

# Chatham News + Record

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## Is CRT taught in Chatham County Schools?

*Spoiler alert: School system says it's not*

**BY BEN RAPPAPORT**  
News + Record Staff

A collection of documents from a recent training program for teachers and administrators in Chatham County Schools recently made the rounds on social media.

The training, held last month, was meant to help teachers understand equity and race as part of improving inclusivity efforts in the classroom — but instead it sparked claims that CCS is

teaching CRT, or Critical Race Theory, to students.

A selection of documents, published in an opinion piece on the online “Chatham Journal,” on Sept. 1 showed outlines of diversity training materials. The article, which purported to illustrate how the system was engaged in CRT teaching, quickly drew outrage from some parents and community members who lambasted CCS administration and board members.

Critical Race Theory is an academic framework taught at undergraduate and graduate levels that examines the social construction of race and how racism is embedded into legal and social systems. In recent years, it's

been increasingly brought into public debate with regard to K-12 schools. It's not uncommon, though, for mandated or voluntary equity and social justice training for administrators and staff to be interpreted by some unfamiliar with CRT as CRT training or CRT indoctrination.

But CCS officials say that interpretation doesn't make it a reality, particularly in regard to K-12 classroom instruction.

CCS teachers told the News + Record that looking at the documents, it's hard to see these trainings as problematic or out of the ordinary. The outlines discuss helping teachers identify white privilege, understand unconscious bias

and point out the ways race and class play systemic roles in determining educational outcomes.

**'A completely manufactured issue'**

CCS teachers who participated in the training, entitled “Culturally Respectful Teaching,” also said they were confused and concerned about the outrage from some community members they saw online. One, Edward Walgate, a science teacher at Northwood High School, is president of the Chatham County Association of Educators.

See **CRT**, page A6

### PITTSBORO AGRITOURISM

## 'A spark of joy': Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm celebrates grand opening

**BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A year ago, Em Stecker and Danette Boezio, on their way to a funeral in Winston-Salem, noticed a “FOR SALE” sign at M&M Alpaca Farm, located between Siler City and Pittsboro off U.S. 64.

An exchange of email messages, a lengthy conversation with the farm manager and a tour — on National Alpaca Farm Day of all days — followed, and by then they were smitten. The two business partners from Apex closed on their purchase of the farm by December.

Now, almost a year after the new owners' first visit, the re-named Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm is open to the public, with almost 300 visitors coming to its grand opening on Saturday.

Stecker and Boezio each see the circumstances precipitating their acquisition of the farm and its opening as “divine inspiration.” And for Stecker, she's most excited about witnessing the culmination of farm staff's work in the past several months and the return of visitors.

The hope is to foster an educational environment, she said, but also one of respite and relaxation.

“We are creating a space for people to learn about alpacas, obviously,” Stecker said. “But even bigger than that, we're creating a space for people to have a little spark of joy and light and breadth in



Staff photo by Anna Connors  
**Melody Clark, left, and her granddaughter Olivia pet an alpaca at Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm's grand opening event on Saturday. New owners Danette Boezio, left, and Em Stecker (in cutout photo) recently purchased the business.**

a world that needs that right now.”

#### 'Saved the farm'

For around a decade, the former M&M Alpaca Farm operated in the location of Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm. Its previous owners, Marty and Mary Raynor, ready for a life change, were hoping to sell the farm to someone who would keep it as intact as possible and retain it as an alpaca farm, said Farm Manager Laina Peck-Bostwick.

Laina and her wife, Sarah, have helped to run operations since the farm opened.

They've overseen a number of responsibilities, from handling fiber processing to caring for and showing livestock.

“We have been here since the very beginning,” Peck-Bostwick said.

Peck-Bostwick said Stecker and Boezio came by the farm on the last day it was going to be open to the public. Prior to their visit, she had been preparing to take over managing the separate sale of farm land and alpacas.

“The ladies,” Peck-Bostwick said, “they saved the farm.”

See **ALPACAS**, page A7



## Chatham gets more money for broadband

*GREAT grant funding to connect more than 1,900 addresses*

**BY BEN RAPPAPORT**  
News + Record Staff

Future internet service providers in Chatham County received \$4 million in state funding last month to improve broadband access for more than 1,900 homes through the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant program.

On Aug. 31, N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper announced \$206 million in state funding toward improving broadband access across the state. The money aims to bring high-speed internet to rural counties in North Carolina, including Chatham. Providers in the county are eligible for up to \$8 million in funding per fulfilled application through the GREAT grant.

GREAT program provides funding to give broadband access to 85,000 households and 2,400 businesses that cover 69 counties. This is the state's largest round of GREAT grant awards to date, with more

See **GRANT**, page A6

### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

## County eyes steps for funds, announces coordinator position

**BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN**  
News + Record Staff

Chatham County commissioners heard the first steps of a proposed plan to handle funds from the \$26 million national opioid settlement during Monday's work session.

Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek, Sheriff Mike Roberson, Courts Program Director Renita Foxx and Chatham Drug Free Community Outreach Coordinator George Gregor-Holt presented the plan on behalf of the Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances. Founded in late 2017, the group has been working to address the opioid epidemic in the county for five years and was initiated

as a partnership between the county's Public Health Department and the Sheriff's Office.

A number of community groups and entities are also involved in the partnership, including Chatham County Public Schools, Chatham Recovery and the Chatham County Courts Program.

“We're fortunate, as these opioid settlement dollars come in, that we already had some partnership built for that,” Zelek told the News + Record. “...We've met a few times this year as a partnership to say, collectively, where do we think this should go? Where can we invest the dollars? And do we want to keep this partnership going to

See **OPIOID**, page A9

## Sheriff candidate calls coaching situation 'clear retaliation'

*Globuschutz, others temporarily barred from coaching; CCS says paperwork mistake has been remedied*

**BY BEN RAPPAPORT**  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Marcus Globuschutz, the Republican candidate for Chatham County Sheriff, described his being temporarily barred from volunteer coaching duties at Jordan-Matthews High School as “clear retaliation” after he spoke out at a



**Marcus Globuschutz**

county board of education meeting. Chatham County Schools officials, though, described the situation as a simple paperwork error made during leadership transition at the school.

At last Monday's school board meeting, Globuschutz was one of a number of people to speak out about an incident at Bonlee School — an interaction between a student and a teacher that the student's father and other parents believe was “bullying” by a teacher for

See **SHERIFF**, page A7

# 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, Sept. 26, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. The meeting will be livestreamed on Zoom and on the town's YouTube channel.

## OTHER

• The remaining **Siler City Lions Club meetings** for the month will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Dry Dock Restaurant, 408 North Second Avenue.

## 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.

• Chatham County is seeking individuals to apply for several upcoming vacancies on its advisory committees – the Environmental Review Advisory Committee, Agriculture Advisory Board, and Appearance Commission. Service on committees is a great way for interested residents to have a voice on issues of interest and make a difference in the community. Individuals must be 18 years old and a resident of Chatham County to serve on advisory committees. The deadline to apply for the openings is Friday, September 30, by 5:00 p.m. Online application forms can be found at [www.chathamcountync.gov/CommitteeAppointments](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/CommitteeAppointments). If applicants would like an email or printed copy of the form, they may contact Lindsay Ray at 919-545-8302 or [lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov).

• **Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area** will hold its Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation on Saturday afternoon, September 24, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the Bynum Methodist Church Community

Building (formerly the Bynum Ruritan Club). The address is 28 Charlie Fields Road, Pittsboro. There will be a brief business session with elections. Our annual meeting will include an entertaining presentation by Matt Spangler about the Secret Life of Animals captured by our wildlife cameras placed throughout the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. Refreshments will be served. Friends of Lower Haw members, volunteers, donors, their families and the general public are welcome to attend this free event. Come join in the fun and fellowship with us! Visit our website at [www.lowerhaw.org](http://www.lowerhaw.org)

• **Tarheel Challenge Academy** - New London, is currently accepting applications for the October, 2022 class. This is a free educational program for accepted applicants, ages 16-18. ChalleNge is the Choice for Change! For more information contact Angelina Wilson at 704-960-9347 or visit our website at <https://nc-teachallenge.org>. We offer our services to students who are not faring well in their current school setting. Our free program includes a 5 1/2 month residential phase, followed by a 12-month post-residential phase. While attending the 5 1/2 month residential program, our students work on the program's core components: Academic excellence, Life-coping Skills, Leadership and Followership, Responsible Citizenship, Job Skills, Service to the Community, Physical Fitness, and Health & Hygiene. To refer a student or if you have any questions, please call/text me directly at 704-960-9347 or email me at [angelina.wilson@ncdps.gov](mailto:angelina.wilson@ncdps.gov)

• **Chatham Community Library** is designated as an ecoEXPLORE Loan Spot, a location where those participants can use their library card to check out equipment to aid in their observation of the natural world. Any Chatham County Public Libraries card holder will be able to check out a Discovery Pack from the Chatham Community Library. Discovery

Packs have been provided by ecoEXPLORE, and contain kid-friendly binoculars, bug net, a birdcall, a trail camera and more. Kid scientists are encouraged to record their natural discoveries and submit them via the ecoEXPLORE website. In addition to lending Discovery Packs, Chatham Community Library will host programs presented by ecoEXPLORE science educators. Families with children in grades K-8 are invited to join the library for an Intro to ecoEXPLORE on Saturday, November 12, at 2:00 p.m. in the Chatham Community Library Holmes Meeting Room. Program facilitators will give an overview of what it means to be a citizen scientist, how to participate in ecoEXPLORE, and then head outside to practice making a scientific observation. For more information, contact Youth Services at [youth.services@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:youth.services@chathamlibraries.org).

• **The Silk Hope Ruritan** host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of each month. This month's last event will be held September 29, at the Silk Hope Community Center. All are welcome.

• **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](http://ChathamArtsCouncil.org).

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

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

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

• **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics

Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.

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

**SCOUT NEWS**

• **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past

CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit [www.bstroop93.org](http://www.bstroop93.org) for more information.

• **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on 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.

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- 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 Pearteman 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 Pearteman 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)
- 00 Moons Chapel Road (86.599 Acres)
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- 388 Wade Bright Road (10 Acres)
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- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
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- 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)
- 1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
- 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
- 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 745 Mert 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)
- 218 Oakwood Lane (Pittsboro)
- 138 A Poplar Street (Chapel Hill)
- 58 Lily McCoy Lane (Pittsboro)
- 1637 Briar Chapel Parkway (Chapel Hill)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 6 Units**

- 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)
- 94 Pine Cone Loop (Pittsboro)

**PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT**

**LAND (Representing Sellers) 6 Units**

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague Road (23.1 Acres)
- 10681 E US 64 Hwy (3.97 Acres)
- Lot 1, TC Justice Road (5.272 Acres)
- 0 Callicutt Road (60.376 Acres)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 6 Units**

- 298 CD Thomas Road (Siler City)
- 390 New Salem Church Road (Pittsboro)
- 5470 US 15 501 Hwy (Pittsboro)
- 5472 US 15 501 Hwy (Pittsboro)
- 872 Old Graham Road (Pittsboro)
- 9849 Twisted Oak Trail (Snow Camp)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 2 Units**

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# Fatal crash on Old Graham Road is second in last year

CN+R Staff Reports

A young woman died Friday after she struck a tree on Old Graham Road, the N.C. State Highway Patrol confirmed. The death is the third in two such crashes along the road in the last year.

State Highway Patrol said the woman died on impact from blunt force trauma to the head after her car swerving off the road into a tree. No passengers or other vehicles were harmed in the crash. NCSHP has not yet released the report on the crash, and the name

of the woman is unknown at this time, but officials said the victim's family was notified.

It is suspected that the driver was traveling upwards of 70 miles per hour when she hit the tree based on tire marks left near the scene of the incident, according to SHP. The speed limit along Old Graham Road is 45 mph.

Bryan Vilchis, a senior at Northwood High School, also died during the crash on Old Graham Road in Oct. 2021. A week later, a passenger in the car, Desmond Patterson,

also died after being hospitalized.

This is a developing story and will be updated as details emerge.

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY-ELECT JEFF NIEMAN

# Chatham's incoming D.A. wants to address inequity in the criminal justice system

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

Jeff Nieman grew up idolizing his dad, Guilford County's chief public defender.

"He went to law school a little later in life, when he was in his late 30s, and I was a preteen, so I saw him go through the journey of becoming a lawyer," Nieman said of his father, John. "I realized I always wanted to be a lawyer, partly because I wanted to emulate him."

After working in Chatham County's district at-

torney's office as assistant district attorney, Nieman is set to become District Attorney for both Orange and Chatham counties: he'll be sworn into office and assume the position in January after defeating co-worker Kayley Taber — who also works in the District Attorney's office as an assistant attorney — in May's Democratic primary because he won't face Republican opposition in November.

Nieman grew up in Orange County and has spent almost his entire life there. He went to school in both the Chapel Hill-Carboro and Orange County public school districts and completed his undergraduate studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. From there, Nieman obtained his law

degree at N.C. Central University in Durham.

It was during his time at N.C. Central where Nieman completed an internship at the District Attorney's office in Orange County. There, he discovered a desire for prosecuting criminal cases and bettering the criminal justice system. It's that same passion that led Nieman to run for District Attorney after current D.A. Jim Woodall — who has been in the position since 2005 — announced in 2021 he would be stepping down.

"When he told us that he was retiring, I thought about it and realized the reasons for running for D.A. were very similar, but maybe larger in scope, as to why I decided on assistant

D.A.," Nieman said. "It's a way that I could use my training, experience and my license to practice law in a way that really has an impact on the community."

## The criminalization of poverty

Nieman said he wants to focus on certain goals as District Attorney: ending the criminalization of poverty, addressing racial disparities in the criminal justice system and administering justice in the fairest way possible.

"Those were the those were the bedrock planks of my platform running, and I would say that's why I decided to run," Nieman said. "The place that I could do that and have the

most effect to try to move our local system in those directions was to be the district attorney."

He wants to ensure justice is served fairly and is not targeting one group more than the other, and that's where he says his campaign goals come in. Nieman's time in the District Attorney's office has been spent trying to combat what he calls the "criminalization of poverty." He said the way this mostly presents itself is in traffic court, where fees can quickly add up.

"What I've observed is a lot of people don't come to court, not because they are trying to be scofflaws, but because they're poor, housing insecure or food insecure," Nieman explained. "They don't come to court because they know they don't have the money to pay the ticket, and some things that have exacerbated that is that the court costs and especially the late fees that get associated with it if you don't pay a ticket on time have exploded."

Nieman explained court fees related to traffic court proceedings have quadrupled in the 15 years he has worked as an assistant D.A., outpacing inflation. He said because of this, many of those who experience poverty and have minor offenses end up stuck in a cycle where they can't afford to go to court.

"What I saw is a lot of people who their only real offense was driving and not having enough money to handle the the sort of things that come along with driving a motor vehicle," Nieman said. "I'm not discounting the importance of those laws, but what happened is that the consequence was far outstretching the wrongdoing."

Nieman set up a driver's license restoration program in 2009 to help address the issue of poverty in the criminal justice system. With the help Woodall, Nieman advocated for the Driver's License Restoration Act, which was enacted in 2015.

"That bill was modeled after proposals that I made about how we could change the system of driving licenses revoked," he said. "It's still not perfect, but it improved the process a lot and at least offered a fair path to people getting out of from under that."

## the criminal justice system

Another important issue for Nieman is addressing racial inequities within the counties' criminal justice system.

According to the NAACP, there are 6.8 million Americans incarcerated across the country, and Black Americans make up 34% of the total prison population. In addition to that, Black Americans are five times more likely to be arrested than their white counterparts.

"We all know that people of color and underrepresented communities are over represented in the criminal justice system among people who are charged and convicted of crime," Nieman said. "Most of us agree that the causes of that start way before they enter the courthouse door. There's a lot of systemic and societal things that helped feed that, but that doesn't absolve those of us who work in the courthouse to do our part."

Nieman said he wants to make more intentional and diverse hires in the District Attorney's office, as he said the current staff "doesn't reflect the community in Orange and Chatham counties."

"I don't think that's because the current D.A. hasn't tried or doesn't care about that, but the bottom line is that we're not as diverse as we should be, and we need to do better," he said. "We need to do very intentional recruiting, particularly at our local public law schools ... UNC Chapel Hill and my alma mater, North Carolina Central, connecting with the Black Law Students Association and other organizations that represent underrepresented communities and work hard to recruit in those communities when they're in law school to get them interested in becoming an assistant."

## 'A very progressive view'

In addition to these issues, Nieman said a new issue he is adamant about is continuing to protect abortion rights. Nieman said in light of Roe v. Wade being overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, he would never prosecute cases related to abortion or access to it.

"I am not aware of there being any intention to get into the business of charging people with crimes related to the current 20-week ban in North Carolina, but if they did, I wouldn't prosecute the cases," he said. "I had some really heartfelt discussions with younger women who had asked me about that, but with a lot of people who said that this was important issue, and then when I told them my stance on it, they felt like that was very compelling."

After November's election, Nieman is expected to take the oath of office and assume his position Jan. 1. For the Orange County native, he is excited to start work in Chatham as the next District Attorney.

"I have a very progressive view about how the direction our criminal justice system should go," Nieman said. "It should be fair and proportionate to the wrongdoing done and shouldn't be serving to keep people to keep people ensnared in the criminal justice system longer than is fair for what they did."



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# VIEWPOINTS

## Corporal punishment: real life fiction?

Sept. 13 was Roald Dahl Day, a holiday in honor of the late



**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN**  
Hope Matters

“Matilda.”

But my favorite book is the lesser-known “The BFG.”

The story opens with our young protagonist, Sophie, caught in the archetypal childhood nightmare — snatched by a giant from the safety of her own bed! There are other child-devouring giants, in-

cluding the terrifying monster known as the Bloodbottler.

But Sophie is greatly relieved to learn that her captor had no intention of having her for supper. He explained he is the BFG — Big Friendly Giant.

I did not believe in giants (friendly or not), but I recognized the real friendship between Sophie and the BFG. Dahl taught me to read fiction to understand the truth inside ourselves, even through the lens of an imaginary world and its creatures.

As an adult, I’ve read Dahl’s autobiography, “Boy: Tales of Childhood.” In his descriptions of abusive teachers at his boarding school, I can see how Dahl’s fiction is based on his real-life experience. He was not eaten by a giant, but Dahl was beaten mercilessly with a cane

by the monstrous headmaster at his school.

When he was the same age as Sophie, Dahl accidentally broke his pencil. He asked his classmate for a new one and his teacher flew into a rage, first accusing him of cheating and then of lying when Dahl protested his innocence. As punishment, young Dahl was given six “stripes,” or lashes across his backside: “The pain is so frightful you try to grab hold of it and tear it away.”

This is a tale of adult monsters who were giants of cruelty and injustice. I wish I could say this story was a relic of the past. Corporal punishment in schools is actually legal in 19 states, including North Carolina. The vast majority of school districts ban all forms of physical punishment. Yet, a

school district in Missouri recently made national headlines because of its desire to abuse — I mean “discipline” — its students with wooden paddles.

Arguing against corporal punishment, Steve Chapman of the Chicago Tribune cited the 2016 book “Raised to Rage” that cites overwhelming evidence that children who suffer physical violence grow up to become violent adults. You reap what you sow.

But this is also true of sowing good deeds.

After his lashing, Dahl’s classmates surrounded him with their sympathies: “Small boys can be very comradely; even more so when they feel an injustice has been done.” Dahl remembered one child named Highton. Knowing that Dahl’s father had died when he was

only 3 years old, Highton promised to write to his own father in protest. Highton insisted that he would try to make it right.

“Of course, nothing came of (Highton’s letter to his father),” reflected Dahl. “It was nevertheless a touching and generous gesture from one small boy to another, and I have never forgotten it.”

There are frightening things in the real world. That much is true. Yet, we have a choice in how we respond — with violence or empathy. We can choose the story we write.

*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.”*

## Breakfasts of the past, gone with the wind

It’s been said we are what we eat. If that’s so, I’m in trouble.



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin’ Around

Although I have been trying recently, albeit not always successfully, to eat just half of a chicken instead of the whole bird, at times the issue has been more not the amount of the meal but its content. For instance, as a child one of my favorite meals was a bologna, peanut butter, cheese and ketchup sandwich consumed with a cold bellywasher. I’d

even have one or two as a snack after getting off the school bus, sort of a warm-up before supper, which is what we uninformed country folks called the third meal of the day. Today, refined folks refer to that meal as “dinner,” which at my house is meal number two, especially when prepared by my other half and her mom and mine long ago.

Most everyone I mention that sandwich to these days usually says something like “Ugh!” I’m not sure if that comment is a reflection of the food or they don’t want to wind up with a figure like mine, created in part by the consumption of a significant number of those sandwiches. While it’s been awhile since I’ve had one — or two — of those delightful creations, there are some other combinations no one else in my family seems to like as much as I do. For instance, mixing scrambled eggs, grits, cheese, bacon or sausage and toast in a bowl, topped with ketchup, comes to mind as one. I’m beginning to think it may be the love of ketchup that other folks don’t have that drives them away. But our friends in Washington say ketchup is a vegetable so I’m sure I’m getting my recommended daily allowance of something.

Anyway, I ran across a story in the Sunday paper a little while back that said one of my childhood favorites was in the fight of its business life. Cereal, the story said, was in a pitched battle for its life on two fronts: competition from granola bars and yogurt and juice on one and behavior habits — not everyone gets up in time for a “good breakfast” — on the other.

More and more folks, especially the Millennials — those folks between the ages of 14 and 32 — are giving up on Cap’n Crunch and having a bowl of dirt or rocks or whatever is the Fad of the Day, if they eat breakfast at all. If not that, they’re having a homemade glass of freshly squeezed carrot juice from organic carrots grown in Lower Slobovia by a group of left-handed bald Philistine monks or driving through their local Fast Food for whatever is on the Dollar Menu.

