 96 — blanche, 97 Gun rights org., 98 Tic-toe linkup, 99 Book before Jeremiah, 100 Disco flasher, 101 "Mad" man of Wonderland, 102 Basic chords, 106 Some garish lights, 107 Judicial mallet, 108 Spanish for "cheese", 109 French for "cup", 110 Paradises, 115 Carry along, 116 Baseball of Famer Slaughter, 118 Peppery, 119 Eng. course, 120 Apt., e.g., 121 Road furrow, 122 Outmoded RCA product, 123 Alias lead-in, 124 Element #50

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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E	D	D	Y		S	A	P	S		A	T	E	A	M		S	T	O	P	S

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Pictured: Cathy Baker



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V S Q O L J B H E C C E A O O
A X V T R P A N E L D L K S F
J H F D B Y N C R X E I O I K
V T R P O O Y M I V T M P D C
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Z X W S U T R L R Q U 2 O M R
N L O O G A C I H C B 0 J I G
F B D C G S E T A T S 3 1 A Y

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: BEANTOWN

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| 13 states | Butte | Gary | Seattle |
| 3,020 miles | Chicago | Madison | Spokane |
| Albany | Cleveland | Rapid City | Utica |
| Billings | Erie | Rockford | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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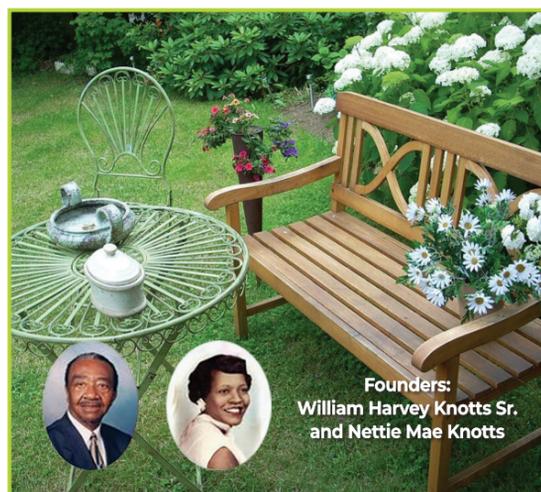
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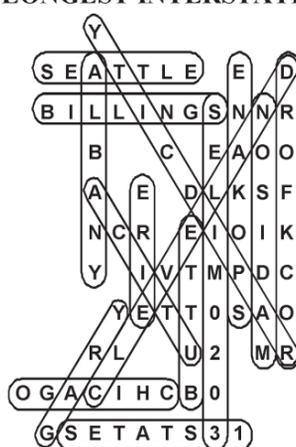
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Answer

2	4	9	7	6	5	3	1	8
8	5	7	2	3	1	9	6	4
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Salvation and redemption

More than waiting in line, outside, in the summer, more than blisters from new shoes, more than adding up my American Express bill each month, I hate wasting food.

DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

More than a new Mad magazine, more than no line at the bank, I love rustic, artisanal, bakery breads.

This puts me on the horns of a dilemma.

I'd love to fill my kitchen with sourdough miche, ciabatta rolls, multi-grain loaves and big, fat, yeast rolls. But the drawback to these kinds of breads is that they go furry quickly, and go stale even quicker.

So, what's a girl, to whom throwing away food is anathema, to do?

This girl uses the bread as fresh as possible for things like tomato sandwiches, made with garden fresh tomatoes.

Once the bread goes stale,



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A delicious grilled cheese sandwich is enhanced by — of all things — mayonnaise.

it's still great for grilled or toasted sandwiches. After that, but before it goes furry, bag it and place it in the freezer. It's

perfect for bread crumbs and coating for oven-baked pork chops and chicken. I haven't bought Shake & Bake or any

breadier for literally decades.

But even from the chill chest, this bread can make a delicious, unusual starchy sand-

wich siding.

Thaw two slices of the bread. Spread a little softened butter on one side of each. Place, buttered side down onto heated skillet and cook until browned and crispy. While grilling, the other side will become as soft as fresh.

Then spread the grilled sides with sandwich fixings. Tuna is terrific on this reclaimed bread.

This procedure makes the best peanut butter and jelly sandwich you will ever put in your mouth. The buttery crunch of a grilled PB&J is wonderful. But peanut butter and jelly will both warm, soften, and drizzle right out once you pick it up. This way, though, you can wait a minute until it cools, and you get the buttery crusty, along with the soft pillowy experience of fresh bread on the outside.

Below, I've got a couple of recipes for our favorite grilled cheese sandwiches. The mayonnaise may seem odd, but the egg in it makes the crust almost take on a savory French toast texture.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at debbie@bullcity.mom.

Petey's Perfect Grilled Cheese

2 slices hearty rustic bread

4 slices bacon, cooked 'til very crispy

Heat a cast-iron or other heavy skillet on medium-low. Make sandwich: 1 slice Velveeta, shredded cheddar, bacon, then the final slice of Velveeta. Spread mayo on the outside of both slices of bread.

Place sandwich onto heated skillet. Cover pan and cook until cheese has begun to melt. Uncover and cook until the first side is browned and crispy.

Flip sandwich and cook the other side until done.

Remove from pan and let sit three minutes or so before cutting.

2 slices Velveeta cheese

1/3 cup shredded mild cheddar

2 teaspoons mayonnaise

Debbie's Deluxe Grilled Cheese

2 slices hearty rustic bread

4 thin slices of the sharpest cheddar you can find

1-2 teaspoons brown deli or Dijon mustard

Heat skillet to medium-low. Mix mustard and horseradish until smooth.

Construct sandwich: spread mustard on one slice of bread, then layer two slices cheddar, onion jam, topping with last two slices.

Spread one teaspoon mayo on the outside of each slice of bread.

Place sandwich onto heated skillet. Cover pan and cook until cheese has begun to melt. Uncover and cook until the first side is browned and crispy.

Flip sandwich and cook the other side until done.

Remove from pan and let sit three minutes or so before cutting.

1/2 teaspoons horseradish (optional)

2 tablespoons onion jam (*recipe is in the Nov. 22, 2019, edition of the News +Record)

2 teaspoons mayonnaise



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



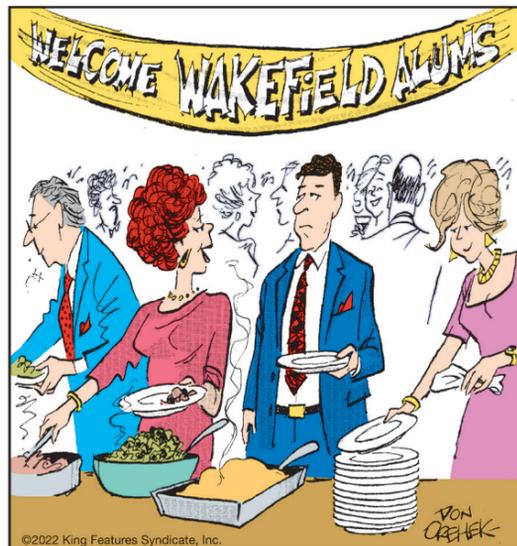
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