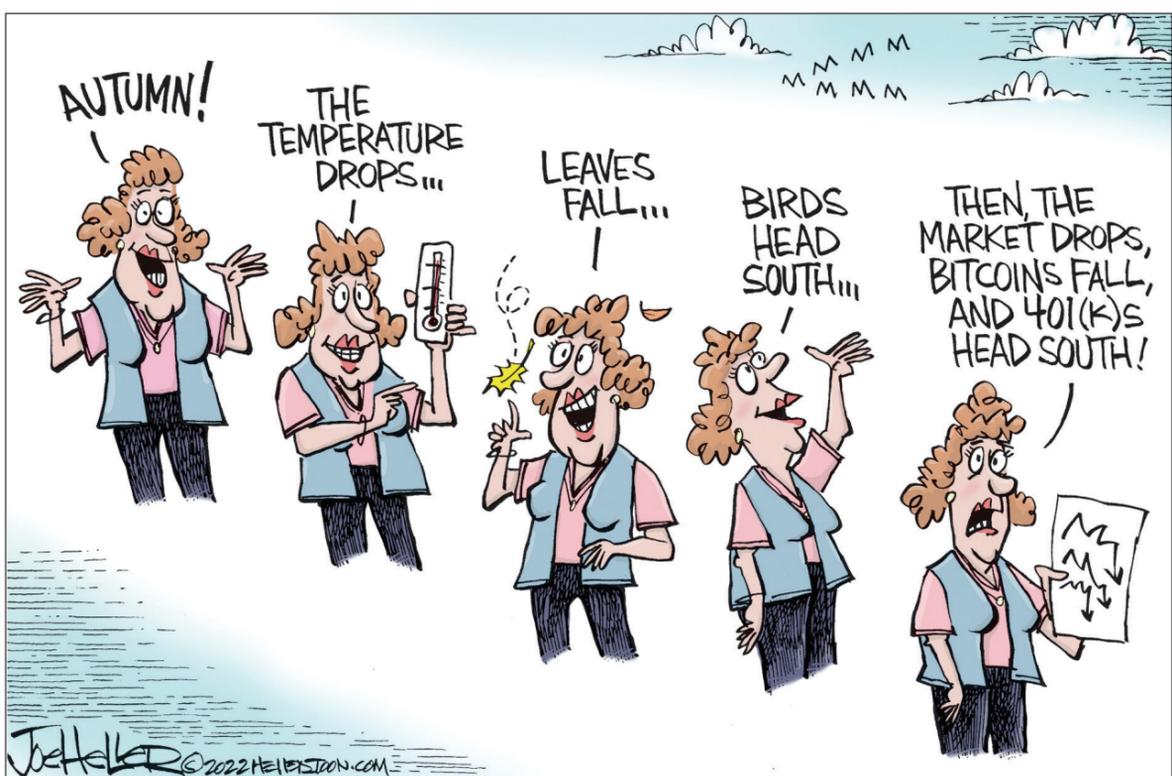
Many of them are not eating at all or waiting until 11 a.m. for something called “brunch.” So sitting down with Snap, Crackle and Pop around the breakfast table with Mom and Dad and Billy and Sally and don’t forget Rover — like they did in “Father Knows Best” — isn’t the highlight of the day for them.

Granted, there are a few boxes on the cereal aisle that should be named “Tons O’Sugar” or something similar. And I can appreciate the need to avoid so much of that stuff as my body, which is now older than my mind, tries to maintain a measure of stability. And, I must confess, I find it hard to pay \$8 for a 12-ounce box of crumbs that settled during shipping.

To combat the urge to skip breakfast or eat at the drive-thru, cereal companies are beginning to tout that it’s cheaper to eat at home. But until that \$8 box starts going for \$4.50 that may be a hard sale.

The reality is this: things — taste, cost, tradition — change. If I could still down half a pound of bacon with a setting of eggs, a pan of biscuits and a pot of grits, there’s no doubt what my breakfast habits would be. Forget the cost. It’s just that my doctor won’t let me. But so far, ketchup is not on the endangered list.

*Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.*



## Darn, my brain

Darn, this human being thing ... It’s hard, hard, hard.



**JAN HUTTON**  
This Being Human Thing

My deeply-held values meet my inherited reality. Sigh.

I (proudly) have a bumper sticker affixed to my car, “Love Thy Neighbor — No Exceptions.” Uh-huh. Try this little experiment. Follow the bumper sticker’s suggestion of loving each friend and neighbor who comes to mind. I flame out with embarrassment, (good peace-loving Quaker that I am) usually in the first one to two minutes. Why you ask? Let’s just

lay it on the line. My inherited neurological reality intrudes. Of course, since we’re all humans, it’s your inherited reality too. I’m spreading the blame around ...

Inherited? Huh? What’s the nature of a reality that undermines “loving thy neighbor?” My reality is one who judges — others — a lot. (Cringe. It’s difficult to out myself. I really, really want to be perfect. Next life...)

Back to this judging “reality” thing which stampedes over my hoped-for values of loving my neighbors — and also showing off my sterling character to others. First, there’s this teeny-tiny problem with my brain. I’m innately primed to judge others so I can move safely through the world. Safely? Kind of goes back millions of years when our survival was based on split-second judgments about predators — which ones I could eat and those that could eat me. Oh, no, get the heck out of here! I don’t

like those sharp teeth! Our brains are still primed to protect us from predators. And making snap judgments about others (predator or not predator) is still a hard-wired part of our modern brains.

Getting down to brass tacks — no, no, please, please watch your step! — we’re primed to look for the negative (saber-toothed tigers or whatever the modern version might be) because quick judgments of “bad” are what kept us alive millions of years ago. It remains part of our brain’s mainframe today. Paying attention to “loving my neighbor,” but not the charging Tyrannosaurus rex, probably didn’t bolster my chances of survival eons ago. Big ouch.

In keeping an eye out for predators, we sometimes just slough off positive experiences because of our brain’s makeup, even these many millions of years later. So what’s a “Love Thy Neighbor — No Exceptions” bumper sticker-type person to do considering the above?

Start with accepting that my brain is still predator-challenged and be nicer to myself when I discern that I’m judging others. Evolution is a slow process.

Secondly, it has become clear to me that the bumper sticker “Love thy neighbor, No exceptions” is above my current neurological pay grade. Looking for something more in line with my present-day — but growing — evolutionary status. I could probably manage “Humankind — Be Both.” The bar isn’t set so high...

*Jan Hutton is a retired hospice/hospital social worker who believes in living life with heart and humor. She has happily lived in Chatham for 20 years.*

## Heading down the home stretch

Elections have consequences, as we know all too well. This year’s Nov. 8 midyear elections could prove to be among the most consequential on both the federal and state levels.

Whichever party controls the White House traditionally loses large numbers of congressional seats in midterm elections. With both chambers having razor-thin Democrat pluralities, our votes could help tip the scales to one or the other party. In January, political observers were ready to concede control of both the Senate and the House from Democrats to Republicans, but in recent weeks polls reveal voter reversals and some senior Republican Senators, are acknowledging that Democrats might retain control of the Senate and maybe even the House. Privately they concede many Trump-endorsed

candidates don’t have requisite qualifications and Republicans are on the wrong side of the abortion issue. Our U.S. Senate race, in which former Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley is running against Congressman Ted Budd, might be the one that decides Senate party control. Beasley, the Democrat, narrowly lost re-election as Chief Justice by just 401 votes in 2020. Budd, a Republican Congressman, won a surprisingly easy May 17 primary election over former Gov. Pat McCrory and former congressman Mark Walker. Trump endorsed Budd and the congressman has received multimillion dollars in support from “The Club for Growth.” We will watch to see if Trump and/or outside groups can combine to win the seat. Budd himself has not actively campaigned and, to this point, has avoided debating the Democrat. Beasley, a strong retail politician, has solicited votes in every county. Polls indicate the outcome is close, with the latest showing Beasley up by a point. All 14 Congressional districts are up

for election. Previously, North Carolina sent 10 Republicans and three Democrats to Washington, however newly drawn districts promise a better mix. The consensus of reputable forecasting organizations is that we will elect eight Republicans and six Democrats to our congressional delegation.

Several open seats and tossup districts are worth watching. In the 1st District, long represented by G.K. Butterfield, Democrat Don Davis is favored to win over Republican Sandy Smith. David Price retired and his 4th District seat is open. Democrat Valerie Foushee is favored to win over Courtney Geels. In a redrawn 13th District, the Bo Hines (Republican) and Wiley Nickel (Democrat) contest could be insightful. The Trump-endorsed Hines has not run an especially good campaign, while Nickel’s experience seems to be paying off in a formerly Republican district. In the newly created 14th District there is no incumbent, however, Democrat Jeff Jackson — a seasoned member of

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See **CAMPBELL**, page A5

# VIEWPOINTS

## LETTERS

### On our school board, let's reach for common ground

TO THE EDITOR:

After reading the recent articles related to the Chatham County School Board, I remembered attending a board meeting last year when several speakers in opposition to the board's approach to COVID precautions literally turned their backs on the board and ignored the prescribed time limit for public input. It was sad to see the national divisiveness and disrespect here in

Chatham.

I learned about "windigo" when my wife read "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. As this Native American author explains, "Windigo is the name for that within us which cares more for its own survival than for anything else."

Raised in the Christian faith, I've looked to chapter 22, verses 37-39 of Matthew as a guidepost for life: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. And the

second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The COVID-19 pandemic sometimes laid bare the fragility of a loving community. I had hoped to hear at the school board meeting praises for those working tirelessly to adapt to COVID's educational challenges; instead, I heard self-centered complaints about steps taken for the common good. Fortunately, our current school board members followed a reasonable course to protect students, staff, families and the larger community while

also promoting academic achievement. Recently the News + Record paper reported that 18 of our 20 schools in Chatham County met or exceeded anticipated academic growth.

In contemplating the best ways to support the goals of public education, one thing is crystal clear. We cannot afford to frame the conversation in terms of "who comes first" or "what's best for me."

The leadership shown by board Chair Gary Leonard allows us to be optimistic: "The goal of the board is to help the students as much as possible

... I like to work with people and find middle ground in any problems we encounter to try and find solutions to those problems."

As we move forward to assure an equitable education for ALL, we must work to reject our windigo tendencies and instead follow the Great Commandment. We must endorse and support a "students-first" approach. Preparing students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers will ensure a viable future for our community, state, nation and world.

**Dennis W. Streets**  
Pittsboro

### The choice for N.C. House is Reives

TO THE EDITOR:

In Chatham, our state House district is facing the fastest changing time in its history. More than ever, we need sound leadership representing us at the state level.

In a rarity of modern politics, we have a good, but easy choice. I say it is a good choice because we have two candidates that are honorable men and care about our community. It is an easy choice because

only one has proven time and again that he is willing to weather the tough battles to champion our best interests.

Robert Reives is the best person to represent our great county. Robert's humble sensibility and willingness to work for the best outcomes available have been vital to our recent success and he should continue on as our voice in the state House of Representatives.

I respect Walter Petty. He is a devoted family man and cares about our community. When he was a Chatham County Com-

missioner, I valued the balance and pragmatism he brought to the board. Though he changed many of his viewpoints to make it through an increasingly extremist primary process, he seems like a sensible man.

The main problem with Walter Petty is that when many people in the county felt his voice was needed, he quit on us because he wasn't getting what he wanted out of the process. Robert Reives has never stopped fighting for the interests of Chatham County citizens and as long as he is our

representative, he never will.

Robert has served as the House Minority leader for the past few years. Despite facing GOP majorities, he has gone to work and battled tirelessly to achieve the best outcomes possible for all of us. It is hard to keep showing up when you know you can be steamrolled at any point, but Robert Reives has done it because we needed it.

Chatham County is now positioned to become the place we want it to be. We can add high-tech jobs and be leaders

in conservation and agriculture at the same time. Guiding that scale of change will take visionary and persistent leadership.

Robert Reives is the clear choice for Chatham in November. I felt compelled to write this because I care deeply about this place and want what is best for its people. I know I share those qualities with one of the candidates for our District 54 Representative. I believe in Reives.

**Jon Spoon**  
Pittsboro

## Reliable power means nuclear power

In late August, the government of California gave its residents two additional, and interrelated, reasons to consider moving elsewhere.

First, the state's Air Resources Board announced plans to phase out all sales of gas-powered vehicles in California by 2035. A few days later, state officials instructed Californians not to lower their thermostats below 78 degrees and not to charge their electric vehicles during the peak hours of 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Otherwise, they said, Californians may experience blackouts.

Here in North Carolina, our electrical system is much more reliable. It's one reason why some disaffected California families and businesses may well find their way here. If some public officials and utility executives in our state get their way, however, the flow of energy refugees may reverse itself in the not-too-distant future.

Under the terms of a 2021 law enacted by large, bipartisan majorities in the General Assembly, North Carolina is required to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions significantly over the next few decades, reaching complete "carbon neutrality" by 2050. The law attracted its broad legislative support because it also includes strict criteria for reaching this goal by the "least cost path" while maintaining "the adequacy and reliability of the existing grid."

The state's primary electricity supplier, Duke Energy, has now filed its plan to achieve the law's goals, which include a reduction from the 2005 emissions baseline of 70% by 2032. All four of Duke's proposed power portfolios, however, rely so heavily on intermittent sources such as solar and wind that the reliability of our grid will be imperiled.

According to an analysis published this summer by my colleagues at the John Locke Foundation, North Carolinians would reach a point by 2032 in which our electricity needs in peak months would exceed the total output of dispatchable baseload generation. In other words, we'll be relying on solar, wind, batteries and various conservation tactics to keep the lights on and critical machines, appliances and HVAC systems running. That's too

risky. By 2050, the Locke study concluded, North Carolinians could face the very real prospect of rolling blackouts during summer months — in other words, the California scenario.

In a filing to the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the Locke analysts proposed a better solution: making greater use of nuclear power to provide both clean and reliable electricity to our growing state's households and businesses. Although this plan would require delaying the 2032 goal a bit (a tweak the law does allow) it would fully achieve the 2050 goal, including a phase-out of coal and natural gas.

It would also be less expensive than any of the Duke plans, which require the construction of extra production capacity to kick in when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow.

Nuclear plants run continuously, their fuel is domestically sourced and plentiful, and they last up to 80 years, vs. 20 years for the average wind farm and 25 years for the average solar plant.

Our conversation about North Carolina's energy future is occurring within a broader national and international context in which policymakers who used to be skeptical about nuclear power are coming around to its many benefits. Leaders of energy-hungry countries in Europe and Asia, for example, are realizing that overreliance on natural gas from Russia or rare-earth metals from China poses a threat to their national security and economic vitality.

And in California itself, Gov. Gavin Newsome has proposed extending the life of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant through 2035. Although he used to think otherwise, Newsome now believes the state can't wiggle its way through the next decade if Diablo Canyon, which generates 9% of California's electricity, closes as scheduled in 2025.

Better late than never. But North Carolina can do better than that. Our carbon-dioxide emissions from electricity generation are already down 40% since the beginning of the century, largely due to natural gas replacing coal. Now let's enact a sound energy strategy today that will pay dividends for many decades to come.

*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).*

## North Carolina's Queen Elizabeth and King Charles

We watched the great and solemn events in Britain over the last few



**D.G. MARTIN**  
One on One

days. But we heard not a mention of North Carolina's important connections to the royal family, to Elizabeth and Charles.

Understandably perhaps, because our connections are not so much with

the late Queen Elizabeth II or her son, King Charles III.

Our connections run to earlier British royals, to another Queen Elizabeth and another King Charles, whose names ring many bells for North Carolinians interested in history.

Some, perhaps many of us remember from our school history lessons that the first Queen Elizabeth was a friend and patron of Sir Walter Raleigh, who sponsored the first attempted British colonization in North America at the settlement we know as The Lost Colony.

We learned that the settlers of the Lost Colony recognized Elizabeth I as their queen by naming the first child born in the colony, Virginia Dare, in honor of their unmarried and virgin queen.

Manteo and the Lost Colony site are in Dare County, which is named for Virginia Dare, thus indirectly honoring the first Queen Elizabeth I.

Hundreds of years after her death or disappearance, the memories of Virginia Dare and that of her queen are kept alive each summer in Manteo when the symphonic drama by Paul Green, "The Lost Colony," features Elizabeth as an important character.

Year round at the Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo visitors can encounter life as the English settlers experienced it. Included is a ship, named Elizabeth II, newly constructed but made to demonstrate how the first settlers crossed the ocean on a ship named for their queen.

So, North Carolina, especially in Manteo and Dare County, holds fast to its connection to the first Queen Elizabeth.

Our state has even closer connections to British kings named Charles.

It got its name from them.

North Carolina, and South Carolina too, got named for King Charles. But it's not clear which one.

Do we owe our state's name to King Charles I, who reigned from 1603 to 1649 when he was beheaded, or his son King Charles II, who reigned from 1660 until his death in 1685?

Here is the case for Charles I as explained by the late H.G. Jones in his classic book, "North Carolina Illustrated, 1524-1984."

"In 1629, King Charles I granted to his attorney general, Sir Robert Heath, a vast tract extending from near the present northern boundary of Florida to the southern shore of Albemarle Sound, an area named 'Carolana' in the King's honor."

Carolus is Latin for Charles. Efforts to establish active Carolana colonies did not work out. Meanwhile, in 1649, Charles I was deposed and executed. But the Carolana name stuck and was used to describe the region.

In 1660, the monarchy was restored, and Charles II became king.

H.G. Jones explained what happened then, making the case for the state name's connection to Charles II: "The restoration of the English monarchy in 1660 left Charles II with heavy debts to those who had engineered his ascension to the throne, and on 24 March 1663 he rewarded eight of his leading supporters with a charter for a vast slice of North America from the 31st to the 36th parallels from the Atlantic to the South Seas (essentially the same lands previously granted to Sir Robert Heath in 1629). Over this province of Carolina, as the name was now confirmed in honor of Charles II, the Lords Proprietors were given broad feudal powers."

Later the province was divided into North and South Carolina, so both states can claim their names came from King Charles II.

Elizabeth and Charles.

North Carolinians can claim connections to the names of both royals.

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

## CAMPBELL

Continued from page A4

the legislature — is given a slight edge to defeat Republican Jeff Harrigan. As with the Senate, North Carolina's results could help determine which party runs the House come January.

North Carolina's appellate court contests could be very consequential. Few know those running, so the contests frequently turn into a party preference. In the Supreme Court, there are currently four Democrats and three Republicans on the seven-member high court. Two contested races could potentially change that mix. In seat 5, Incumbent Justice Sam J. Ervin IV is standing for

re-election against Republican Trey Allen, general counsel for the Administrative Office of the Courts. Seat 3 is open, with two Court of Appeals Judges seeking the seat. Democrat Lucy Inman will be challenged by Republican Richard Dietz.

Four N.C. Court of Appeals elections also are significant, since most cases are decided by three-judge panels. Seat 8, currently vacant since Lucy Inman is being contested by Democrat Carolyn Jennings Thompson, a former District and Superior Court judge, and Republican Julee Tate Flood. Seat 9 finds Republican Donna Stroud, the current Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, being contested by

Democrat Beth Freshwater Smith, a District Court judge. In seat 10, incumbent Republican John Tyson is running against Gale Murray Adams, a Democratic Superior Court judge. And in seat 11, incumbent Democrat Darren Jackson will be challenged by Republican Michael Stading, a former Air Force Judge Advocate General officer.

Note that we gave the party affiliations for each contestant. In previous years that wouldn't have been important, but recently we have increasingly seen court outcomes determined along party lines. The party with the plurality can determine outcomes in cases like Voter ID, election laws, Abortion and redistricting.

Not to be overlooked is

elections for all 170 seats in our legislature. In 2018, the last midyear election, we experienced a "blue wave," where Democrats gained sufficient numbers in both chambers to negate the veto-proof majorities Republicans previously enjoyed. Most observers believe the House districts are less blatantly gerrymandered, however, the prediction is that the General Assembly will remain controlled by the Republican Party. The big question is whether they will regain veto-proof majorities.

Many questions beg answering. Will there be a blue wave again this year? What impact will the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on abortion have in activating women and abortion advo-

cate? Does Donald Trump still dominate Republicans and will his endorsements win? Where will mainstream Republicans and Unaffiliated voters stand? What, if anything, will this election show us about what to expect in 2024?

However you choose to vote, the important thing for our Democracy is to exercise your American privilege to vote. Democracy works better when many give their input.

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

# CRT

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“Critical race theory is a completely manufactured issue,” Walgate said. “The idea that graduate level theory is being taught in our public schools ... I think people are doing that for political gain.”

He said it’s disappointing that politicians and some parents have worked to persuade others to distrust public schools through systemic underfunding and disrespect. Walgate said teachers are already underfunded and overburdened, so they don’t have the time to indoctrinate students with liberal ideologies.

“We don’t have time to politicize our classrooms,” he said, “but outside people are doing that for us.”

The training itself, he said, while informative, was nothing outside of standard procedure. What it actually involved was a speaker from Edu-Consulting firm, which provides professional development for teachers across N.C. through “researched-based solutions.”

“They walked us through some thought experiments to reflect upon our backgrounds and preheld stereotypes,” Walgate said. “I think it was a very healthy thing for the body of teachers in CCS to be reminded of. Unfortunately, the teachers aren’t as diverse as our student population, so its important to remember our students come from very different backgrounds from us.”

## ‘An uncomfortable truth’

He said this kind of training about cultural awareness and unconscious bias is standard practice for most who graduate college with a degree in education.

Malinda Quinn, a 6th grade social studies teacher at Margaret B. Pollard Middle School, also participated in the training sessions. She’s been a teacher in CCS for 30 years and said equity training is nothing new — it just evolves over time.

“What we’ve always talked about is that we can’t reach our students if we don’t understand where they come from,” Quinn said. “We are trying to give our students representation so that they see a bit of themselves in something that we’re teaching.”

She said as a history teacher, she’s obligated to not share just one portion of history, but rather try to share global perspectives. She said culturally responsive means making curriculum relatable for all students.

“You can’t teach the Civil War without teaching slave narratives, it’s an uncomfortable truth,” Quinn said. “But you can’t cover up one truth to make another person feel safe. We have to know where we came from to answer the questions of the present.”

Incidents like last year’s J.S. Waters School “mock slave auction,” where Black middle school students were targeted by their white classmates, are a reminder of why diversity, equity and inclusion need to be at the forefront of educators’ minds, Walgate said.

“A good steady drip of reminding teachers about certain issues is good,” Walgate said. “A lot of teachers are really busy, and its easy for certain things to get pushed down the to-do list. It’s healthy to periodically be reminded of what’s really important.”

CCS officials agree, which is why they have bolstered the district’s equity efforts by naming veteran educator and Chatham native Chris Poston as the executive director for excellence and opportunity to bolster and lead the district’s equity push.

“Following last year’s incident at J.S. Waters, we realized not all of our staff knew how to have conversations around racial issues and we wanted to make sure we were prepared for those conversations moving forward,” said CCS Public Information Officer Nancy Wykle.

Wykle said the trainings better equipped district employees to have conversations about race. She also said the district has received positive feedback from the administrators who participated.

“No, we do not teach CRT,” Wykle said.

Gary Leonard, chairman of the CCS Board of Education, also previously told the News + Record, “We’re not teaching CRT. In particular, we’re trying to make sure we take care of each individual child socially and emotionally.”

## Frustrations boil over

Rumblings of critical race theory in Chatham County Schools first

came about amid debates over masking in schools, according to Walgate and other teachers who spoke to the News + Record. He believes that some parents and community members in the district began to gain political traction from those masking debates as the school district returned to in-person learning and leveraged that traction to fight for this new issue of CRT.

The narrative of CRT “indoctrinating” CCS students and the idea that the school system is engaging in “social experiments” through these types of trainings boiled over at last week’s board of education meeting.

A group of frustrated parents, Republican candidates for office and several people from outside the district spoke at the board meeting after reports surfaced online last week of a student at Bonlee School being “bullied” by a teacher because of her love for the Bible.

While the main reason many showed up to the meeting was the situation at Bonlee, many speakers during the public comment portion of the meeting used their time to touch on ideas related to CRT.

John Amanchukwu from Raleigh — a Black pastor who describes himself as “a rising voice exposing the racist ideologies of abortion and Critical Race Theory” — spoke at the meeting, saying public school systems and Chatham County Schools teach Critical Race Theory, transgenerism and grooming policies, which he called “tragic ideologies.”

Another out-of-town pastor, Allen Mashburn — who co-hosts the “Carolina Conservatives” podcast and preaches in Seagrove — also spoke at the meeting. He equated the diversity and equity trainings to bullying and harassment. Mashburn also misstated that these equity trainings had been going on for two weeks; records show they lasted no more than two and a half hours on one day.

Walgate was also in attendance at the meeting, but did not speak. He said he believed it was troubling that people from outside Chatham County would attend a school board meeting where they don’t know what happened inside the classroom and speak to conservative parents’ fears in hopes of gaining political points or additional followers for their

podcasts.

“It seems like a handful of people were exploiting the situation for their own gain,” Walgate said. “I find it disappointing — although I like to think its a minority of people out there — who believe that teachers and the school system are indoctrinating students.”

Quinn, the 6th-grade teacher, wasn’t at the meeting. But she’s seen the comments on social media posts from parents and community members about the idea of CRT in CCS.

“When I see people

make these comments, it’s like, ‘You just don’t get my world,’” she said. “I’m the expert, but I also always feel in the long run that parents do have the rights they’re asking for.”

The social studies teacher said she believed politicians are making public schools into political pawns that heighten concerns and strike at fears.

“I don’t think they’d want me to come home and tell them how to parent,” Quinn said. “And while I value their opinions, I don’t think parents that they always have the

degree to understand why I’m selecting the material I’m selecting ... to not be trusted is really difficult.”

The district affirms it is not teaching CRT in schools and does not believe these equity trainings played a role in changing class procedures or outcomes. There have been no mandated changes to the classroom as a result of the “Culturally Respectful Teacher” trainings.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.

## Should You Stick With Index-Based Investments?

You may have heard that you can simplify your investment strategy just by owning index-based or passive investments. But is this a good idea? You’ll want to consider the different aspects of this type of investment style.

To begin with, an index-based investment is a vehicle such as a mutual fund or an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that mimics the performance of a market benchmark, or index — the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500, and so on. (An ETF is similar to a mutual fund in that it holds a variety of investments but differs in that it is traded like a common stock.) You can also invest in index funds that track the bond market.

Index investing does offer some benefits. Most notably, it’s a buy-and-hold strategy, which is typically more effective than a market-timing approach, in which individuals try to buy investments when their prices are down and sell them when the prices rise. Attempts to time the market this way are usually futile because nobody can really predict when high and low points will be reached. Plus, the very act of constantly buying and selling investments can generate commissions and fees, which can lower your overall rate of return. Thus, index investing generally involves lower fees and is considered more tax efficient than a more active investing style.

Also, when the financial markets are soaring, which happened for several years until this year’s downturn, index-based investments can certainly look pretty good — after all, when the major indexes go up, index funds will do the same.

Conversely, during a correction, when the market drops at least 10% from recent highs, or during a bear market, when prices

fall 20% or more, index-based investments will likely follow the same downward path.

And there are also other issues to consider with index-based investments. For one thing, if you’re investing with the objective of matching an index, you may be overlooking the key factors that should be driving your investment decisions — your goals and your risk tolerance. An index is a completely impersonal benchmark measuring the performance of a specific set of investments — but it can’t be a measuring stick of your own progress.

Furthermore, a single index, by definition, can’t be as diversified as the type of portfolio you might need to achieve your objectives. For example, the S&P 500 may track a lot of companies, but they’re predominantly large ones. And to achieve your objectives, you may need a portfolio consisting of large- and small-company stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments. (Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can give you more opportunities for success and can reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio, it can’t guarantee profits or prevent all losses.)

Ultimately, diversifying across different types of investments that align with your risk tolerance and goals — regardless of whether they track an index — is the most important consideration for your investment portfolio. Use this idea as your guiding principle as you journey through the investment world.

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

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# GRANT

Continued from page A1

funding expected to be announced in the fall.

The state’s most recent GREAT grant awards follow previous funding given out this summer — \$23.4 million awarded on July 18 and \$30.8 million awarded on Aug. 1, part of the \$350 million total funding through the GREAT program.

According to County Manager Dan LaMontagne, Chatham County had six potential providers apply for the grant program, the second most of any county in the state. Last week’s announcement approved one of those applicants, Connect Holding.

The other applicants were AT&T, Spectrum, Conterra Ultra Broadband, Northstate and Randolph Communications.

The approval of Connect Holding, also known as Brightspeed, connects 1,914 Chatham addresses to broadband services. Final maps and a list of addresses have not yet been shared, and a timeline for those maps is still yet to be determined.

According to the award letter from the North Carolina Department

of Information Technology (NCDIT), Connect Holding was awarded \$4 million through GREAT Grant funding from the state for its Chatham County application.

“Chatham County certainly hopes to partner with internet service providers on future opportunities for federal and state funding, as they become available,” LaMontagne told the News + Record.

The top existing providers in the county are Century Link, Spectrum and T-Mobile.

In its application, Connect Holding accounted for the most addresses covered with the grants at 5,578 total in Chatham County, with more than 5,400 of those being residential. No other applicant had more than 1,500 total addresses.

Local governments, like Chatham County, do not receive funds directly from the State’s GREAT grant program. Rather, GREAT grant funds are awarded to the chosen internet service providers (ISP). Likewise, local governments are not involved with choosing which ISPs are awarded this funding; scoring and choosing which ISP is awarded funding is a function of the state’s

information and technology department.

Local governments are, however, authorized to partner with the ISP awarded GREAT grant funding by way of assisting financially with the required grant award match. Chatham County does plan to offer a financial contribution to the match amount with the use of the County’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), according to Chatham County Public Information Officer Kara Dudley.

The letter from NCDIT also states Connect Holding is required to partially match the grant funding by paying \$1,861,793 — 46.5% of the total grant. The GREAT funds are also performance-based and only awarded if Connect Holding creates broadband services for the 1,914 households and businesses in Chatham County it has promised in its application.

With last month’s announcement from Cooper, \$260 million in GREAT grants have been awarded to providers since July 2022.

“High-speed internet access is critical for people to work, learn,

See **GRANT**, page A9



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Staff photo by Anna Connors

**An alpaca greets visitors at Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm's grand opening on Saturday. The farm, formerly M&M Alpaca Farm, opened after a year of being closed to the public.**

# ALPACAS

Continued from page A1

For Boezio, owning an alpaca farm has been a dream decades in the making, something she first began researching in the 1990s. Neither Boezio nor Stecker come from farming backgrounds; both work day jobs as IT project managers, and credit the Peck-Bostwick for what makes it all “doable.” Together, the four manage operations on the 15.5-acre spread.

“That’s the only way we could have done it,” Boezio said. “That they, one, had the experience already. [And they] love the farm — their hearts and souls are in it.”

On Saturday, the owners and farm managers, along with a crew of volunteers, greeted visitors who wandered around the farm and cuddled up to a few particularly interactive alpacas. Attendees also participated in arts and crafts activities and observed alpaca fiber being spun into yarn.

Those who stopped by the grand opening event ranged in age and experience with alpacas, including seasoned alpaca farm owners, families with young children and older couples.

Daniel Corpening, 35, traveled from Durham with his three children, wife and parents-in-law to celebrate their youngest child’s birthday, a specific request from his 5-year-old after seeing alpacas at the Museum of Life and Science.

“We just went on Google and Googled ‘alpaca farms,’ and then conveniently enough, there’s a grand opening for this one this Saturday,” Corpening said. “So we came on out.”

Daniela Ladinos, 25, also from Durham, visited with her sister. She said they first learned about Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm through a Facebook-sponsored post and hopes to soon be back.

“I’m glad I came, it was eye-opening and really interesting,” she said.

Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm has 22 alpacas in total, including both Suri and Huacaya breeds, all of which were born in the U.S. Peck-Bostwick describes the Huacaya breed as the “big, fuzzy ones that everyone knows about,” while the Suri breed has a different look, their fiber growing

out of their skin in tight twists.

Alpacas are a species of South American camelids, with other members of the family including llamas and vicuñas, a smaller animal native to the Andes. The farm’s alpacas have won a number of awards at shows across the country, most recently winning the 2022 AOA Classic Breeder Cup for Suri fleece.

Peck-Bostwick called alpacas “very gentle-to-the-environment livestock,” saying that due to their soft, padded feet and the fact that they only eat specific types of grass, the animal tends to have a lesser environmental impact when compared to other livestock.

“Plus you get a really awesome end product,” she added, referencing the fiber sheared from the animals that the farm both enters into competitions and sells.

Now, visitors can purchase tickets to take private, guided tours of the farm with possible touch interaction with the alpacas. They can also engage in a PacaVisit, in which people can conduct their own self-guided tours and “experience the peace of the farm,” whether through meditation or by knitting or drawing the alpacas.

Visitors to Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm can also buy a number of alpaca-related items at the farm’s store, including alpaca yarn or clothes made with alpaca fiber, locally-made alpaca-themed jewelry and even alpaca manure referred to as “PacaPu.”

“We suggest it 100% for putting in a garden bed or anything like that, definitely,” Peck-Bostwick said.

The farm and its store is open for regular visiting hours Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Educating the public

Alpacas were first imported from South American countries to the U.S. in the 1980s. They quickly grew in popularity as they were bred and sold at auctions across the country, going from a zoo exhibition to lucrative livestock. That changed in the 2000s as studies and news media questioned whether the animals represented yet another agricultural speculative bubble, noting unsustainable prices.

One study published by the



Staff photo by Anna Connors

**Alpacas nap in the sunshine during Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm's grand opening. The farm has 22 alpacas, including suri and huacaya fleece types.**

Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics by University of California, Davis, researchers Tina L. Saitone and Richard J. Sexton estimated the average selling price for an alpaca in 2004 as being \$26,000 and \$31,000 for the two breeds, Huacaya and Suri, respectively, with prices declining by several thousand dollars each year between 2005 and 2011.

Still, in 2022, there are alpaca farms across the country. Peck-Bostwick estimates that there are over 280,000 alpacas in the U.S. and approximately 200 farm owners in N.C. alone who own or operate farms with registered alpacas. It’s recommended that alpacas be registered through the Alpaca Owners Association Inc., a national group, she said.

Peck-Bostwick, who was president for the Carolina Alpaca Breeders and Owners association for several years, noted that the farm hopes to tackle misinformation regarding alpacas and the likelihood of them getting placed in unsafe environments like as household pets.

In the 10 years that Peck-Bostwick worked on M&M Alpaca Farm, she said they rescued at least 70 alpacas.

“And so as much education as we can do to help the public really understand what these guys are really about, what they need, what their true personalities are,” she said. “We’ll wind up having to do a lot less rescue work, a lot less dealing with all of that misinformation.”

One common misconception Peck-Bostwick said she encounters about alpacas from visitors is an expectation that they will be guaranteed interaction. Alpacas are like cats, she said, and will choose when they want to engage with people.

“They’re livestock, and that’s the biggest thing that people have to remember is yes, they’re super cute, and yes, they have a great, fantastic look,” she said. “But they are still livestock. They’re not your pet that you have in your house, and that you hang out with. They’re growing a product, and they have a



Staff photo by Anna Connors

**An alpaca gives a visitor a kiss during Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm's grand opening event. Visitors can see both fleece types — suri and huacaya alpacas — on the farm.**

purpose. And that purpose is not to be your best friend.”

An important part of being an alpaca farmer is understanding and being attuned to the animals’ needs.

“They tend to be really shy, really stoic animals,” she said.

As the farm continues to grow under new ownership, Peck-Bostwick said they hope to hire more staff to help with running tours and operating the store. The farm has a few projects in the works, including planting vegetables and other greenery, she said. In June 2023, the farm also expects to welcome 10 alpaca babies.

Stecker expressed gratitude for the fact that the farm has

been a part of the local community for 10 years.

“To be able to have that legacy of connection to the community and maintain that, and that people come out and re-acquaint themselves with the space and the alpacas, or experience it new — that’s really exciting,” she said.

Tickets to visit Carolina Sunshine Alpaca Farm, as well as more information regarding farm events and hours, are available at [carolinasunshinealpaca-farm.com/](http://carolinasunshinealpaca-farm.com/).

Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at [mdevarajan@chathamnr.com](mailto:mdevarajan@chathamnr.com) and on Twitter @maydhadevarajan.

# SHERIFF

Continued from page A1

the student’s expression of faith. The sheriff candidate thought his remarks, made during the public comment portion of the board meeting, were the impetus for a background check by Jordan-Matthews High School.

“My concern is I have a special needs child at Jordan-Matthews,” he said at the board meeting. “If a child in the 8th grade is belittled for their belief, how is my child going to be treated because he’s different?”

Globuschutz went on to say at the meeting that many of the people in attendance “would not support” the board — meaning they would disapprove of its recent actions, which Globuschutz didn’t specify. He said he decided to speak at the meeting from the perspective of a concerned parent, rather than a candidate for office.

Then on Wednesday, two days after he made those comments, he received an email from the Background Investigation Bureau, a Huntersville-based company that

Chatham County Schools uses for background checks of school employees and volunteers.

“It seemed very suspicious that all of this occurred in the same couple of days,” Globuschutz told the News + Record.

This football season, which began in August, marks Globuschutz’s third as a volunteer coach with J-M. This season he has helped the team since August 1, which included pre-season fall practices.

The district says all school employees and volunteers must pass seasonal background checks. Globuschutz said he was unaware background checks were a seasonal process and maintains the timing of the request was “suspicious,” given this is the fifth week of the football season.

Globuschutz says he then had a phone conversation with Jordan-Matthews Principal April Burko and the Athletic Director Josh Harris on Thursday. In the conversation, he said he was informed that he was no longer allowed to attend practices or games as a coach.

He said he explicitly

asked Burko during the phone conversation if this move was done in retaliation to his appearance at the board meeting; he said Burko avoided the question. He then issued a press release to the News + Record and on his campaign Facebook page.

“It is a shame that the Chatham County School Board has once again decided to put politics above the best interests of school children and athletes,” he said in the statement.

But Chatham County Schools’ explanation for Globuschutz’s temporary ban indicates it was unrelated to the candidate’s remarks at the school board meeting.

According to Chatham County Schools Public Information Officer Nancy Wykle, the temporary pause on all volunteer coaches at Jordan-Matthews was wholly related to a clerical error. This year, Jordan-Matthews hired Burko as its new principal in July, and in the wake of the administrative turnover, there was a step missed in processing the paperwork for several coaches.

In addition to Globu-

schutz, four volunteer coaches and one instructional assistant at J-M were also temporarily prevented from volunteer duties due to the paperwork issue; of them, only Globuschutz spoke at last week’s school board meeting. The affected sports included football, boys soccer, cross country and cheerleading.

Coaches, including Globuschutz, were informed Friday afternoon that the appropriate documents would be sent in and, once approved, they would be allowed to return to normal coaching duties. The district said all applicants met the requirements for the pre-approval process, which allowed them to be expedited.

“We were unaware that [Globuschutz] and the other coaches had not been approved and worked with the school to expedite the approval process,” Wykle said. “For the record, the request was received and processed [Friday] afternoon at 5 [p.m.], and as promised the school’s administration will be reaching out to you [coaches] shortly.”

All regular school vol-

unteers must be approved by the school board on a seasonal basis, according to the district. Wykle said the issue was noticed on Wednesday during a standard periodical review of athletics personnel by district administration. Globuschutz learned on Saturday afternoon from Burko that he had been reinstated and was allowed to resume his coaching duties. He said, however, the response from the school and the district was inadequate and he still believes the move was done in retaliation to his comments.

“To be honest, I am happy knowing I can go back and spend time with the guys on the team,” Globuschutz told the News + Record after finding out he had been reinstated. “But I’m also concerned that I was possibly used as a pawn in small-town politics. I think it was a calculated move that didn’t go as planned.”

He called the reversal by the school and statements from the district “damage control.” He believes others were prevented from coaching to “save face” because it started with him.

The district apologized for the error, but said it would never retaliate against an individual.

“We had a principal transition at J-M and in that transition, the ball got dropped honestly,” Wykle told the News + Record.

“The district would never retaliate against an individual, but we do have processes and protocols we have to follow and we had to make sure we were adhering to those correctly.”

Each of the six volunteers impacted by the error have been reinstated and have been allowed to resume their duties. They will each be formally recognized as volunteer coaches at JM at the next CCS Board of Education meeting on Monday, Oct. 10, at Chatham Grove Elementary School.

Wykle said at most, the coaches barred from their duties would have only needed to stay off the field for team activities Wednesday through Friday, before the district and JM realized the mistake and corrected action.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.

# OBITUARIES

## EZZIE LEE HILLIARD SMITH

May 19, 1938 ~ September 13, 2022  
 Ezzie Lee Hilliard Smith, 84, of Bear Creek, went to be with her Heavenly Father on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.  
 Ezzie was born in Chatham County on May 19, 1938, the daughter of Bob and Sally Phillips Hilliard. She was a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, where she attended the Sunday School Class. She spent her working years as a Handicap Aid for Chatham County Group Home. She enjoyed gardening and was beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She loved to be around people. In addition to her parents, Ezzie was preceded in death by her husband, Settie Smith; sons, Jimmy and Mark Smith, one step-grandson, one great-grandson; brothers, Roy, Robert, Archie and Harold Hilliard; and sisters, Sissy Lucas and Geneva Beck.  
 Survivors include her daughters, Sharon Elkins and husband Lynn, and Teresa Kearns and husband Jeff, both of Silk Hope; sister, Lenora Lucas of Bonlee; 15 grandchildren, one step-grandson, eight great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.  
 The family received friends on Monday, September 19, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at Hickory Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Darrell Garner officiating. Burial followed at the Hilliard Family Cemetery in Goldston.  
 In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 17721 N.C. Hwy 902, Bear Creek, N.C. 27207.  
 Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Smith family.  
 Online condolences may be made at [www.smithbuckner-fh.com](http://www.smithbuckner-fh.com).

## WALTER MARVIN ATWATER

October 21, 1925 ~ September 2, 2022  
 Walter Marvin Atwater of Chapel Hill died peacefully September 12th in the family home where he was born and raised. After 96 blessed years, he was with all four children as he drew his last breath.  
 He was born to Marvin and Isma Andrews Atwater on October 31, 1925 (sharing a birthday with his father). He worked on the family farm and worked various jobs, including at the Cotton Mill in Carrboro before he entered into the Merchant Marines at age 19. He married his cherished wife, Anne Eubanks, and they built a house for their future family beside his parents in Chatham County. He provided a safe and happy home for his growing family by working as a carpenter building houses and then additionally completed a correspondence course in electronics which led to a job with IBM.  
 As he worked, he took care of the family farm, huge vegetable gardens while being a foundational member of Cedar Grove Methodist Church, all while he and Anne raised the family and cared for his parents and community. When he retired from IBM he purchased a sawmill then eventually a larger sawmill. He, most often along with his son James, cut, dried and planed wood for many grateful friends and neighbors. He and Anne also sold vegetables and baked goods at the Carrboro Farmers Market for years. He also sold vegetables to several area restaurants. He took great pride in his "Silver Queen" corn, "Ambrosia" cantaloupes, and especially "Pink Girl" tomatoes. People would actually drive to see how pretty the garden would be that summer.  
 He led an exemplary life of honest, hard work, impeccable Christian values, and a great love for his family and friends. Anyone that was lucky enough to know him, loved and admired him for his straightforward, no nonsense attitude and marveled at the wonderful couple that he and Anne were. Preceded in death by his parents, his faithful wife of 72 years, Anne Eubanks Atwater, brothers; William, Alfred, Roy and sister Eugenia Humpheries. Survived by his children; Alana (Gene) Finney of Kannapolis, James (Jeanett) Atwater of Salter Path, Beth (Pete) Junquera of Benson, N.Y., and Maria (Dwayne) Hendrix of Clemmons. He was blessed to have nine wonderful grandchildren and 14 precious great-grandchildren.  
 Donaldson Funeral Home is serving the Atwater family. Tributes can be left at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).

## CHRISTOPHER 'CHRIS' KENNETH VICKERS

July 25, 1961 ~ September 13, 2022  
 Christopher "Chris" Kenneth Vickers, age 61, of Chapel Hill, died Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at UNC Hospital.  
 Chris was born in Orange County, N.C., on July 25, 1961, to Maurice Kenneth Vickers Jr., and Ruth Hundley Vickers. He is also survived by his wife, Janet Pendergraph Vickers; two brothers, Mark Vickers and wife Lisa of Pittsboro, Eric Vickers and wife Kelly of Pittsboro; one sister, Nancy Vickers of Siler City; and several nieces and nephews.  
 The family will receive friends Saturday, September 24, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory, Griffin Chapel. A memorial service followed at 2 p.m. with Rev. Barrett Freeman presiding.  
 In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in Chris's memory to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, Texas 75284-0692.  
 Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com)  
 Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Vickers family.

## EUGENE RAEFORD MANESS

Eugene Raeford Maness, 78, of Bennett, passed away on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.  
 Graveside services were held on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Beulah Baptist Church, with Dr. Neal Jackson presiding.  
 Eugene was retired from the N.C. Dept. of Corrections. He was a member of Beulah Baptist Church.  
 He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Hilda M. Maness; son,

## PATRICIA 'TRISH' PETTY ANDREWS



May 3, 1939 ~ September 14, 2022  
 Patricia "Trish" Petty Andrews, 83, of Staley, passed away surrounded by her loved ones at her home on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.  
 Mrs. Andrews was born in Chatham County on May 3, 1939, the daughter of Lonnie and Jessie Perry Petty. She was raised in Silk Hope, and graduated from Silk Hope School in 1956 as the Salutatorian and basketball star. Patricia was a member of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church. She retired after working as a Clerk and Carrier for over 20 years with the U.S. Postal Service. She loved reading or watching game shows, and enjoyed a good murder mystery. Patricia was famous in the kitchen cooking, and making bread. She enjoyed trips to the mountains, and collecting teddy bears and nutcrackers. Patricia adored her time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.  
 Patricia is survived by her husband of 67 years, Wayne E. Andrews; sons, Dennis Andrews and wife Donna, Keith Andrews and wife Kelly, Kevin Andrews, and Greg Andrews and wife Melanie, and Lori Andrews; grandchildren, Austin, Grayer, Audrey, and Hayes Andrews, Lane Andrews, Allison Moody and Ashley Hudson, and Samantha Andrews; and three great-grandchildren.  
 In addition to her parents, Patricia is preceded in death by her siblings, Elizabeth Ferrell, L.M "Buck" Petty, Adele Brooks, Charlie May Petty, Mazil Lee Petty, G.T. Petty, and Gwyn James.  
 A memorial graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery, 175 Moon's Chapel Road, Siler City with Rev. Scott Faw officiating.  
 In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Moon's Chapel Cemetery Fund, or to UNC Hospice, P.O. Box 1077, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312  
 Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Andrews family.  
 Online condolences may be made at [www.smithbuckner-fh.com](http://www.smithbuckner-fh.com).

## LUCILLE CLARK PHILLIPS



August 27, 1937 ~ September 7, 2022  
 Lucille Clark Phillips, 85, of Siler City, passed away on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at Alamance Regional Medical Center.  
 She was born in Richmond, Virginia, on August 27, 1937, the daughter of Moyer L. and Lillie Bell Cassidy Clark. She was a hard worker, starting at a young age, and later retiring from Kellwood. Lucille loved sewing, refinishing antique furniture and sitting down to enjoy a good book. She always had a smile on her face. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her daughter, Teresa Ferguson; sisters, Annie Ruth Rachel and Carlene Blake; and brother, James Cecil Clark.  
 Lucille is survived by her son, Mark Phillips of Siler City; sister, Virginia C. Harrison; grandchildren, Amanda Kelly Ferguson, Alicia Dawn Ferguson, and Hayley Tipton; great grandsons, Gabriel David Anthony and Gunter Gene Tipton; and many beloved nieces and nephews.  
 A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.  
 In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to the Siler City Lions Club, c/o Juanita Brown, 4468 Friendly Lane, Ramseur, N.C. 27316, or to the Camp Dogwood for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 7062 Camp Dogwood Dr., Sherrills Ford, N.C. 28673.  
 Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Phillips family.  
 Online condolences may be made at [www.smithbuckner-fh.com](http://www.smithbuckner-fh.com).

## VIVIAN ROVER



Vivian Rover loved to dance especially the Texas two step with her partner of 10 years, Melvin Rives of Bear Creek. She loved to cook and loved country music. One of her favorite things that made her smile was being called Nana by her granddaughters and great grandchildren. She loved everyone she met. Vivian retired from UNC Hospitals in 1996.  
 Vivian Farrell Rover, age 86, died Monday, September 19, 2022, after a lengthy illness at SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice House. She was born in Chatham County, N.C., to the late Raymond and Lillian Eubanks Farrell. She was also preceded by her husband, Albert Rover and a son, Alan Burks.  
 She is survived by her son, Rodney Rover and her loving daughter-in-law, Barbara Rover of Pittsboro, and granddaughters, Rebecca Rover of Pittsboro, Melissa Spinks of Ramseur, Ashley Clark, Emma Clark of Pittsboro; and five great-grandchildren.  
 The visitation was Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory from 6 to 8 p.m. A graveside service will be held at Hanks Chapel Church Cemetery on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 11 a.m. with Rev. Bob Wachs presiding.  
 Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).  
 Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Rover family.

Darrin of Bennett; two grandsons, and two great-granddaughters.  
 In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Beulah Baptist Church Building Fund, 8454 Howard Mill Rd., Bennett, N.C. 27208.

## PRYOR LEE DARK JR.

April 14, 1948 ~ September 12, 2022  
 Pryor Lee Dark Jr., died September 12, 2022 at his home.  
 A graveside service was held Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Oakwood Cemetery on North Chatham

Avenue in Siler City.  
 The son of the late Pryor Lee Dark Sr. and Helen VanLear Dark, he served his country in the U.S. Air Force, and worked as a correctional officer for the N.C. Dept. of Corrections prior to his retirement.  
 He is survived by his sons, Dustin Dark of Southern Pines, Nicholas Dark of Cameron; a daughter, Daria Dark Mashburn of Cameron; and three grandchildren.

## ELEANOR BEARD LEWIS CORLEY

January 25, 1930 ~ Septem-

ber 12, 1922  
 Eleanor "Kit" Beard Lewis Corley, 92, died at her home in Pittsboro on Monday, September 12, 2022.  
 She was born in South Carolina to the late William W. and Ann E. Hatton Lewis. She attended Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She was married for nearly 66 years to Col. Robert Joseph Corley Sr., U.S. Army (Ret.). She was also preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, William W. Lewis, and Robert Lewis, and two sisters, Ann H. Lewis, and Elisabeth Lewis Crutchfield.  
 She was active in the First Presbyterian Church and served as President of Corley Enterprises Inc., (CEI), a consulting firm she founded with her husband.

She is survived by her children, Ann Corley Silverman, Elisabeth Lewis Corley; Robert Joseph Corley Jr., of Asheville, N.C.; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

There will be a private memorial service at a later date.  
 In lieu of flowers the family suggests that memorial gifts might be offered to StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance, 204 Harland's Creek Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312 or a charity of your choice.

## LANDON WOMACK JR.

May 9, 1949 ~ September 16, 2022  
 Landon Womack Jr., 73, of Broadway, passed away on Friday, September 16, 2022, at his home.  
 Funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Monday, September 19, 2022, at Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Garland Smith officiating. Burial followed in the Sloan Family Cemetery.  
 He was the son of Mary McAuley Womack and the late Landon Womack. He was preceded in death by his father, and brother, Eddie Ray Womack.

Surviving is his mother, Mary McAuley Womack of Lillington; wife, Patricia Sloan Womack of the home; son, Phillip Torres of Broadway; step-daughter, Tammy Lynn Morris of New Mexico; step-son, John Daniel Morris of Broadway; sisters, Patty Brinkley of Broadway and Rita Letuli of Marners; brother, Thomas Womack of Marners; and 11 grandchildren,

## ALVIN D. BROWNING SR.

July 19, 1959 ~ September 3, 2022  
 Alvin D. Browning Sr., 63 of Lillington, died Saturday, September 3, 2022.

Funeral service with military honors was conducted at 12 p.m. Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery with Rev. Alvin Browning, Jr. officiating.

He was the son of Walter E. and Gladys Irene (Johnson) Browning. He was preceded in death by his wife, Debra Ann Carter Browning, his parents, sisters Gladys Sharlene Browning, Joann Browning, Frances L. Browning and brother John C. Browning.

Surviving are daughters, Christiana Browning, Brittaney Browning and son Alvin Browning; seven grandchildren; sisters, Helen Cuck of Crum, W.V., Carol Stockdale of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, Delphia Maynard of Kermit, W.V.; brothers, Walter of Willingboro, N.J., and Gregory of Roth, Germany.

## WILLIAM HOWARD ROGERS JR.

July 15, 1955 ~ September 14, 2022  
 William Howard Rogers Jr., 67, of Pittsboro, passed away September 14, 2022, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at Knotts Funeral Home.

## EUGENE HOOKER JR.

Eugene Hooker Jr., 79 of Sanford, passed away on Friday, September 9, 2022, at Liberty Commons Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.  
 The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, September 17, at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial followed at Alston Chapel U.C.C. (Haw Branch).

See **OBITS**, page A9

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# OBITS

Continued from page A8

## PAULA MCLEAN MURCHISON

Paula McLean Murchison, 68, of Sanford passed away on Friday, September 16, 2022, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill. Visiting hours are from 3 to 7 p.m. on September 19, 2022,

at 1311 Minter School Road, Sanford.

## VICK JR. LYNN

February 11, 1946 ~ September 16, 2022  
Vick Jr. Lynn, 76, of Pittsboro, passed away on Friday, September 16, 2022, Atrium Health Pineville, Charlotte. Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## ALLEN JESSIE BRYAN



October 13, 1920 ~ September 15, 2022  
Allen Jessie Bryan, age 101, died Thursday evening, September 15, 2022.

Mr. Bryan was born on October 13, 1920, to the late J. Newton Bryan and Roetta Lawrence Bryan of the Seaforth Community in Chatham County. He graduated from Bells High School in 1938.

A WWII veteran, Mr. Bryan entered service November 30, 1942.

He fought in the Naples Foggia Campaign, serving as an anti-tank gunner aboard an M-10 tank destroyer, assigned to the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 36th Infantry Division. He was wounded in combat near Mignano, Italy on November 18, 1943. His parents and wife were initially notified in error by telegram on December 2, 1943, that he had been killed in action; they received a corrective telegram on December 4, 1943, advising them that he was alive, but wounded. Mr. Bryan was awarded the Purple Heart, the American Theatre Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with the Bronze Star, the WWII Victory Medal and the Distinguished Unit Citation. He was Honorably Discharged on December 10, 1945.

Mr. Bryan frequently reminisced about farming, hunting and fishing while living on his family farm near Seaforth, N.C., during the first half-century of his life. He also loved to share his memories of riding his Harley Davidson and playing his guitar. When forced to relocate due to the construction of what is now known as Jordan Lake, Mr. Bryan and his family moved closer to Pittsboro, N.C. He later worked for Allied Chemical near Moncure for 10 years, retiring in May 1983.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 72 years, Celeste Connell Bryan, and his four sisters, Maggie Thraikill, Hallie Beckwith, Mozelle Boone and Ruth Farrar.

He is survived by his two daughters, Amelia Bryan and Jill Bryan; grandchildren: Ashley Fischer (Shawn) and Brent Cotten (Katelyn) and great granddaughters, Hadleigh and Leighton Fischer.

Mr. Bryan was a member of the American Legion and the Pittsboro Masonic Temple.

The family would like to thank the American Legion Post 116 in Fuquay Varina for organizing two drive-by parades to celebrate Mr. Bryan's 100th and 101st birthdays. The parades were awe-inspiring to all in attendance and particularly memorable to Mr. Bryan.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, September 23, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Bells Baptist Church cemetery at 870 Horton's Pond Road, Apex conducted by Rev. Ray Gooch and including Military Honors and Masonic Rites.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that you thank a veteran for his or her service.

Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).

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

## SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

# Wolfspeed rezoning request approved

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Town commissioners unanimously approved a request from chip manufacturer Wolfspeed's development arm, G5 Investments, to rezone 82 acres of land adjacent to the Chatham Advanced Manufacturing site as heavy industrial.

The acreage in question came from land recently acquired from private property owners, who sold their land to help make the Wolfspeed project a reality.

The vote came after complaints from a resident who lives adjacent to the property who claimed the town didn't sufficiently alert neighboring property owners about the rezoning request.

Dean Betts, of Benjie Williams Road, also said he didn't want Wolfspeed to be bordering his neighborhood.

"This is my backyard where I play with my dog, and you want to put a 200 foot-tall megasite up to my border?" Betts asked the board. "That's repulsive."

Betts said he and his neighbors experienced a sudden cut in internet and phone connections eight days ago. Because of this, he said he and his neighbors weren't able to prepare for the public comment for the rezoning request.

Betts went on allege the town's planning department

hadn't given him all of the documents needed to present his case to the commissioners.

"To date you have only made available for review a couple of maps and a limited rezoning application," Betts said. "This is insufficient to be able to properly respond to the proposal."

Going out in public to receive documents is a risky venture for Betts, he said — he has a rare form of cancer and the treatments suppress his immune system to the point where catching a cold could have drastic consequences. He moved to Siler City three years ago for its close proximity to the Research Triangle Park, where he receives medical treatment.

He said he feels the board and town staff aren't making the residents of Benjie Williams Road a priority in their planning process.

"Why are you coming for 87 acres of residential property up to my property line," Betts asked. "That's going to be a tough question for y'all to answer ... they want to come 87 acres east right up to my house. That's repulsive."

Siler City Community Development and Planning Director Jack Meadows said after the meeting the board's rezoning vote didn't involve any site plans or definitive borders other than the parcels indicated on the application.

Meadows said the rezoning application file only included the application itself, some maps of the CAM site and a list of neighboring property owners, on which Betts was named.

According to the maps provided by Meadows, Wolfspeed will utilize the northern half of the parcel bordering Betts's house, which is over 700 feet from the portion of Wolfspeed's parcel. In addition to the 700 feet, town ordinances will require developers to have an extra buffer of 100 feet because of a creek that runs inside the half parcel for Wolfspeed, and according to Meadows, it is likely the megasite will be around 800 to 1,000 feet away from Betts's land once plans are approved.

"We don't even know where the building is going to be yet," Meadows said. "That comes later in the development process."

Meadows also said the site plan approval process would most likely address Betts's questions and concerns, which will happen at a future date.

"This is a rezoning case, and it's only a rezoning," he said. "The board voted on an ordinance to accept the rezoning request. That is what happened tonight."

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

## GRANT

Continued from page A6

access telehealth and connect with one another," Cooper said in a press release about the announcement. "Thanks to this significant GREAT grant award funding, many more North Carolina families and small business owners will have the tools they need to succeed in today's digital world."

"We are excited to be awarding this unprecedented amount of funding to bring high-speed internet access

to such a large number of residents and businesses across the state," said N.C. Dept. of Information Technology Secretary and State Chief Information Officer Jim Weaver. "These funds will go a long way in closing the digital divide by bringing equitable access to both rural and urban communities."

LaMontagne said he hopes Chatham County will be awarded at least two total GREAT grants — meaning Chatham would be awarded up to \$16 million of the state's available \$350 million in the

GREAT program.

More grant funding is available to the county for broadband access. The Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Grant program is expected to open soon. CAB provides an opportunity for individual N.C. counties to partner with the state to fund broadband deployment projects in unserved areas of each county.

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

# OPIOID

Continued from page A1

advance this work?"

During a July county commissioners meeting, the County Manager Dan LaMontagne announced that Chatham had received its first payment of \$111,719 as part of the national opioid settlement, of which North Carolina will receive \$750 million over the next 18 years. Between 2022 and 2038, Chatham County is expected to receive \$2,907,865, according to the Community Opioid Resources Engine for

North Carolina.

The settlement resolves litigation between state and local governments and the three largest drug distributors, McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisource-Bergen, and the manufacturer Johnson & Johnson in their collective role in creating and sustaining the opioid epidemic.

Zelek said it's critical to consider that the settlement funding has a longer range, over the next 18 years, and how that will shape strategies within the county, calling it "more of a marathon than a sprint."

"It's important to kind

of think about that as we plan, to say this isn't one year of funding where we need to just put something in place that's time limited and see what we can do in that limited time," he said.

Gregor-Holt said during Monday's work session that the partnership considered two MOA options in outlining how the settlement funds should be used. Option A would fund items from a shorter list of "high-impact strategies" to address the epidemic, while Option B would involve a collaborative strategic planning process, and then the process of choosing strategies from a larger list.

The partnership has opted for the former, with Gregor-Holt stating the group felt like it'd already done the work of holding collaborative, stakeholder conversations and thought it was prudent to begin taking action more immediately.

The collective impact plan for the opioid settlement funds includes:

- Creating a new full-time position called the Overdose Prevention Coordinator, which will be housed within the CCPHD
  - Dedicating funds to support Option A, partnership-led strategies
  - Supporting the Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances, specifically with data dashboard and tracking tools, marketing and communications, training and materials and supplies
- When it comes to strategies aligned under

Option A, the opioid settlement funds would be used specifically in:

- Establishing a post-overdose and jail response program with peer support specialists
- Supporting a pilot partnership that provides medication-assisted treatment in the county jail
- Supporting a re-entry taskforce to organize services for justice-involved individuals and participants in the post-overdose program
- Continuing to implement Chatham Drug Free training and education focused on intervention and early identification, particularly for young people

The settlement money comes at a critical time. In 2021, for the first time, the rate of drug overdose deaths in Chatham County surpassed that of the state rate, according to a July 2022 fact sheet by the CCPHD.

In 2020, Chatham County had 22.8 unintentional overdose deaths per 100,000 residents, the county's 2021 community health assessment reported. The overdose deaths included opioid-related deaths as well as deaths due to overdoses from heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine. The report states that though the rate was low in comparison to other counties, it was the highest in Chatham since the data was first tracked in 2000.

Zelek noted that the climbing rate of overdose deaths mirrors that of statewide and national trends. In Chatham County, since 2016, the number

of drug overdoses has been growing each year despite the rate of residents being prescribed opioids decreasing in the same time period. The number of deaths rose sharply by 1,200% from two in 2016 to 26 in 2021, according to CCPHD.

"Just the rate of increase in Chatham has been concerning, despite some pretty strong efforts to try to combat it," Zelek said. "And so I think that's just a reminder of how important it is to have collaborative work on something like this. None of us can address an issue like this alone, we all have to work together to make a real, meaningful change."

Part of how he and the partnership view that change happening is through the creation of an Overdose Prevention Coordinator who would oversee the county's Coordinated Overdose Prevention Plan and lead Chatham Drug Free. The coordinator will also be responsible for attaining additional funding and support for substance use prevention and for ensuring all requirements for local and state settlement funds are met.

The salary for the position is between \$56,169 and \$71,614, depending on experience. A full description of the position's responsibilities, along with the application itself, is available at [chathamcountync.gov/Home/Components/JobPosts/Job/4409/44](http://chathamcountync.gov/Home/Components/JobPosts/Job/4409/44). Interested individuals can apply online or mail an application to Chatham County Human

Resources.

Though the partnership is hopeful about the impact the position will make in the county, members presenting during the commissioners' work session also outlined ongoing key efforts by stakeholders to combat the opioid epidemic. The Sheriff's Office reported having saved 116 lives with naran — an FDA-approved medication that can treat an opioid overdose emergency — since 2017 through first responders. Presenters also highlighted the Recovery Celebration, hosted by Chatham Drug Free, as an important event to uplift members of the community.

"Addiction happens every day, we want to show them that recovery happens every day," Foxx said. "And not only that it happens every day, but that people in our community are in recovery, and they're doing it."

Both Roberson and Foxx reiterated that a crucial aspect of the county's approach to tackling the opioid epidemic lies in prevention, especially in the intersection of drug use with mental health.

"And I think that if we can address mental health inside of the younger age [of those impacted], that maybe we can kind of cut some of this off before it even gets started," Foxx said.

Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at [mdevarajan@chathamnr.com](mailto:mdevarajan@chathamnr.com) and on Twitter at [@maydhadevarajan](https://twitter.com/maydhadevarajan).

## BBQ or Chicken Tender Plate & Auction

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## YARD SALE

**MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE.** 1111 North Second Avenue, Siler City, Saturday, September 24th, 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. Clothes, shoes, jewelry, toys, household items and much more. S22,1tp

## AUCTIONEERS

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## HELP WANTED

**TOWN OF SILER CITY -- FINANCE ANALYST** - Provides administration and direction over the Town's purchasing program and grants funded by federal, state, and private sources; oversees the financial administration of federal, state, and private grants; ensures program compliance and reporting requirements for various grant sources and programs; leads coordination efforts between the Town and outside funding sources; assists the Town Manager, Finance Director, and respective Department Heads with developing funding packages to include capital projects and operations; assists in the budget development process and performs budget analysis duties associated with grant funding; oversees compliance with Town purchasing program and assists Department Heads and supervisors with related policies and procedures; performs other such duties as assigned by the Finance Director. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business admin-

istration, or related field. Two years' experience with grant writing, grant administration, and federal or state program compliance. Two years' experience with purchasing and budget management. Strong computer skills including MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. --- Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Three to five years of direct experience in the field of grant writing, grant administration, federal or state program compliance. Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer (CLGPO), Certified Public Purchasing Officer (CPPO), Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB), or Certified Professional Contract Manager (CPCM) upon hire. - Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. -- Anticipated Hiring Salary \$54,703 depending on qualifications. -- **TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR (WATER PLANT):** Performs intermediate technical work in the operation and maintenance of a treatment plant, conducts regular plant inspections, records readings, and performs preventive maintenance on equipment. -- Required Education and Experience Qualifications: High School diploma or high school equivalency. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. Moderate experience in the operation and maintenance of machinery and equipment. -- Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Current Grade C or above Water Treatment Operator Certification. Experience in the operation of a water treatment plant. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. -- Additional Employment Requirements: Must obtain Grade C Water Treatment Operator Certification within twelve months of hire or within two test-taking attempts, whichever is less. All required certifications and licensures must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. - Hiring Salary, \$36,000 (entry level/no certification), \$39,000 Grade C Certification, \$42,000 Grade B Certification, \$45,000 Grade A Certification. -- 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, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. -- The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity

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

## Legals

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **PETER SAMUEL LANDSTROM**, 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 1st day of December, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 1st day of September, 2022.  
**SUSAN BETTS LANDSTROM, EXECUTRIX**  
ESTATE OF PETER SAMUEL LANDSTROM  
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC  
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **EDWARD KEEN COFFMAN, III** deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 1st, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 1st day of September, 2022.  
Edna Elizabeth Coffman, Executor  
Estate of Edward Keen Coffman, III  
c/o Roberson Law Firm  
1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
S1,S9,S15,S22,4tc

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-464**  
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **MARY ALANA BAKER ELLIS**, late of 300 Clynelish Close, Pittsboro, NC 27312, 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 507 Brookview Drive, Elon, NC 27244, on or before the 6th day of December 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.  
Alana A. Germain, Executrix of Estate of  
Mary Alana Baker Ellis, Deceased  
David K. Holley, Attorney for the Estate  
10 NW Court Square  
Graham, North Carolina 27253  
336-227-7411  
S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the **ESTATE OF SUSAN ROBERTA POWELL** AKA SUSAN HENDERSON POWELL late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on June 10, 2022, are hereby notified to present their claims to **WOODSON LEA POWELL IV**, Executor in care of the undersigned attorney at her address, on or before November, 30, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the deceased, please make immediate payment. This 1st day of September, 2022  
**WOODSON LEA POWELL IV, EXECUTOR**  
c/o Janet H. McLamb, Attorney  
102 Presque Isle Lane  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, having qualified on the 24th day of August 2022 as Executrix of the Estate of **DOROTHY J. LABBOK** a/k/a Dorothy Joan Labbok, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of December 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 1st day of September 2022.  
Andrea F. Mitchel, Executrix of the Estate of  
Dorothy J. Labbok a/k/a Dorothy Joan Labbok  
c/o Julia G. Henry, Esquire  
Kennon Craver, PLLC  
4011 University Drive, Suite 300  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **ROBERT J. OBRISKI AKA ROBERT JOHN OBRISKI**, 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 1st day of December, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 1st day of September, 2022.  
**ELIZABETH RINCON-OBRISKI, EXECUTRIX**  
ESTATE OF ROBERT J. OBRISKI AKA  
ROBERT JOHN OBRISKI  
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC  
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-480 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, James W. Newell, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **IRENE C. DICKSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the day of 29 November 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 1st day of September, 2022.  
James W. Newell, Administrator  
c/o Marie H. Hopper  
Attorney for the Estate  
Hopper Cummings, PLLC  
Post Office Box 1455  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

## 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.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **JOE ERVIN ROBERTSON**, aka Joe Ervin Robertson Jones, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 10, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 8th day of September, 2022.  
Grace Ann Robertson, Ancillary Administrator  
c/o Andrea L. Hinshaw  
2626 Glenwood Ave., Ste. 560,  
Raleigh, NC 27608.  
S8,S15,S22,S29,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executrices of the Estate of **JOE WESLEY BURKE**, deceased, 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 their address, 199 Mt. Gilead Church Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 8th day of December, 2022, or this

# AUCTION



**HOME FOR SALE @ AUCTION – SILER CITY, NC**  
House on .48 Acre Lot  
Great Restoration Project –  
Great Location – ¼ Mile Off US 421  
1084 Foust Rd., Siler City, NC  
Chatham Co. Tax Parcel ID #79578

**Register & Bid Online – Bidding Ends Sept. 28th!**  
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## Career Opportunities Available

Visit [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://www.chathamcountync.gov) and click Jobs.

## HELP WANTED

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

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

## HIRING CNA's ALL SHIFTS

CALL: 919-542-3151  
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for appointment to complete application and interview.  
Pittsboro Christian Village  
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

## PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

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

Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 2nd day of September, 2022. JoAnn Burke Norwood, Co-Executrix

199 Mt. Gilead Church Road  
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312  
Frankie Burke Glosson, Co-Executrix  
2105 Wildcat Creek Road  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516  
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC

P. O. Box 880  
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880  
\$8,515,\$22,\$29,4tc

c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Atty.  
Galbraith, PLLC  
1340 Environ Way  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
\$15,\$22,\$29,06,4tc

and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
Piedmont Health Services, Inc.  
88 Vilcom Center Drive, Suite 110  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Attn: Brian Toomey  
Phone: (919) 933-8494  
No further environmental review of this project is proposed prior to final approval from HRSA.  
**Public Comments**  
Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on these projects may submit written comments to the Piedmont Health Services, Inc., Attn: Brian Toomey, CEO, at the above referenced address.  
HRSA will consider all comments received within 15 days of this "Notice" prior to final approval from HRSA.  
\$15,\$22,2tc

Jonathan Carroll Burke, Administrator  
c/o Marie H. Hopper  
Attorney for the Estate  
Hopper Cummings, PLLC  
Post Office Box 1455  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
\$22,\$29,06,013,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-514 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, Kenneth Andrew Wright, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Susan F. Daniel**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the day of December 22nd, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 22nd of September, 2022.  
Kenneth Andrew Wright, Executor  
c/o Marie H. Hopper  
Attorney for the Estate  
Hopper Cummings, PLLC  
Post Office Box 1455  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
\$22,\$29,06,013,4tc

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY**  
Application to Fill Vacancy on Chatham County Board of Education  
The recent resignation of Ms. Melissa Hlavac on September 12, 2022, has left a vacant seat on the Chatham County Board of Education. The Board has initiated a process for appointing a new member to fill the term which will expire December 2024. Interested parties are to submit the following application, letter of interest and resume by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 2022. The application can be found on the school district website at www.chatham.k12.nc.us or picked up in person at the administrative offices at 369 West Street, Pittsboro, 27312. Completed applications, letter of interest and resume should be submitted to Kristin Guthrie, board clerk, at kguthrie@chatham.k12.nc.us or may be mailed or delivered to her at Chatham County Schools, 369 West Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312.  
The Board will hold a special meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the media center of George Moses Horton Middle School to interview the applicants. The Board will make its selection by majority vote that evening. The new board member will be sworn in at the regular session meeting on Monday, October 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the media center of Chatham Grove Elementary School.  
In order to serve on the Board of Education, a candidate must:  
• reside in school board residency District 1,  
• not be a convicted felon,  
• not have a current conflict of interest situation with the school district,  
• must be a registered voter,  
• must be at least 21 years of age.  
\$22,\$29,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-525 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, Ann S. Shackelford, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **CAMILLA DETERMAN SARAVALLI**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of December, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 22nd day of September, 2022.  
Ann S. Shackelford  
Executor  
c/o Marie H. Hopper  
Attorney for the Estate  
Hopper Cummings, PLLC  
Post Office Box 1455  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
\$22,\$29,06,013,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-499 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, Jonathan Carroll Burke, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Lonnie Carroll Burke**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the day of December 21st, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 22nd of September, 2022.  
Jonathan Carroll Burke, Administrator  
c/o Marie H. Hopper  
Attorney for the Estate  
Hopper Cummings, PLLC  
Post Office Box 1455  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
\$22,\$29,06,013,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF KATHY MELISSA MANRING NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **KATHY MELISSA MANRING**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Amanda Valmasso as Executrix of the decedent's estate on or before December 23, 2022, 113 English Place, Morrisville, NC 27560, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor. This is the 22nd day of September, 2022.  
113 English Place  
Morrisville, NC 27560  
\$22,\$29,06,013,4tc

**Request for Bids:**  
Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center Lawn Maintenance  
Chatham County is seeking bids to maintain the lawn areas at the most beneficial level for turf once per week during the regular growing season (generally between April 1 and October 31) and as needed in the off season, for a minimum of 32 visits. All turf areas shall be mowed 7 to 10 days as needed or as weather permits. A reel mower will be required for the courtyard and areas between the building and the sidewalk on the south side and west side. Rotary mowers for

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
HAVING QUALIFIED as the Executor of the Estate of **JOYCE SYBIL HICKEY**, 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 7th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 26th day of August, 2022.  
Jason Hickey, Executor of the Estate of  
Joyce Sybil Hickey  
15004 Barnhardt Ct.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
Chris Gamber, Attorney at Law  
2530 Meridian Pkwy, Ste 300  
Durham, NC 27713  
\$8,515,\$22,\$29,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DAVID COOPER WHITE**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **DAVID COOPER WHITE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to William McKinley White, Jr. as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before December 9, 2022. c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Attorney at Law, 1340 Environ Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor. This the 8th day of September, 2022.  
William McKinley White, Jr., Executor  
c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Atty.  
Galbraith, PLLC  
1340 Environ Way  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
\$8,515,\$22,\$29,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BERNICE H. NORWOOD NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **BERNICE H. NORWOOD**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Charles C. Harris as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before December 16, 2022, c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Attorney at Law, 1340 Environ Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor. This the 15th day of September, 2022.  
Charles C. Harris, Executor

Charles C. Harris, Executor

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 506**  
All persons having claims against **HOYT A. SCOTT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th 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 September, 2022.  
Berta Scott, Executrix  
1626 Hoyt Scott Rd  
Bear Creek, NC 27207  
\$15,\$22,\$29,06,4tp

**HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT For Parking Lot Improvements Project**  
In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508) and the HHS General Administration Manual Part 30 Environmental Protection (February 25, 2000), HRSA has determined that the Parking Lot Improvements Project proposed by Piedmont Health Services, Inc. will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.  
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides discretionary grant and cooperative agreement awards to support health centers expand their capacity to provide primary and preventive health care services to medically underserved populations nationwide.  
Piedmont Health Services, Inc. in Chapel Hill, North Carolina has applied for HRSA grant funding. The applicant proposes to use grant funds to repair and expand the parking area and sidewalks at one of their existing clinics located at 7228 Pittsboro Road in Moncure, North Carolina. The applicant has submitted an Environmental Assessment (EA) that documents impacts of the proposed action. This EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Assessment for this project, which is on file at the following address for public examination upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m.

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified on the 14th day of September 2022, as Executrix of the Estate of **HENRY C. WRUBLE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of December 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 16th day of September 2022.  
Karen Burdick Executrix of the Estate of Henry C. Wruble  
5637 East Angela Drive  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85254  
Attorneys:  
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.  
206 Hawkins Avenue  
Sanford, NC 27330  
\$22,\$29,06,013,4tc

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other locations on the site will be acceptable. The scope of services also includes trimming, edging, trash and debris removal, cleaning, weeding, leaf removal, pruning and plant care, mulch application, seasonal flowers and plant installation, and repairs. For additional details, please reach out to purchasing@chathamcountync.gov or 919-545-8364. Sealed bids will be accepted by mail or delivery until 2:00 PM, on Tuesday, October 11, 2022. Vendors must submit one hard copy with all attachments, including signatory pages. A public bid opening will take place sharply at 2:00 PM in the Chatham County Performance Building, 964 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312. If not delivering to the bid open location, the hard copies must be sent to one of the following delivery addresses: Michele Peluso, Chatham County Procurement Manager, Chatham County Finance Office, 12 East Street (physical

delivery), Pittsboro, NC 27312 OR P.O. Box 608 (postal delivery), Pittsboro, NC 27312. It is strongly encouraged that bidders attend the site visit that will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center: 1192 US-64 BUS, Pittsboro, NC, 27312, on September 27, 2022, at 1:00 PM. All inquiries relating to this request must be received by Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 5:00 PM. An addendum, if needed, will be posted September 29, 2022, by 5 PM. Requests must be in writing and addressed to: Michele Peluso, Chatham County Finance Office, P.O. Box 608; Pittsboro, NC 27312; or by fax to 919-542-4261; or emailed to: purchasing@chathamcountync.gov. This solicitation and others can be located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/finance/bid-proposal-opportunities>

Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, age or disability. S22,1tc

**TOWN OF SILER CITY, NC** Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearing Notice The Town of Siler City will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 3, 2022 to consider potential projects for which funding may be applied under the CDBG Housing, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development programs. Suggestions for potential projects will be solicited, both verbally and in writing, from all interested parties. The expected amount of CDBG funds will be discussed along with the range of projects eligible under these programs and a review of previously funded projects. The hearing will begin at 6:30 pm and will be held at 500 North

Second Avenue in Siler City, NC 27344. Further information can be obtained by contacting Town Finance Director Tina Stroupe at [tstroupe@silercity.org](mailto:tstroupe@silercity.org) or 919-742-4731. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Tina Stroupe at 919-742-4731, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344,

or [tstroupe@silercity.org](mailto:tstroupe@silercity.org) for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Tina Stroupe al [tstroupe@silercity.org](mailto:tstroupe@silercity.org) o 919-742-4731 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. S22,S29,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 523** All persons having claims against **CEDRIC LOCKLEAR**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of December, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. S22,S29,2tc

This the 22nd day of September, 2022. Grady Locklear, Administrator 385 Rolling Meadows Lane Chapel Hill, NC 27517 S22,S29,06,O13,4tp

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WOLFSPEED | BY THE NUMBERS

# Figures you need to know about the chip manufacturer coming to Siler City

**BY BEN RAPPAPORT**  
News + Record Staff

**10x**  
The multiplier representing the increased capacity of the new Wolfspeed silicon carbide facility coming to Chatham County. The new facility will produce 10 times more silicon carbide chips than Wolfspeed's campus in Durham, currently the largest producer in the U.S. Industry analysts estimate these chips will make up more than 20% of the power semiconductor market by 2027, up from 5% today. The factory, due for completion in 2030, is slated to be the largest silicon carbide materials facility in the world.

**200mm**  
The new campus in Siler City is expected to produce 200-millimeter silicon carbide wafers, which can be used to provide power and radio frequency semiconductors. Its chips are used in electric vehicles, 4G and 5G mobile development, and other emerging industries.

**1,800 jobs**  
The chip manufacturing

facility is expected to bring 1,800 jobs directly at its facility in Siler City over the next five years.

**352 acres**  
The amount of land the new Wolfspeed facility will occupy at the Chatham Advanced Manufacturing site in Siler City. The total size of the CAM site is 1,802 acres, but even after the Wolfspeed announcement, there will be 1,450 acres still available to develop — almost three square miles, and large enough to fit another VinFast-sized facility.

**9,000 jobs**  
The total amount of jobs promised to Chatham County so far in 2022 with the announcements of VinFast and Wolfspeed. The jobs will come in a steady flow as production of both facilities ramps up over the next five to 10 years. Job growth will likely be coupled with a population boom in the county that is anticipated to result in new schools and housing projects coming to the community.

**\$77,753**

The projected average salary employees at Wolfspeed's new silicon carbide facility will earn. The wages are 87% higher than the current average salary of Siler City, which is \$41,638. The project could increase regional payroll by more than \$140 million per year, according to an analysis by N.C. Dept. of Commerce.

**\$159 million**  
The amount of money the state offered Wolfspeed in tax incentives, including a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) worth more than \$86 million. The company also has performance-based incentives with up to \$775 million if Wolfspeed meets hiring and investment goals.

**\$615 million**  
The amount of money in local government subsidies Wolfspeed is eligible for from Chatham County and Siler City governments if it meets its hiring and investment goals. These incentives are not paid by the local governments but rather reduced from Wolfspeed's tax burden over the next 30 years.

**\$2 billion**  
The amount of economic investment in Wolfspeed's first phase of development, which is expected to begin in 2024.

**\$5 billion**  
Wolfspeed is bringing the largest economic development deal in state history to Chatham County with \$5 billion in total investment over the next five years.

**\$9 billion**  
The total amount of economic development investment pledged to Chatham County so far in 2022 through the VinFast and Wolfspeed projects alone. More is likely on the way soon: a large portion of the CAM site still up for grabs, plus additional space at Triangle Innovation Point, where VinFast is preparing to build.

**\$17.5 billion**  
The calculated return on investment from the Wolfspeed project over the next 20 years, according to analysts at N.C. State University. This includes \$615 million from Chatham County and Siler City, \$76

million in payroll tax rebates from Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG), \$3.6 million in community college training with Central Carolina Community College, \$57.5 million in state appropriation for site development, \$9.7 million from the Golden LEAF Foundation, \$10 million from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, and \$2.5 million through the Community Development Block Grant program.

**\$280 billion**  
The amount of money made available through federal funds in the CHIPS and Science Act, which is aimed at bolstering U.S. competitiveness and avoiding another chip shortage. The legislation would spend \$52.7 billion on direct financial assistance for the construction and expansion of semiconductor manufacturing facilities, like Wolfspeed. It adds \$24 billion in federal tax incentives for chip manufacturing facilities nationwide.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.

## County unveils VinFast project website, e-notification

Gives residents latest news, FAQ and more

From Chatham County Government PITTSBORO — Chatham County has created two new ways for the public to stay updated on the VinFast project in Moncure. The Chatham Coun-

ty website now has a dedicated web page for VinFast news located at [www.chathamcountync.gov/vinfast](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/vinfast). The web page will provide information on the VinFast project including latest news, frequently asked questions, upcoming events, and helpful web links, and will continue to be updated throughout the proj-

ect. The public also can receive updates on the VinFast project directly in their email by signing up for VinFast News e-notifications. Individuals may sign up for this free service by accessing the e-notification section on the VinFast web page or by going directly to the e-notification section on the county website.

“The VinFast project is an exciting opportunity for Chatham County, and it will impact many facets of our community,” said Kara Lusk Dudley, Chatham County’s public information officer. “We also understand that the public will have a lot of questions throughout the process, so we wanted to create

the VinFast web page and e-notification to help people easily stay informed.” On March 29, Vietnamese automotive manufacturer VinFast announced that it selected Chatham County, North Carolina, to build its first manufacturing facility in the United States. This \$4 billion investment is the largest economic

development project in North Carolina history and will create at least 7,500 jobs over the next five years. Dudley also said the county plans similar web and email update projects for Wolfspeed, which last Friday announced plans for a \$5 billion facility at Siler City’s CAM (Chatham Advanced Manufacturing) site.

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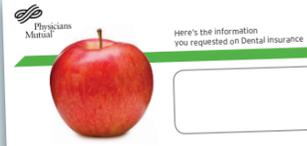
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# SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER 22 - 28, 2022 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

SEAFORTH 20, JORDAN-MATTHEWS 0

## Seaforth earns 1st varsity win by shutting out Jordan-Matthews

BY SHELBY SWANSON  
News + Record Correspondent

in excitement. A Gatorade cooler was overturned — presumably on head coach Terrance Gary, who was visibly soaked following the game.

For the Seaforth Hawks, Friday didn't mark just any win — it was the program's first victory as a varsity football team.

After opening its doors in August 2021, Seaforth competed at the junior varsity level last fall, going 6-3 under the leadership of Gary. After Friday's win, Gary said his team's performance after an 0-4 start to the 2022 season is "a relief."

"It's been very stressful," he said of building the program from scratch. "Very gratifying too, at the same time."

For Gary, building the team was especially challenging given the lack



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

Seaforth junior Anthony Vesce (4) stiff-arms a defender in the Hawks' 20-0 win on Friday.

See SEAFORTH, page B4

PITTSBORO — On the surface, Seaforth's 20-0 victory over Jordan-Matthews on Friday had all the markings of a typical high school football game. Many players played both ways, and missed tackles and miscommunication led to explosive plays that made up the majority of the scoring. But when the game clock hit zero in this Friday night lights matchup, the celebration from the Hawks (1-4, 1-0 Mid-Carolina) hinted at the deeper meaning behind the win.

With Seaforth's offense assembling in the victory formation as the clock wound down, the maroon and white crowd roared to its feet. The entire Seaforth roster then proceeded to rush to the sideline, jumping up and down

## Northwood inducts 6 into athletics hall of fame

From Northwood High School

PITTSBORO — Northwood High School inducted six alumni into its Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday during halftime of the football game against Williams High School.

Those inducted into the 2022 class were Casey Norris Bodlak, Tra Chandler, Robbie Degraffenreidt, Carrie Webster Howard, Darrell Kirby and Jim Pappas.

### Casey Norris-Bodlak

Norris-Bodlak graduated from Northwood in 2014. She was a member of the basketball and soccer team all four years of high school. In basketball, Norris-Bodlak was a three-time all-conference selection and team MVP. On the soccer field, she was a two-time all-state selection, three-time all-conference selection and four-time team MVP.

Norris-Bodlak attended Liberty University on a soccer scholarship, where she graduated with an Elementary Education Degree. She played in every game all four seasons and was a team captain during her sophomore, junior and senior seasons. She helped lead the Flames to a Big South Conference Championship and an NCAA First Round game against UNC-Chapel Hill.

"Being able to compete in high school athletics helped to prepare me for a career in college athletics at a high



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

From left to right: Jim Pappas, Darrel Kirby, Carrie Webster Howard, Robbie Degraffenreidt, Tra Chandler, Casey Norris Bodlak.

level by challenging me to balance being an athlete and a student," Norris-Bodlak said.

"I was encouraged every day by my coaches and teachers who had a huge impact on me, some of which I am still in contact with today. I learned about what it meant to lead, how to be a good teammate, and also how to be a respectful player to both coaches and players. The coaches I had at Northwood high school made a huge impact on me. As I went on to play Division 1 soccer at Liberty, I took many of those lessons learned at Northwood with me."

Norris-Bodlak is currently a stay at home mother with her two children, ages three

and one, with a third child on the way.

### Tra Chandler

Chandler graduated from Northwood in 2011 where he was a standout on the basketball and football team. As a basketball player, he was a member of the 2009 and 2011 state runner-up teams. In 2011 he was named the Eastern Regional MVP for his performance against Kinston with 20 points. He was an all-conference selection his junior and senior year and was also known for his tenacious defense on the opposing team's point guard.

Chandler excelled in all facets of the game on the football

field. He was a dynamic wide receiver, lockdown cornerback and electric kick returner on special teams. He was selected all-conference at the cornerback position his junior and senior years. He was also named to the all-state team as a cornerback his senior year. He led the Chargers with the most interceptions in a season with 12. He was also the only Charger to score a touchdown on offense, defense and special teams in the same game.

Following Northwood, Chandler enrolled at Dean College in Massachusetts for a year before transferring to UNC-Pembroke. At Pem-

See FAME, page B3

## What to make of the NFL after Week 2

Week 2 of the NFL season has come and gone, and despite having



JEREMY VERNON  
Sports Editor

to suffer through watching the Panthers' offense week after week, I have thoroughly enjoyed having professional football completely take over my life each Sunday.

The slate of games this past Sunday was downright bonkers, featuring a 13-point comeback with under two minutes to go by the New York Jets, a 60-yard game-winning fumble return in overtime by the Arizona Cardinals and a brawl between the Saints and Bucs that resulted in the ejections of Mike Evans and Marshon Lattimore.

While those were some of the highlights of the week, they don't tell the whole story of Sunday's action. Here are three observations I had from three games, and a look at how things might unfold over the next several weeks.

### Is Tua legit?

Arguably the team that grabbed the most headlines this offseason was the Miami Dolphins, as they went out and traded for Tyreek Hill, added offensive linemen Connor Williams and Terron Armstead in free agency and hired new coach Mike McDaniels to oversee the team's transition from rebuilding to contending.

The biggest question mark entering the year for Miami was whether quarterback Tua Tagovailoa could lead the team to the next level. In his first two years, there had been questions about his durability, pocket presence, arm strength and much more, but Tagovailoa seemingly put a lot of his critics to bed Sunday with his performance in Miami's 21-point comeback over Baltimore — completing 36 of 50 passes for 469 yards and six touchdowns against two interceptions.

As a vocal Tua doubter entering the year, I was impressed by some of what I saw Sunday, particularly his performance on Miami's final drive. After finding Hill for a gain of 21 yards, the Dolphins broke into the red zone on a 28-yard run by Chase Edmonds with less than 30 seconds remaining. On 2nd-and-goal from the 7-yard line, Tagovailoa evaded the Baltimore pressure and threw a perfect pass to Jaylen Waddle for the game-winning score.

While his fourth-quarter performance was phenomenal, Tagov-

See NFL, page B2

### AROUND THE COUNTY

## Girls golf in heat of season; Anstrom sets PR at adidas XC Challenge

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

The girls golf season is already in full swing, and several Chatham County teams already have wins under their belt.

One of those teams is Chatham Central, which competed against North Moore and Seaforth on Monday at The Preserve at Jordan Lake. The Bears placed third of the three teams this time around because they didn't have enough golfers to participate, but before that they had finished first and second, respectively, in their two previous matches.

Central returned its top three golfers — seniors Reagan Mize, Jaylee Williams and Ashton Wilks — this fall after winning the Mid-Carolina Conference title in 2021.

The Bears were to host the Chatham Central Invitational on Wednesday against Southern Alamance. The match will be played at Siler City Country Club, the home course of the Bears.

### Seaforth shows out at XC invitational

On Saturday, several Seaforth athletes competed at

See GOLF, page B4



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The Seaforth girls golf team finished second Monday at a conference meet with North Moore and Chatham Central.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaforth's Stevenson ranked among top juniors in entire country

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

PITTSBORO — You never know who you might find when walking through the halls of Seaforth High. You might even run into an NBA legend.

That would have been the case if you were on campus last Wednesday, as Georgetown head men's basketball coach and former New York Knicks star Patrick Ewing was in town to visit Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson, one of the top recruits nationally in the Class of 2024. The Hoyas extended Stevenson an



Jarin Stevenson

offer, one of six current Division-I scholarships on the table currently for the 6-foot-8 power forward. And while he appreciated Georgetown's interest, the highlight of Ewing's visit for Stevenson was the chance to chat with one of the best big men to ever play.

"I got to learn a few things about him, and we talked for a little bit while he was here," Stevenson told the N+R about the visit. "It was just great having him in the gym."

Nowadays Ewing stands just an inch or two taller than Stevenson, though in the height of his playing days he was a stout 7-foot-flat and 255 pounds. Known as one of the best offensive forwards in NBA history, Ewing averaged over 20.0 points per game for the first 13 years of his career and finished his playing days

averaging 21.0 points and 9.8 rebounds while shooting over 50% from the field.

While Stevenson — who is ranked as the No. 17 overall player in the Class of 2024 according to 247Sports' composite rankings — is technically also a forward, there are nuances to his game that differ from the hulking big men like Ewing that dominated in the 80s and 90s. With today's game featuring a heavy focus on perimeter play, and particular, the 3-point shot, a forward has to be ready to contribute at all three levels offensively, not just under the basket.

Over the offseason, Stevenson has worked on tightening his handle and smoothing out his jumpshot. He hopes the extra work will help him improve his 3-point percentage after shooting 21-of-71 (29.6%) from behind the line as a

sophomore. He also expects to be more dynamic with the ball in his hands.

"With my height, it helps with mismatches," Stevenson said. "If there's a big on me, I can take him off the dribble, and if there's a smaller guy, I can just put it in the post and score over him."

Stevenson believes he's made the necessary strides to help Seaforth be more competitive this winter. Last season, the Hawks' first as a varsity program, the team went 12-10 overall and lost in the first round of the state playoffs. There is reason for optimism, though, as after a 1-5 start, Seaforth managed to win nine of its next 10 games and finish second in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference.

The plan, Stevenson said, is to build

See STEVENSON, page B3

SCORES AND SCHEDULES

Table with columns for dates (TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY) and sports (Girls golf, Girls tennis, Volleyball, Boys soccer, Football, Volleyball, Cross country, Girls tennis, Boys soccer, Girls tennis, Girls golf, Volleyball). Each entry lists scores and game times for various schools.

NFL

Continued from page B1

ailoa didn't play a perfect game Sunday. He threw two interceptions to Baltimore defensive back Marcus Williams in the first half, both coming on plays where he forced the ball into double coverage deep down the field. At one point Miami trailed the Ravens, 35-14, partly due to Tagovailoa's lapses in judgment. I'm not sure he'll be able to get away with those same mistakes over the team's next four games, which include matchups against Buffalo, Cincinnati and Minnesota. I'll wait to see how he does in those games before I jump on the bandwagon.

Bengals ... do something ...

I really thought the Bengals would be the one to overcome the cursed "Super Bowl Hangover." Since the start of the 2012 season, three teams that lost in the Super Bowl the previous season didn't make the playoffs — the 2016 Panthers, the 2019 Rams and the

2020 49ers. In fact, only one team since the 1972 Dolphins — the 2018 New England Patriots — has managed to win a Super Bowl after losing the game the previous season.

The Bengals made all the right moves over the summer, adding offensive line depth, shoring up the defensive side of the ball and selling the naming rights to their stadium to get prepared to pay Joe Burrow a massive contract in the future. But the Bengals are now 0-2 after two weeks. They haven't played powerhousees, either, losing in Week 1 to the Steelers and Week 2 to the Cowboys.

So are the Bengals cooked? I think that's probably premature to say. The biggest issue for Cincinnati so far this season has been its offensive line, which has allowed Burrow to get sacked a league-high 13 times through the first two weeks of the season. The Bengals completely revamped the right side of their line, bringing in center Ted Karras, right guard Alex Cappa and right tackle La'El Collins, but all three have strug-

gled playing with their new teams.

I personally think Cincinnati will figure things out, and that its likely just taking the offensive line some game time to figure out exactly how they jel together. What has been encouraging is the play of Burrow — who led a drive in the closing minutes to tie the game at 17 — and the team's defense, which held All-Pro running back Ezekiel Elliott in check most of the game.

Week 3 presents the perfect get-right opportunity for Cincinnati, as it plays the lowly New York Jets on the road. With a strong performance in this game, the Bengals' O-line could build a ton of needed confidence, which will come in handy in their next three games against the Dolphins, Ravens and Saints.

Someone check on Jonathan Taylor

Boy, oh boy. The Indianapolis Colts stink. In Week 2, the Colts hit an early-season low by losing the Jaguars, 24-0, on the road. Dropping a game against a divi-

sional opponent was bad enough, but the way Indy played for the entirety of Sunday's game left no signs of encouragement to point to.

Indianapolis was second in the league in rushing (2,540 yards) in 2021, but the Colts only managed 54 yards on 13 carries, all of which came from Jonathan Taylor, who is the team's best offensive player.

The Colts opened the game with an interception by Matt Ryan — who threw three on the day — and Jacksonville immediately capitalized with a 15-play touchdown drive. Indianapolis went three-and-out on its next three drives, while Jacksonville added another touchdown and a field goal to make it 17-0 right before halftime. Facing a three-score deficit, the Colts completely abandoned the running game and only had seven total attempts in the second half. Two of the Colts' final three drives ended with interceptions, including two in a two-play stretch by Ryan that put the game away.

The Colts were the favorite to win the AFC

South entering the year, which isn't saying much considering the other teams in the division are Jacksonville, Houston and Tennessee. But with a 0-1-1 start to the season, Indy looks nowhere close to competing, and perhaps closer to starting a full rebuild and moving on from head coach Frank Reich.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.

com or on Twitter at @jbo\_ernon.

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# FAME

Continued from page B1

broke, his success continued as a kick-returner; he returned two kickoffs in a season for the Braves. As a senior at Pembroke, he was named to the all-conference team as a kick-returner.

Following his collegiate career, Chandler has played in arena football. In 2019 he played for the Carolina Havoc in Florence, S.C., where he scored three touchdowns. This past year he played in the Fan Controlled Football League, where he had one touchdown.

“The experience I had at Northwood meant everything to me. It molded me,” Chandler said. “The coaches and teammates instilled the work ethic to be successful. Everyone pushed me to be my best. The community of Pittsboro is hands down one of the best in the state. They supported us and came to every game during that 2009 and 2011 state playoffs. My coaches treated me like one of their own. They were there for me when I had questions and guided me as a young man. They helped me be a better man and have shaped me into the man that I have become today.”

Chandler received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Informational Technology from UNC Pembroke in 2016. He has been mentoring youth in the Garner area and is training young athletes. He is currently employed as an IT Technician for Minpath Health and resides in Garner.

## Robby DeGraffenreidt

DeGraffenreidt is a 1988 Northwood graduate who was a member of the baseball and basketball teams. DeGraffenreidt

was a two-time all conference selection in basketball, but it was on the baseball diamond where he excelled. He was a four-year starter for Northwood’s baseball team and was selected all-conference three years in a row. He won the conference batting title his sophomore and senior year. DeGraffenreidt was also named the Conference Player of the Year in 1991 and 1992.

He threw two no hitters against Denton in 1987 and another versus Bunn in the first round of the state playoffs in 1988. He won 15 career games as a pitcher. He was selected to the first North Carolina State Games as a member of the baseball team following his senior year of high school.

“When I think back on my time at Northwood I remember how Coach Horton and Coach Shaner changed my life,” DeGraffenreidt said. “They stressed doing your job in the classroom and on the baseball field and basketball court. But academics was first before athletics. My coaches, teammates and friends that I had at Northwood have all impacted me on the man that I am today. I am forever grateful for the experiences that I had at Northwood High School.”

DeGraffenreidt went on to Louisburg College and finished his degree at Central Carolina Community College. He currently resides in Pittsboro with his wife and three daughters, Shanya, Destinee’ and Kyonti. He has a grandson, Jorden, and a step-daughter, Destinee Sumter.

## Carrie Webster Howard

Webster Howard is a 2010 graduate of Northwood High School, where she excelled on the softball field. She was

instrumental in the softball team’s success winning the conference championship and conference tournament in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Webster Howard excelled on the mound for the Chargers. She was an all-conference selection all four years as a pitcher. She was named Conference Player of the Year in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In 2009 and 2010, Webster Howard was named All-District and All-State.

Following her career at Northwood, she attended Meredith College in Raleigh where she pitched two years for the Avenging Angels before deciding to double major her junior year of college. She graduated with honors from Meredith College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising with a minor in Marketing.

Webster Howard resides in Pittsboro and is employed at Galloway Ridge as an Administrative Assistant for Facilities and Technology.

“Some of my best memories are from playing softball at Northwood and I am thankful for the values and lessons that I gained,” Webster Howard said. “I learned how to persevere when times get tough and that failure builds character. I also learned that having faith in yourself and others is contagious. The more you believe in others, the more they will believe in you. I will be forever grateful for everything my parents, coaches, teammates and Northwood did for me during my four years as a Charger; they helped shape my life today”

## Darrell Kirby

Kirby, a 1992 graduate of Northwood, was a standout in

football, basketball and baseball. A running back, Kirby was a two-time all-conference and all-area selection his junior and senior years. During his senior year, he had two 200 yard rushing performances and finished with 1,136 yards rushing his senior year. On the basketball court, Kirby was also a two-time all-conference selection. He was selected as the team MVP his senior year and was part of a team that won two conference championships.

On the baseball field Kirby was a true force. He was a three-time all-conference selection. Leading the team in batting with an average of .425, he was named the 1992 conference player of the year and all-state selection. On the mound, he won 19 games as a pitcher and also hit 13 career home runs. Kirby was also the first Northwood athlete to receive the WRAL Tom Suitor Extra Effort Award.

Reflecting on his experience at Northwood Kirby said, “The teachers and coaches that I had at Northwood kept me grounded. They kept me on the right path. I had goals that I wanted to achieve and they helped me reach them. Coach Pappas, Coach Horton, Coach Ribbett and Coach Hall, thank you for driving me and instilling a hard nose mentality and work ethic. You held me accountable and treated me like everyone else. They all treated me as if I was one of their own.”

Kirby, who resides in Snow Camp, is married to his wife Tracy. He has two daughters, Ceionna and Aniyah, who were also Northwood graduates.

## Jim Pappas

Pappas was a longtime Northwood teacher, coach and athletic

director from 1989-2002. He coached tennis (89-92), football (87-97) and basketball (91-2002) during his tenure while also juggling athletic director duties during those seasons. He led the Northwood basketball team to its first ever state championship appearance in 2000.

A native of Danville, Virginia, Pappas came to Northwood in 1989 after serving as a football assistant coach and Health and Physical Education teacher at Pincrest High School. Coach Pappas received numerous accolades as a coach while at Northwood. He was the coach of the year during the 1989 and 1990 seasons in tennis. He won the Football Coach of the Year Honor in 1990. He was also named Coach of the Year in basketball during the 99-00 and 00-01 seasons. He had a career overall basketball record of 303-211 between his coaching stops at Northwood, Cedar Ridge High School, and Williams High School (girls basketball).

“It was a tremendous time of our lives during the years my family and I spent at Northwood,” Pappas said. “The people, who are too numerous to list, that touched our lives both professionally and socially. We consider Northwood to be “Home”. This honor is about the Northwood Community.”

Pappas received his Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from the University of South Carolina in 1978. He also received a Masters of Arts degree in Physical Education from Gardner Webb in 1987. Pappas recently retired from education after serving 42 years in the school system. He and his wife Donna reside in Hillsborough and have three children, Josh, Cameron, and Peyton.

# STEVENSON

Continued from page B2

on that positive momentum and come out of the gates even stronger in 2022-23.

“It was tough last year because we only had freshmen and sophomores,” Stevenson said. “Over the summer, I feel like we’ve put in a good amount of work, and we’re still putting in work now. I feel like we’re

getting better. Last year was tough, but we pushed through and got some wins under our belt. We did what we had to do.”

This season, Stevenson will have to juggle playing with the ongoing saga of his recruitment. After picking up three offers from Georgetown, Virginia and Missouri this week, things should only ramp up for the junior as he continues to rise up recruiting boards.

While the process can be

hectic at times, Stevenson said he has enjoyed the interest he has received from some of the top programs in the country.

“Sometimes there’s a lot of calls and a lot of stuff, but it’s a blessing,” Stevenson said. “I like it a lot. It shows that the hard work is paying off. It’s a joy of an experience that I’ve really liked so far.”

One team expected to be in play for Stevenson until the end is UNC, which was the first

team to offer him a scholarship back in October 2021. Tar Heels’ head coach Hubert Davis also recently visited Seaforth to see Stevenson work out.

If he decides to join North Carolina, Stevenson will be the second Chatham County commit to do so. Earlier this month, Northwood junior Drake Powell — a former teammate of Stevenson’s — committed to the Tar Heels after receiving an offer from them earlier this offseason.

“Coach Davis said they have a great community over there, and they’re going to try and get me to as many games as possible (this season),” Stevenson said. “I know that there are good people over there. I still haven’t made any decisions yet, but UNC is a great college.”

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo\_ernon.*

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Staff photo by Nikki Witt

**Seaforth junior Roger Eubanks waves the Hawks' flag before the team's game against Jordan-Matthews on Friday.**

## SEAFORTH

Continued from page 1B

of middle school football programs in the Chatham County area.

"A lot of these kids haven't played before," he said. "Just seeing them grow into men, I just can't wait until senior year and see how they turn out and just mature as football players, learn how to deal with contact and things like that."

Perhaps nobody on the Hawks roster displayed more maturity on Friday night than sophomore quarterback Joshua Brown.

Brown championed the Seaforth offense, initiating several explosive plays that led to Hawks' touchdowns in dire circumstances.

Two of his passes, one to junior Ethan Becker and another to sophomore Alex Hinchman, went for an 84- and 64-yard touchdown, respectively.

"He made better decisions tonight," Gary said about Brown's play. "We've been talking about making decisions and not trying to force things, so decision-making's what we've been trying to, I've been yelling at him a lot about making better decisions."

Decision-making was emphasized heading into Seaforth's game against Jordan-Matthews. It's also something that Gary's sophomore-heavy roster has struggled with while playing against more experienced competition.

Competing against notably more mature and athletic teams this season, Gary is encouraging his team to make the easy plays.

"Just making the right decision to get our ball to our play-makers and let them make a play," he said. "A five-yard pass that still goes for 50 is the same as them throwing the ball 50 yards, it's just a higher completion percentage."

While Gary notes that his team's decision making was much improved on Friday, the Hawks' linemen on both sides of the ball struggled at times.

Despite halftime adjustments, the Jets (0-5, 0-1 Mid-Carolina) continued to find success pounding the ball up the middle of the field. Offensively, Seaforth was pushed back down the field play after play, putting the Hawks in situations where they needed to pick up 20 or 30 yards to move the chains.

Gary was quick to address the mistakes after the game, but he was equally speedy to shout out this monumental achievement for his team.

The Hawks have made quite a bit of progress as a team since losing their first three games by a combined score of 128-0. Seaforth almost upended 3A school and county rival Northwood in Week 4, leading for the majority of the game but ultimately falling, 12-7. Gary appreciates the work his team has put in and their resilience after such a rough start to the year.

"I'm happy for them because they've been working hard," he said. "I've been kicking their butt ... but as soon as the clock hits zero I gotta think about laundry and breaking down film for what Graham is doing."

While Gary was already looking ahead following Friday's win, the Hawks took some extra time to soak it all in.

Even after their initial celebration, after the team shook hands at the 50-yard line with Jordan-Matthews, the Hawks gathered in front of their marching band. After the Jets had nearly cleared the field, and the fans in attendance were already driving home, several Seaforth players moshed in front of the still-rattling drum line.

For a Seaforth team looking to establish itself in its first-ever varsity season, this win just meant more.

### Up next

Riding high with their first win of the season behind them and a 1-0 record in conference play, the Hawks will try to keep things rolling in Week 6 at home against 1-4 Graham. The Red Devils lost to Bartlett Yancey, 38-6, in Week 5.

Jordan-Matthews, meanwhile, will look for its first win of the 2022 fall season Friday night against Chatham Central. Last season, the Jets lost to the Bears, 21-7, on the road.



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

**A Seaforth defender sacks Jordan-Matthews' freshman Jaiden Gorham during the Hawks' victory on Friday.**



Saturday, October 29











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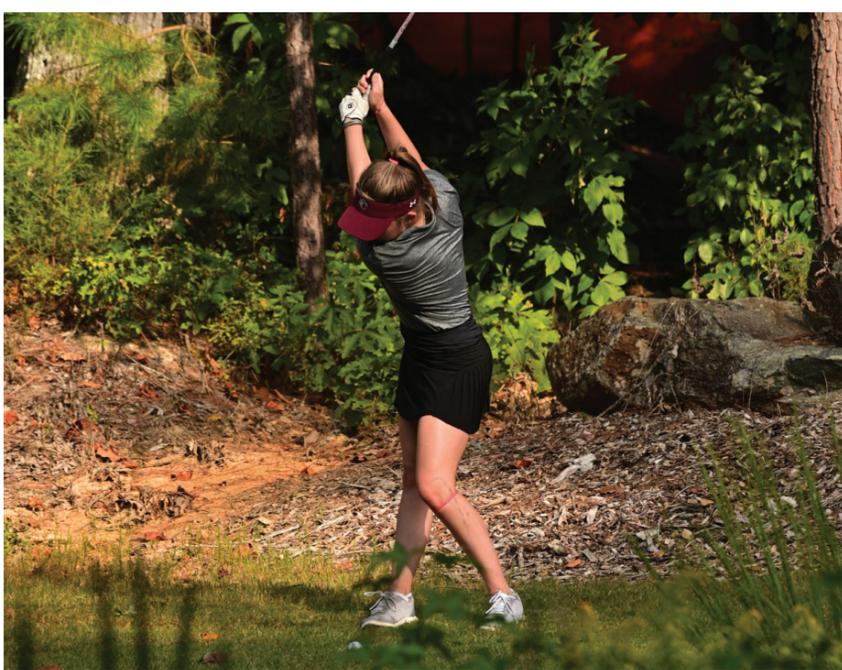


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Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Seaforth junior Madison Beck takes an approach shot Monday at The Preserve at Jordan Lake.**

## GOLF

Continued from page B1

the adidas XC Challenge at Wake Med Soccer Park in Cary.

The top finisher for the Hawks in any event was sophomore Jack Anstrom, who finished 20th in the boys championship race in a time of 15:34.7, the fastest time of his career so far. For comparison, Anstrom's previous personal best time was 16:23.3 over a 5,000-meter course, something he accomplished at the Eastbay South Region Cross Country Championships back in November.

In the boys challenge race, Hawks' sophomore Will Cuicchi finished in 15th with a time of 17:37.6. That time was also a new personal best for Cuicchi, who previously completed a 5,000-meter race the fastest in 18:12.7.

On the girls side, freshman Katherine Leonard finished 12th in the girls challenge race in a time of 21:33.6, while sophomore Claire Morgan, sophomore Juana Jimenez and freshman Caidence Bazemore finished 36th, 44th and 45th, respectively.

### Powell moving up

Northwood junior and recent UNC men's basketball commit Drake Powell recently saw his recruiting ranking jump up a few spots.

According to 247Sports' composite rankings, which average rankings from various different recruiting sites, Powell is now the No. 48 player nationally and No. 3 player in North Carolina in the Class of 2024. Before the most recent update, Powell was ranked outside the top 50 players nationally.

Powell is one of two Chatham County players ranked among the top-50 juniors in the country. The other is Seaforth's Jarin Stevenson, who has reported six Division-I offers and is considered the No. 17 player in the Class of 2024.

Powell and Stevenson both played at Northwood as freshmen in 2020-21 before Stevenson left to join a brand-new school and program in Seaforth.

Stevenson has scholarship offers from UNC, Virginia, N.C. State, Wake Forest, Georgetown and Missouri.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@jbo\\_ernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_ernon).*



## Council on Aging Activities Calendar

September 26th through September 30th

**Monday, September 26th**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie** (masks required)
- 9:15 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz** (Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)
- 10 a.m. - **Arthritis Foundation Exercise w/Jackie**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Matter of Balance** (Chatham Grove Community Center, RSVP Liz)
- 11 a.m. - **Golf** (Siler City Country Club, RSVP Liz - fee required)
- 11:15 a.m. - **Chair Volleyball**
- 6 p.m. - **Caregiver Support Group** (via Zoom)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 2 p.m. - **Geri-Fit**

**Tuesday, September 27th**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie** (masks optional)
- 9 a.m. - **3G's Men's Group**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Tai Chi for Arthritis** (Chatham Grove Community Center)
- 10 a.m. - **Woodcarvers; Science w/Alan**
- 11 a.m. - **Music w/Front Porch Ministry**
- 1 p.m. - **Rummikub**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:45 a.m. - **Chair Exercises w/Olivia**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Games w/Ryan Mankin, Humana**
- 1 p.m. - **Rook**

**Wednesday, September 28th**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz** (in-person and Zoom)
- 11 a.m. - **Craft w/Wynne**
- 1 p.m. - **Open Art Studio**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Veterans Benefit Assistance**
- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia; Walgreens Immunization Clinic**
- 10 a.m. - **Bible Study**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Legal Aid w/Melany**
- 1 p.m. - **Cornhole**
- 2 p.m. - **Crafting w/Kathryn** (Magazine Strip Silhouettes)

**Thursday, September 29th**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie** (masks optional)
- 9:30 a.m. - **Tai Chi for Arthritis; Blood Pressure Screening**
- 10 a.m. - **Crafts and Conversation; Bingo w/Joe**
- 11 a.m. - **Jubilee Choir**
- 1 p.m. - **Board Games & Cards**
- 1:30 p.m. - **Line Dancing**
- 3 p.m. - **Gentle Yoga w/Liz**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. - **Matter of Balance**
- 10 a.m. - **Bocce; Horseshoes; Music Jam Session**
- 1 p.m. - **"Bring Your Own Project" Gathering**
- 2 p.m. - **Geri-Fit**
- 3 p.m. - **Karaoke**

**Friday, September 30th**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Oktoberfest** (Southwest District Park, Bear Creek - RSVP w/Liz)
- 1 p.m. - **Card Games/Euchre**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 7 p.m. - **Friday Night Dance** (fee required to attend)

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

Eastern Chatham Senior Center  
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center  
919-742-3975

Visit our website at [www.chathamcoa.org](http://www.chathamcoa.org)

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Friends of the Chatham Community Library to host fall book sale**

PITTSBORO — The Friends of the Chatham Community Library will host its fall book sale on September 23 and 24, in the library's Holmes Family Meeting Room. This event is free and open to the public.

With over 20,000 books in 26 categories, there is something for readers of all ages. Selections include cookbooks, art, and poetry. Most hard covers are \$3, and soft cover books are \$2. Some books may be specially priced. Saturday is half-price day for everyone. A 10% member discount is available on both sale days. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted.

Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

For additional information, visit <https://friendsccl.org/Coming-Book-Sales> or contact the Friends at [booksale@friendsccl.org](mailto:booksale@friendsccl.org).

**Council on Aging's 'Age My Way' survey available**

The Chatham County Council on Aging, the State of North Carolina and AARP North Carolina are encouraging adults age 45 and over to complete the "Age My Way NC" survey to help identify priorities for making our neighborhoods, towns, cities and rural areas great places for people of all ages.

Priorities can include safe and walkable streets; age-friendly housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in community life. Soon, one in five North Carolina residents will be over the age of 65, leaving the state with more older adults than children for the first time ever.

The survey takes roughly 20 minutes to complete and will assist state leaders and policymakers in identifying citizen priorities for years to come.

To fill out the survey, visit [https://bit.ly/AgeMy-](https://bit.ly/AgeMyWayNC)

WayNC.

**Friends of Lower Haw meeting, volunteer appreciation on Saturday**

PITTSBORO — The Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area will hold its annual meeting and volunteer appreciation event from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Bynum Methodist Church Community Building (formerly the Bynum Ruritan Club) at 28 Charlie Fields Road in Pittsboro.

There will be a brief business session with elections and an update on our activities and accomplishments. Our annual meeting will include an entertaining presentation by Matt Spangler about the "Secret Life of Animals" captured by our wildlife cameras placed throughout the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. Refreshments will be served.

Friends of Lower Haw members, volunteers, donors, their families and

the general public are welcome to attend this free event. Come join in the fun and fellowship with us! Visit our website at [www.lowerhaw.org](http://www.lowerhaw.org).

**CCS awarded with the EVERFI Empowered Seal**

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools was awarded the Empowered District Seal from EVERFI for its exemplary commitment to whole-child education. Only 10% of school districts across the country were granted this award. Chatham County students are now eligible to earn Empowered Seal Scholarships.

The EVERFI Empowered Seal is a designation awarded to K-12 school districts that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to whole-child education through the use of EVERFI's comprehensive, evidence-informed digital programs.

These programs inform

and empower students on critical issues including financial literacy, social-emotional learning, health and wellness, inclusion, and college and career readiness. Educating the whole child not only impacts how healthy, engaged and productive students are during school, but also their well-being and success far beyond the K-12 years.

"We use EVERFI in several of our Career & Technical Education classes to enhance our students' learning experience," said DeLisa Cohen, Curriculum & Instructional management coordinator. "Our Career and Technical Education teachers have incorporated EVERFI Digital Learning Resources into their courses so that our students are better prepared for their future choices. Our career and technical education teachers are always striving to help our students be better prepared for their future endeavors by providing them with real-world knowledge."

**Goldston Library to close temporarily for repairs**

PITTSBORO — The Goldston Public Library will be closed for minor maintenance and repairs beginning Friday, Sept. 23. The library is expected to reopen on Monday, Sept. 26.

While the library is closed, patrons can visit either the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro or the Wren Memorial Library in Siler City for library services.

While the library is closed, the following will still be available:

The outside book drop will still be accessible.

Wireless internet will be available and can be accessed in the parking lot.

For more information, please contact the Goldston Public Library before Sept. 23 at 919-898-4522 or contact the Library Director, Linda Clarke, in Pittsboro at 919-545-8084.

Residents may visit the libraries' website [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org) for more information.

**CHURCH NOTES**

**HANKS CHAPEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The annual homecoming service will be held on Sunday, September 25, at 10 a.m. at Hanks Chapel U.C.C. Dinner on the church grounds will

follow the service.

The church is located at 190 Hanks Loop Road, Pittsboro.

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Community Baptist Church invites you to come grow with us! As of Sunday, September 25, we will have two morning worship services at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us. The

church is located at 2575 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City.

For more information, find our church website by searching for Community Baptist Church Siler City.

pastor Dr. Fred Senter and music will be provided by Safe Haven. A covered dish meal will follow in the fellowship hall.

The church is located at 1785 Mt. Gilead Church Road in Pittsboro.

The church is located at 2891 Siler City-Snow Camp Rd, Siler City.

**MERONEY U.M.C.**

There will be a BBQ or Chicken Tenders Plate Sale and Auction on Saturday, October 1, at Meroney U.M.C.

Meals will be served from 4:30 to 7 p.m.; eat-in or take out available!

BBQ, Chicken Tenders or Combination Plates are \$10 each. Auction begins at 6:30 p.m. until with Jerry Harris Auctioneers. The church is located at 10568 Hwy. 902, Bear Creek.

**MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH**

Homecoming service will be held Sunday, September 25, at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church. There will be no Sunday School but the worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Join us if you can.

The special guest speaker will be former

**CALVARY FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**

Revival services will be held Monday, October 3, through Friday, October 7, at 7 p.m. each night at Calvary Faith Baptist Church in Siler City.

Pastor Tim Isley will be the speaker.

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# POLICE REPORTS

## CRIME REPORTS

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

On September 12, Michelle Nichole Jenks, 31, of 268 Kelly Lane, Siler City, was arrested by Corporal Brandal Harrington for obstructing justice. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 4.

On September 12, Phillip Owen Jones, 57, of 4802 Old U.S. 1, Moncure, was arrested by Corporal Brandal Harrington for breaking and entering, injury to real property and injury to personal property. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 17.

Alexander Chase Pergerson, 32, of 7912 Clear Skyview Circle, Lot 314, Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for animal cruelty. He was issued a written promise to appear in Wake County Court in Raleigh on October 6.

On September 12, Billy Joe Phillips, 33, of 2320 Bear Creek Church Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for felony stalking. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on October 24.

On September 12, Nelson Alejandro Gomez-Perez, 19, of 2920 Chapel Hill Street, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for breaking and entering into a motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle and

felony conspiracy. He was issued a written promise to appear in Wake County Court in Raleigh on September 28.

On September 13, Scott Delo Shreeman II, 22, of 215 S. Tenth Street, Mebane, was arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for robbery with a dangerous weapon, second-degree kidnapping, conspiracy to commit armed robbery of a business/person, assault by pointing a gun, injury to personal property, hit and run/leave scene property damage and all other larceny. He was issued a \$125,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 14.

On September 13, Ryan Chace Pittman, 33, of 675 Oak Leaf Road, Apt. F,

Asheboro, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for possession of marijuana up to 0.5 ounces and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 5.

On September 15, Hunter Ray Lilly, 31, of 768 East Perry Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for violation of a Domestic Violence Protective Order. He was issued a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsboro on September 22.

On September 15, Caryn Sherae Jones, 30, of 270 Walter Bright Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for assault

inflicting serious injury, assault with a deadly weapon in the presence of a minor, assault by pointing a gun and communicating threats. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 27.

On September 16, Steven Anthony Brock, 38, of 541 Bridle Ridge Lane, Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for larceny by an employee. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 17.

On September 16, Orbin Yanuari Vasquez-Alvarado, 36, of 3405 Potomac Street, Winston-Salem, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for Domestic Violence Protective Order

violation. He was placed on a 48 hour hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 27.

On September 17, Hunter Stone Phillips, 27, of 5795 Old U.S. 421 S., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Read for failure to appear release order. He was issued a \$3,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Cherokee County District Court in Murphy on September 22.

On September 17, Joel Wayne Waddell, 56, of 115 Red Terry Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Vincent Iorio for assault on a female. He was placed on a 48 hour hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 28.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

John Rice stands in bmc brewing's taproom, where the Peace, Love, Paws Blonde Ale is available for purchase.

## CARE partners with bmc brewing to create new beer

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Joan Cunningham never imagined she would help craft a beer, let alone a brew dedicated to the organization she serves.

Cunningham, the President on Chatham Animal Rescue and Education's (CARE) Board of Directors, has partnered with Pittsboro's bmc brewing to create "Peace, Love, Paws Blonde Ale," sales of which — it's now available at bmc's tap room at The Plant in Pittsboro and at Breakaway Cafe — will benefit the nonprofit.

"We created a product that reinforces CARE and its values," Cunningham said. "We've got thousands and thousands of new people coming into this community, and outreach and making sure people know what the resources are in the community are extremely important. So this is just another way of doing that."

A portion of the proceeds generated from beer sales will go to CARE to help pay for the vet care of its animals, according to Cunningham and bmc brewing owner John Rice.

This is not Rice's first time working with Chatham-based nonprofits. Bmc brewing works with Abundance NC for its annual PepperFest, in which Rice creates pepper-infused beer and portions of those proceeds go back to Abundance.

"That was the first partnership we've done, and that's been our biggest one to date," Rice said.

The partnership began when Breakaway Cafe approached Rice with the idea of working with CARE.

"[The owner] of Breakaway is very involved with the organization," Rice recounted. "So I met with her and Joan, and we came up with the idea



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

The Peace, Love, Paws Blonde Ale is available in bmc brewing's taproom in pints and in cans.

of giving it a start and see what happened, where we would go from there."

The group decided it wanted to go with an "easy-drinking" beer, so Rice suggested a blonde ale, which is known for its simplicity and neutral flavor profile.

"Ours is just a nice, clean, well-balanced, easy-drinking beer with a little more flavor than your standard American lager," Rice said.

After nailing down the type of beer he was going to create, Rice got to work preparing CARE's special brew. Two months went by as Rice and Cunningham awaited approval from the N.C. Alcohol Beverage Control for the beer's packaging, but once the label was approved earlier this month, Rice got the OK to start selling Peace, Love, Paws Blonde Ale.

Rice said so far, the beer has been well-received by the community, meaning it may soon find a permanent place on bmc brewing's tap.

"In the last couple of weeks, we're getting more and more feedback that people really enjoy this beer," he said. "They want to have it available as often as possible ... we're comfortable with the popularity and we do know people are coming in and seeing that it's to help support CARE, and they're actually buying it in response to that."

For Cunningham, she hopes other businesses around Chatham County will carry the new brew, supporting what she believes to be a good cause. In turn, she hopes more people will not only learn more about CARE, but will also learn more about bmc brewing and its location at The Plant.

"We hope that this will work to our mutual advantage," she said. "We can get more people aware of bmc and help their business out, and they can help us out. So I think it's a win-win."

Rice said he's glad the beer's popularity is picking up traction, as it goes to what he believes is a community organization doing amazing things in Chatham County.

"Part of the mission of our brewery is to support Chatham County as best we can," Rice said. "We're all animal lovers here, so we thought it would be fitting right in with what we're doing ... That's what this is all kind of about — we can all still enjoy ourselves with every beverage and support a worthy cause along the way."

The Peace, Love, Paws Blonde Ale is available at bmc brewing at The Plant on 213 Lorax Lane in both pints and cans. The beer is also available at Breakaway Cafe in Pittsboro.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com) and on

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CCPHD graphic by Zachary Horner

## Free QuitSmart classes return (virtually) to Chatham to help people stop smoking

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
Chatham County Public Health Department

Quitting smoking or using tobacco products is no easy task. Nicotine dependence or addiction can be very difficult to break. It's biology.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, bringing nicotine into the body provides a very brief "high," but it also increases dopamine levels, which drives the person using nicotine to want to use again and again. These biological changes mean that although the majority of smokers would like to stop smoking and about half try to quit permanently every year, according to the CDC, only about 6% are able to.

Anna Stormzand wants to change that. She's running the free QuitSmart classes with the Chatham County Public Health Department, classes that return this October for the first time in two years. She says these classes are part of an evidence-based program that helps people stop smoking.

"Everyone knows the long-term health benefits of quitting smoking. But people who quit, even for a short period of time, start to experience positive changes in their body," Stormzand says. "It can start just a few days after quitting, when the carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal, and within two to three weeks, your circulation improves and your lung function increases."

Developed by a former Duke professor, QuitSmart is designed for the smoker who wants to quit. The program includes two weeks of nicotine replacement treatment, participation in a support group with other people who are trying to quit, and a personalized quit plan. All of the resources, Stormzand emphasizes, are free.

The CCPHD had been offering the classes regularly up to October 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a temporary pause. But just because the classes stopped didn't mean the need went away. According

to the 2021 Chatham County Community Survey, 47% of adults who smoke in Chatham County say they would be interested in resources to quit tobacco products. The resources they preferred included a personalized quit plan, nicotine replacements, and a support group of others trying to quit using tobacco.

"Being part of a group where everyone else has experienced the same addiction to cigarettes as you have," Stormzand says, "sharing tips, experiences, and ideas with everyone who all have the same goal of being tobacco-free."

The free program starts on Thursday, Oct. 6, with an information session. The classes take place on Oct. 13, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. All sessions take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and all sessions are virtual on Zoom. Participants can access the sessions through the Zoom app or even call in by phone.

"It ends up being easier for most people just to jump onto a class through their phone or computer versus having to find the time to drive to a physical location for a few hours over the course of a month," Stormzand says. "We hope that by hosting these classes in the evening and through Zoom that more people will be able access these resources."

To sign up, interested residents can email Stormzand at [anna.stormzand@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:anna.stormzand@chathamcountync.gov) or call the CCPHD at (919) 542-8271. They can also learn more at [www.chathamcountync.gov/quitsmoking](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/quitsmoking).

For those not able to make the virtual group, county residents also have access to a free resource called QuitlineNC. It's another free cessation program that provides up to four free counseling sessions, and even more for pregnant women, those with mental health conditions, and teens, with a trained counselor over the phone or through an online program or text messaging service. Many participants are also eligible for free NRTs such as patches, lozenges, and gum, which will be sent directly to their home. To learn more about this free resource, please call 1-800 QUIT NOW or visit <http://www.quitlineinc.com/>.

The free program starts on Thursday, Oct. 6, with an information session. The classes take place on Oct. 13, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. All sessions take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and all sessions are virtual on Zoom. Participants can access the sessions through the Zoom app or even call in by phone.

# His ‘Hell of a Book’ is a national best-seller. Here’s how it developed.

*National Book Award-winner to highlight Chatham Literacy event Nov. 5*

Jason Mott, author of the National Book Award-winning novel “Hell of a Book,” one of the most acclaimed novels published in recent years, will be the featured speaker at Chatham Literacy’s 2022 Fall for Literacy Luncheon. It’ll be held beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.



Jason Mott

The CN+R’s Bill Horner III recently spoke with Mott at length about the book; you can view the full interview on the News + Record’s Facebook page. Here’s a transcript of a portion of that interview, edited for length and clarity.

For more information about the Fall for Literacy fundraiser, go to [chathamliteracy.org](http://chathamliteracy.org).

**Let’s start with your story, which is in part a North Carolina story. Share a little bit about your background and the road to becoming an author ...**

I’m definitely a born and bred North Carolinian. I grew up in and still live in Columbus County. In my early 20s, when I became serious about writing; I got an undergraduate degree in fiction from UNC-G. By the end of that I was burned out on fiction, so I got a master’s degree in poetry. As it turns out, with a master’s in poetry, what you do is you get a job answering phones at Verizon Wireless — that’s where I worked for about four years.

I was still writing novels, though. During that time, I had a poetry collection published, but no novels. But then in 2012, I finally found an agent who liked my recent manuscript, and I sold the novel (“The Returned”) which turned into a TV series. It was a pretty long, winding road, but, thankfully, I got fortunate in having the breakthrough and have been a writer since then.

**What was it like to have your first novel adapted into a screenplay and broadcast on TV? What was that like for you?**

It’s pretty mind-blowing. I did not expect it; I was just happy enough to have found an agent and then a publisher. When I asked my agent why she was sending it to another agent who handled TV adaptations, she said that sometimes they like to adapt things into TV shows — which, for me, was a completely foreign idea.

Then the TV show aired before the book even released, which just never happens. I got kind of a Willy Wonka “golden ticket” syndrome, where the whole process was on fast forward. It was fun. I got to go watch them do filming and be there when the actors were playing the characters that I dreamed up, which was magical.

**Let’s talk about “Hell of a Book,” which is, in part, the story of an author on a book tour for a surprise best selling book. I’m curious about the genesis for this book and its development ...**

Since no one sends you on a book tour for poetry, the tour for “The Returned” was my first one, and it was a whirlwind of chaos and humor — very surreal and funny, and I thought people might want to read about that.

My agent and my editor both thought it was a terrible idea, so I went off on my own and wrote about a half a manuscript about this author on a book tour. The discussions on race that ended up in “Hell of a Book” weren’t part of that foundation, though. I set it aside until about 2017, 2018, when the Freddie Gray incidents occurred in Baltimore. I took content from discussions with a friend regarding race and identity and our feelings about America, and combined them with the story of the author on a book tour. So it started around 2012 but didn’t really galvanize until 2018 or 2019.

**“Hell of a Book” was a National Book Award winner, of course, and the book won the 2021 Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction and was a finalist for a long list of other literary prizes. The words reviewers used to describe it**

**included “brilliant, inventive, playful, searching, raw, provocative, dazzling, hilarious, moving, surprising.” And I’ve heard you talk about this as kind of an absurdist novel. But obviously, there are some elements of a memoir. How did the story come together?**

It was challenging, but also liberating and fun. It was the first novel that I’d written in quite some time where I did not owe the novel to a publisher. It was just me and the page for the first time since 2012, basically. I knew that I wanted to write something that was a discussion of these topics in American history and American culture.

I tell people there’s nothing new in the novel, but I didn’t want to discuss these topics in the way other authors had. I didn’t want to do it the way that Toni Morrison had done it, because I can’t be Toni Morrison. I didn’t want to do it in the way that James Baldwin had done it, because I can’t be James Baldwin. So I decided to embrace the silliness and the absurdity of the way I see the world oftentimes, and I started adding that in.

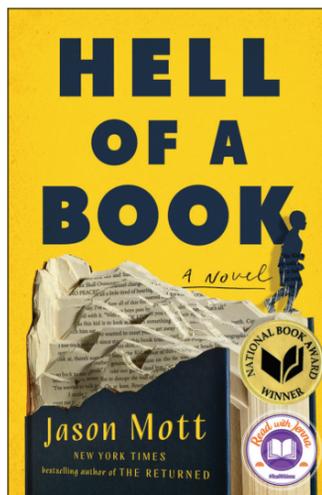
The hardest part was balancing the humor and the absurdity with the very serious moments; the entire book wants the reader to be in these binary positions at different times. I want you to be laughing at the absurdity of what you’re seeing one moment, and then nearly in tears, thinking deeply about these social issues in the next moment. So learning to modulate that pendulum and make it work was probably one of the most challenging parts; it took quite a lot of revisions and fine tuning.

**There’s intentional ambiguity in the book ...**

It was really interesting and surreal how the timing of the book worked out. I wrote the book in earnest in 2018 and 2019. It took about a year and a half of hard, focused work to get the book to a semi-finished state; it’s never finished ‘til it’s published.

So my agent and I were revising it from late 2019 to early 2020. We put it on the market literally a week before the Freddie Gray incidents and the riots of 2020.

It was very surreal how the



Contributed photo

**Jason Mott’s ‘Hell of a Book’ has become a national best-seller.**

timing of that worked out. At the exact time when the country was kind of exploding was the moment the book was hitting the market, and we knew it would still be a year before hit the stands. So it was like, what do you do with that? By September and October, we had sold the book to the editor and were finishing revisions, but the summer of 2020 had just happened, so what should we do? You’ve got this book that talks about these topics; do we go back in? Do we somehow edit to try to acknowledge what just happened in 2020? And you’ve got this book that talks about these topics? Do we go back in? Or do we not?

And the final decision was that we did because the sad part about the novel is that it is essentially timeless. You know, the summer of 2020 was not a new thing. It was not a freak announcement, a freak anomaly; it is a recurring theme in American history. So the book incorporates that idea in and of itself — the fact that what happened in 2020 is not unique. It definitely took some time; we had to think about what was happening in the world and how publication schedules work. It made it a little bit tricky, but I think we landed in the right spot.

**Was there anything about the reception of the book that particularly surprised you or delighted you once it was published, and once it became the best-selling**

**phenomenon that it has become?**  
Yeah, I was completely surprised. I think the inclination is for people to assume that now that the book has done well, and it’s won the National Book Award, you always knew that was going to happen, and the truth is, it’s the exact opposite.

I was terrified throughout the entire process of writing it that it would never find a home because it was such a weird duckling. And even when my agent and I started trying to sell the book to publishers, a lot of them passed on it. My agent said, “I think it’s the fact that it is a different book; publishers ask for different books until you give them a different book.”

And you don’t really know what to do with it or how to market it. So for me, I had a lot of fear. Even though it was saying important things that people want to hear about and discuss, when the book initially launched, I was really afraid that it just would not find its audience. So when it did, I was just over the moon. I still continue to be in awe and disbelief of how people have connected to it and how it’s done on its own.

**You’re coming to Chatham County in November ... what will you share for the audience at Chatham Literacy’s “Fall for Literacy” event?**

I’ll talk about how the book came to be and some stories from touring. But the thing I really love is answering questions from the audience about writing, about publishing, about storytelling, about all the things that they want to learn about.

I’ve been on tour for almost a year and a half now, so I’ve talked about my book enough that when people ask questions about their writing or about their storytelling or about things that they’re working with, I get really interested, because then it’s a new problem to solve, a new discussion to have. So I’m hopeful that the audience will come out and bring questions and make it a really lively discussion.

*Tickets for “Fall for Literacy” are \$75 and can be purchased at [chathamliteracy.org](http://chathamliteracy.org).*

## CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS

# NE Chatham Wastewater commission delivers final presentation

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

Wastewater Study Commission delivered its final presentation in Phase I of its research to the Chatham County Board

of Commissioners on Monday. The presentation largely focused on suggestions for further research by

the commissioners for ways to improve the wastewater infrastructure in the northeastern part of the county. The

study region of the commission was identified as south of Orange County, west of Jordan Lake, north of U.S. Hwy. 64, and

east of the Haw River. “The growth in northeast Chatham County is undeniable and Chatham County’s current strategy for managing wastewater in this area is not sustainable long-term,” said Liz Rolison, co-chair of the commission.

She said the county lacks reliable wastewater services. In the eyes of the commission, this lack of proper wastewater is largely due to the privatization of wastewater in the county. Neighboring counties like Orange have a central wastewater supplier; Chatham, in part because of its rural layout, has several different vendors each serving different locations.

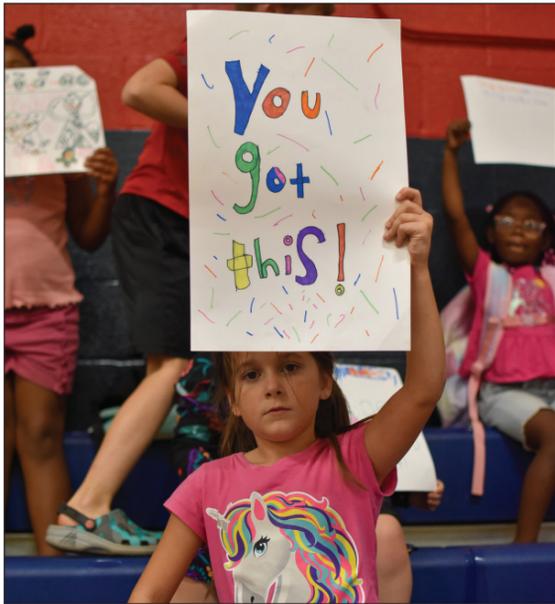
In the study region alone, northeast Chatham has 14 different private wastewater companies servicing the county. According to research from the commission, privately owned wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in Chatham have almost twice as many violations from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality, yet they treat less than 4% of the volume of wastewater when compared to others in the region.

The commission also found that privately owned WWTPs on average charge users

CHATHAM IS **BOLD!**



# United Way's 'Day of Service' a huge success



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

**A Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club member holds a poster she made for a dodgeball game held on the Day of Service.**



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

**Twelve members of the Rotary Club of Pittsboro participated in the home build with Chatham Habitat for Humanity.**

## 80 volunteers gather across Chatham to give back to community

From the United Way of Chatham County

The United Way of Chatham County hosted its 3rd annual "Day of Service" last Tuesday, an event officially kicking off the organization's annual fall fundraising season.

The Day of Service connected 80 volunteers to community service opportunities in Chatham County, supporting nine in-person volunteer opportunities.

Community service projects for the day included Boys & Girls Club Wren Family Center (facility beautification, computer installation, cleaning and organizing equipment and supply closets); Chatham Education Foundation (book sort and distribution); Chatham Habitat for Humanity (community build); Love Chatham (landscaping around the building); Carolina Meadows and United Way (fall campaign mailing preparation); North Chatham Elementary School PTA (school and community garden maintenance); and a dodgeball game at the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club and Wren Family Center hosted at Horton Middle School.

Two projects are scheduled for a future date: door installation at Second Bloom to better serve clients, and the staining of a community garden fence at Chatham

Trades. Carolina Meadows also hosted a pre-Day of Service project in August, packing bookbags for the Salvation Army's school supply distribution event.

United Way also held an online fundraiser during the Day of Service, encouraging those unable to volunteer to make a donation with a goal of \$1,500. If you'd like to help United Way reach its Day of Service goal, make a donation at [www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/DayOfService](http://www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/DayOfService).

"Thank you to everyone who made the Day of Service a success this year!" said Katie Childs, UWCC's executive director. "The Day of Service allows for teamwork amongst colleagues and clubs, networking with strangers, and learning about the unique and vital nonprofits that support the residents of Chatham."

United Way of Chatham County thanks its 2022 Day of Service sponsors, without their support this event would not have been possible: Carolina Civilworks Inc., WellCare, Triangle Community Foundation, and Realty World Carolina Properties – Eric Andrews. The Day of Service media sponsor was Chatham News + Record. A special thank you goes to North Carolina Ice Cream Catering/Ben & Jerry's for providing the students of the



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

**Caroline and Harry Skelton with Cackalacky and Local United Way board member Tina Vrabel sort books at Chatham Education Foundation/Chatham Reads.**

Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club and Wren Family Center a sweet treat to enjoy during the dodgeball games.

United Way sends many thanks to the following volunteer teams: Triangle Community Foundation; Duke Energy; Rotary Club of Pittsboro; Briar Chapel Jewish Community Book Club; NC DPS; Chatham Council on Aging; Cackalacky; Chatham County Sheriff's Office; Fearington Village Garden Club; and Carolina Meadows.

To view photos from the Day of Service, follow United Way of Chatham County on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UnitedWayofChatham](http://www.facebook.com/UnitedWayofChatham). You can also subscribe to the monthly newsletter to keep up with what United Way is doing in the community at [www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/newsletter](http://www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/newsletter).

The United Way of Chatham County is the largest human services funder in Chatham County. UWCC funds 22 programs managed by



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

**Triangle Community Foundation's Karly Smith and Grace Pulliam were part of TCF's Day of Service team at Love Chatham in Siler City.**



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

**United Way of Chatham County Executive Director Katie Childs and Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina Wren Family Center Director Joy Roberts pose during 'Day of Service' events.**

its 15 nonprofit agencies that specialize in the education, financial stability and health of Chatham County residents. For more information on the agencies and programs funded by United Way, volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation, visit [www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org](http://www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org).



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

**Sandi Friedman and Sherry Eckert sort books at Chatham Education Foundation/Chatham Reads.**

## DELIVER

Continued from page B7

49% more money for its monthly residential sewer rates, despite the lower volume of water treated.

The study commission's recommendations stemmed largely from the land use plan from 2017, Plan Chatham. The county, however, has changed significantly since then, with the announcements of VinFast, Wolfspeed and Fedx announced in the five years since. The commission said that despite these county changes, the 2017 document provides "useful guidelines" for future wastewater research.

In Plan Chatham, public sewer is recommended as an option to amend wastewater infrastructure issues. The commission also recommended this option for future research.

"Lack of an adequate wastewater service is a key factor in Chatham County's inability to achieve a more favorable balance between their commercial and residential tax base," Rolison said. "Providing sustainable wastewater

services will help attract the needed commercial base which in turn will help fund these improvements."

These recommendations for implementing public wastewater or other research ideas will take 20 to 30 years to be carried out. The commission said, however, the time to act on wastewater issues is now.

Commissioners took no action on the report.

### Other business

- The Chatham County Commissioners also heard updates from the county's Public Health Department and Sheriff's Office regarding the federal opioid settlement. The county will receive roughly \$170,000 annually through the settlement to help increase drug prevention efforts in the county.

- Several rezoning requests were referred to the Chatham County Planning Board in connection with sites surrounding VinFast. The two sites are both located in Moncure. The first was a hearing for 18 acres to be rezoned from residential to "neighborhood busi-

ness," meaning if later approved by commissioners, the land could be used for convenience stores, markets, grocery, etc. near the Moncure megasite, the future home of VinFast.

The second 243-acre site in Moncure heard a proposal to be rezoned from residential to light industrial. This site is not directly tied to the Moncure megasite, but does sit adjacent to the property. Its planned uses are still unknown but the developer of the property, MAD Pea Ridge LLC, wants the land to be prepared for industrial uses as VinFast gets closer to production.

- An Apex resident, Catherine Butler, spoke during the public input session and gave a presentation to the council regarding the rezoning N.C. Hwy. 751 as a Scenic Byway by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation. The designation would need to prove 751 has historic and cultural significance, scenic beauty and existing local support. Commissioners resoundingly said they would approve a letter to NCDOT to get the designation

approved.

The next scheduled Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting is Oct. 17 at the Chatham County Agri-

culture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. For more information visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/government/board-of-commissioners](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/board-of-commissioners).

ers. Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.



**FREE EVENT**  
For everyone  
60 years and older  
& Caregivers

## Falls Prevention Awareness Event

**WESTERN CHATHAM SENIOR CENTER**  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022  
9 am – 12 pm



112 Village Lake Road, Siler City, North Carolina  
919-742-3975 | [www.chathamcouncilonaging.org](http://www.chathamcouncilonaging.org)

**Free Event Includes:**  
Speaker: Sandra Rende  
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.  
Geriatric Clinical Specialist,  
Chatham Hospital/UNC

- 9 a.m.—12 p.m.
- Fall Prevention Awareness
  - Balance Assessments
  - Assistive Device Fittings
  - Exercise & Movement Demonstrations
  - Resources for Seniors
  - Giveaways

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**Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps

HEY THERE LITTLE GUY. I'M GONNA TAKE YOU TO SCHOOL.

MISS LOCKWOOD, I BROUGHT A LIZARD FOR SHOW AND TELL!

UH-OH, LOOKS LIKE THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE HIDE AND SEEK.

**Out on a Limb** by Gary Kopervas

IN THE MOVIE TOP GUN, FIGHTER PILOTS USED CALL SIGNALS LIKE "MAVERICK," "GOOSE" AND "LENNAN"... WHAT IF PILOTS USED CALL SIGNALS BASED ON POPULAR MOVIE THEATER CANDY?...

STAR BURST TWIZZLER SNO CAP SOUR PATCH

**R.F.D.** by Mike Marland

I TAKE IT THIS DISPLAY WAS SIM'S IDEA.

HOW'D YOU GUESS?

SQUASH COURT

**The Spats** by Jeff Pickering

TWO CATS ARE FIGHTING IN OUR YARD.

WAIT... IT'S OVER NOW...

...THEY HISSED AND MADE UP!!

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps

FRANKLY, I'M ACTUALLY A BIT SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO ASK FOR A "DOGGY BAG".

**GRIN and BEAR IT**

"Right now I'm between not growing wheat and not growing cotton."

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/** By Frank A. Longo

**NOVEL INTRODUCTIONS**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Downgrade
- 7 Morals
- 13 Rich fabric with a silky finish
- 20 "Barn!" chef Lagasse
- 21 Result in
- 22 Went to the polls again
- 23 1978 arcade classic
- 25 Immemorial
- 26 Gyro breads
- 27 Sue Grafton's "— for Alibi"
- 28 Its highest mountain is Denali
- 30 "... good witch — bad witch?"
- 31 Emphasize
- 33 Healthy
- 34 Bread sliced doubly thick
- 37 College transcript no.
- 39 Charge to pitch a product
- 44 Many a hospital delivery
- 45 Bottled water brand
- 49 " 'Tis a pity!"
- 52 What a DJ talks into

**DOWN**

- 1 Cruel ruler
- 2 Domain
- 3 Butcher's tool
- 4 Whale variety
- 5 Dead heats
- 6 Lilly of drugs
- 7 TV's "Mistress of the Dark"
- 8 Tantalizes
- 9 Contained
- 10 Brain gains
- 11 Key near Alt
- 12 Sammy of the diamond
- 13 Car stopper
- 14 Of monarchs
- 15 Coincide partly with
- 16 Coke, e.g.
- 17 Truckloads
- 18 China's — Xiaoping
- 19 Border
- 24 Mil. alliance since 1949
- 29 White birds
- 31 Pig's digs
- 32 Auto garage brand
- 35 Lawyers' gp.
- 36 Lay turf on
- 37 Enthusiastic greeting
- 38 Mas' mates
- 40 Stops harping on the subject

**NOVEL INTRODUCTIONS**

- 41 "As is" transaction
- 42 Beseeched
- 43 Acronym for four entertainment prizes
- 46 Scott Turow memoir
- 47 Actress Laura
- 48 Sp. woman
- 49 Dress of India
- 50 Opulent, floor-length cloak
- 51 Of lesser importance
- 52 Parisian pronoun
- 53 "You win"
- 54 Religious law
- 58 1040 ID tiresome to
- 59 Must-see
- 61 It's south of Tenn.
- 63 Become a participant
- 64 Pollute
- 65 "Get what I'm talkin' about?"
- 66 Home to Augusta
- 71 It's south of Tenn.
- 72 Senate affirmatives
- 74 Pigeon shed
- 75 Allay
- 76 Home pest
- 77 Curved paths
- 78 Hailed vehicle
- 83 Brand of root beer
- 84 Stranded cell stuff
- 86 Nintendo game console
- 87 Fall away
- 89 Lighthouse lights
- 90 Sushi tuna
- 91 Border
- 95 Noble sort
- 96 Thawed
- 97 Beginning painting class
- 98 Accepting of
- 99 Became tiresome to
- 100 Gets wiser
- 102 Pop singer Lauper
- 103 City in southeast Minnesota
- 104 Fess up to
- 106 Frying fat
- 107 "The Time Machine" race
- 108 — monster
- 109 No-show GI
- 110 Not fully shut
- 111 Super review
- 113 Food herring
- 114 Cattle group
- 117 Cochlea site
- 118 W-2 pro

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

T	H	R	U	S	T		F	L	A	G	O	N	S		M	O	C	K	E	R			
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Your Chatham Real Estate Source

**Featured Agent Of The Week**

Heather O'Shaughnessy  
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Pictured: Cathy Baker



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## MAGIC MAZE ● CITIES IN VENEZUELA

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL CITY

- |         |         |            |          |
|---------|---------|------------|----------|
| Barinas | Coro    | Maricaoibo | Upata    |
| Cabimas | Guanare | Maturín    | Valencia |
| Cagua   | Maracay | San Diego  | Zaraza   |
| Carora  | Mariara | Turmero    |          |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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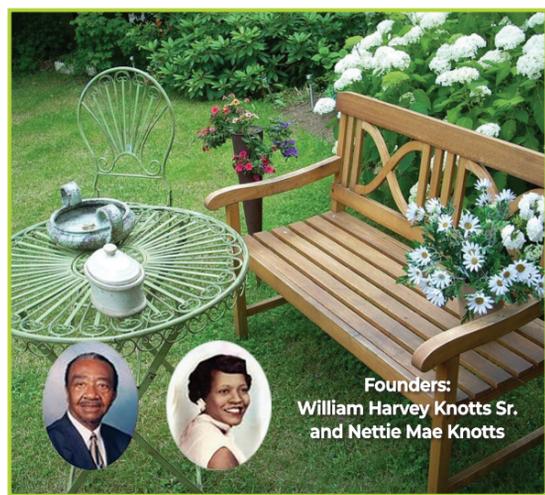
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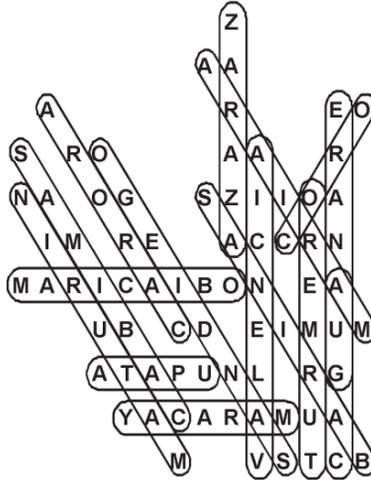


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CITIES IN VENEZUELA



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

## De Armas shines in otherwise dumb(founding) 'Blonde'

Biopics stride a fine line when seeking to depict the frailties of tragic subjects. On one hand, the film should serve as an oracle for the protagonist's truth, both internal and external. A whitewash is a biopic's greatest sin, and even unpleasant revelations are the essential function of the genre. On the other hand, it is equally imperative that a film not so disassemble a character that it — inadvertently or not — robs them of their agency.

Such is the sad case in the very sad "Blonde," which adapts Joyce Carol Oates's very sad 2000 "fictional biography" of Marilyn Monroe. The fault of the overlong "Blonde" is not that it shines an ultraviolet light on the deeply ingrained, fundamental misery informing a cultural icon who — let's face it — suffered a broken childhood, three divorces, and perhaps three lost pregnancies before an untimely death at age 36. Many Monroe bios have made the grievous error of illuminating her megawatt charm, style, and talent before a perfunctory nod at a demise framed without development or proper context.

Director Andrew Dominik certainly avoids that pitfall, instead turning "Blonde" into a handsomely grim funhouse mirror. Every episode of Monroe's life is morphed into a vehicle for the film's central conceit, that each element of Monroe's life and fame was an offshoot of the manipulation and avarice of others.

It begins with née Norma

**BLONDE**

**GRADE:** C+  
**DIRECTOR:** Andrew Dominik  
**STARRING:** Ana de Armas, Julianne Nicholson, Adrien Brody, Bobby Cannavale, Xavier Samuel, Evan Williams, and Toby Huss  
**MPPA RATING:** NC-17  
**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hr. 46 min.

Jean Mortensen as a little girl living in California, the offspring of an emotionally damaged mother (Julianne Nicholson) and an unknown father whose lifelong absence would haunt and inform her persona — she calls each of her two last husbands by the pet name "Daddy." After Norma is deposited with an orphanage, the film fast forwards to Monroe (Ana de Armas) already as a pinup star on the eve of a film career — when later asked how she got her start, Monroe says only, "I was found" while memories flash of her abuse on the casting couch.

Nearly every romantic relationship (real or fictitious) is tainted. A three-way affair with Charlie Chaplin Jr. (Xavier Samuel) and Edward G. Robinson Jr. (Evan Williams) is born of the men's manipulative self-indulgence. Her coupling with Joe DiMaggio (Bobby Cannavale) is an elaborate PR stunt sprung on Monroe that hatches into an abusive, emotionally arid marriage. Her union with playwright Arthur Miller (Adrien Brody) begins with mutual affection but remains tinged with Monroe's feelings of inferiority around Miller's New York literati and Miller's feeling that someone is playing a prank on him. As for Monroe's dalliance with John F. Kennedy (Caspar Phillipson), well, let's just say that it is unceremoni-



Courtesy of Netflix

**Ana De Armas shines in 'Blonde.'**

ous, appalling, and contains the scene that undoubtedly earned "Blonde" its NC-17 rating.

Monroe is fashioned like a feather in the wind, cast to and fro by the dictates of others. Every audition, movie set, film premiere, acting class, restaurant, or other setting Monroe wanders into is steeped in greed and toxic masculinity. Dominik even conspicuously alters every gathering of adoring fans into a horde of exclusively testosterone-crazed men, their visages contorted into an animalistic fervor. When Monroe twice tries to expound on the characterizations of Chekhov, it is met with bemusement (by a casting crew) and incredulity

(by Miller). The only time that she is allowed to assert herself are crazed clashes with director Billy Wilder on the set of "Some Like It Hot," a performance that nevertheless won Monroe a Golden Globe, something the film doesn't mention.

There is genuine merit in "Blonde's" unflinching audacity, its singular focus on divining the seediness of Tinseltown, celebrity, politics, and our patriarchal culture. And if the film had pulled off its macabre mosaic, it would have been thanks to the hypnotic visuals of Dominik and cinematographer Chayse Irvin and, moreover, some sensational acting by de Armas. The Cuban

native sprang to notoriety with her performances in "Knives Out" and "No Time to Die." De Armas absorbs and becomes Marilyn Monroe, capturing her outward sensuality, damaged soul, and suffocating despair while desperately clinging to some notion of her humanity.

Unfortunately, the premise of "Blonde" is that Monroe's life was the controlled, compromised product of awful people. Her successes were ancillary and illusory, and her demise was inevitable. The film is a searing indictment of the exploitation of women and dehumanization of stardom that ends up channeling its own critiques.



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



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