

Chatham News + Record

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VISITS TO THREE CHATHAM FARMS

Here's where some of your Thanksgiving ingredients originate



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Lilly Den Farm owner Tucker Withington smokes turkeys at the Pittsboro Farmers Market. The Goldston farm begins prep work at the start of the year for the more than 100 holiday turkeys it sells around Thanksgiving.

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN

News + Record Staff

For most, Thanksgiving preparations — a whirlwind of last-minute runs to the grocery store and elaborate, but frenzied cooking — begin days, or maybe just hours, in advance.

But for Tucker Withington, a farmer based in Goldston, ensuring hundreds of Thanksgiving turkeys end up on dinner tables across Chatham County is a process that starts almost a year ahead of the holiday.

Much of a quintessential Thanksgiving dinner is owed to North Carolina farmers: the state ranks number one

in the country for sweet potato production and number two for turkey production.

But where exactly in Chatham do the Thanksgiving foods on your dinner plate come from? The News + Record spoke with three farmers in the county to highlight locally-owned businesses and get a better sense of where these ingredients — from herbs used to conjure classic holiday flavors to roasted turkey — originate.

Lilly Den Farm

Tucker Withington opened Goldston-based Lilly Den Farm with his wife Mackenzie in 2008. Year-round, the site operates as a dairy farm — one of just a few

remaining in Chatham — and produces beef, pork and chicken.

The farm started selling standard white meat turkeys for the holidays more than 10 years ago, largely based on demand as locals reached out looking for meat that was safe to eat and unimpacted by Alpha-gal syndrome, Withington said. Alpha-gal syndrome is a red meat allergy, with symptoms often developing from a tick bite.

From raising the poultry to smoking the meat, preparing the holiday turkeys is a lengthy process, requiring months of planning. Withington orders the poultry from a hatchery in Pennsylvania early in the year,

though the birds only arrive around the spring or early summer.

“We start thinking about Thanksgiving dinner around the first of the year,” Withington said.

The turkeys are only sold in the week leading up to Thanksgiving, and if there are any remaining, the rest are sold at Christmas. The majority of the turkeys are sold through reservations, which the farm opens up in August.

Over the course of four to five days, Withington estimates the farm sells around 150 turkeys.

Lilly Den Farm offers both

See **FARMS**, page A12

VOTE CANVASS

Chatham makes midterm results official

Board applauds high voter turnout and staff efforts, still spotlighting county deficiencies

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Elections certified results from the 2022 midterms during its Friday canvass, closing the chapter on yet another election season.

Board members gathered at the county office in Pittsboro for the canvass, the process of authenticating official election results and determining that all votes have been counted and tabulated correctly. Every county board in North Carolina holds a canvass on the 10th day after Election Day.

As the News + Record previously reported, Democrats swept across Chatham this year, winning seats on the state level in the N.C. General Assembly and on the county level for sheriff, the board of commissioners and the board of education.

This year saw a continuation of record high voter turnout in Chatham — 65.97% of registered voters, or 39,600 individuals, participated in the electoral process for the midterms.

And while board members celebrated the feat, applauding county staff for their contributions to encouraging voter participation, they also highlighted areas of deficiency with staff support, calling to add another one-stop voting location in North Chatham and for more county resources to be devoted to the elections office.

Specifically, the board underscored a need to improve IT services and lighten the workload for staff in Chatham's elections office, which has just three full-time employees.

“This office is the shining star for the state of North Carolina, and I don't want to lose that,” board member Mark Barroso said. “And we're in jeopardy of losing that, because

See **CANVASS**, page A7

Getting turkey to the table costs more this year

BY BOB WACHS

News + Record Correspondent

Since the very first one in 1621, Thanksgiving, in its formal and informal observances, been celebrated on different days with unique customs and rituals, giving thanks for various reasons.

But throughout these traditions, there's been one constant — food, and plenty of it.

This year, when Americans take bites from the bounty on the table, that food will take a bigger bite out of our pocketbooks. The American Farm Bureau Federation says the average cost of a 16-pound turkey this year is \$24, or \$1.50 per pound, an increase of almost 25% from \$19.39 (\$1.21 per pound) in 2020 and \$20.80 (\$1.30 per pound) in 2019.

The centerpiece of the traditional meal may be the turkey, but other staples such as side dishes of mashed or sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce and casseroles are all costing

more this year.

Teresa Graves of Siler City has noticed the drastic increase of her food costs.

“Our weekly grocery bill has doubled in the past year,” she said. “It blows me away, an increase like that.”

There'll be a dozen family members at Graves's home for Thanksgiving dinner, and to help soften the blow to her wallet, family members will contribute to the meal.

“Dividing it like that helps spread out the cost to everyone,” Graves said.

Industry poultry producer Hormel said one reason for the price jump is a 20% reduction in the supply of turkeys because of avian flu. That same issue has been linked to a significant increase in the price of eggs.

“I was talking with a lady the other day who told me she paid \$6 for 18 eggs,” Graves said. “That's hard to grasp.”

There are corresponding hikes for

See **MEAL**, page A6

'I'M STILL KIND OF SPEECHLESS'

Bear Creek native nabs 3rd in 'Halloween Wars'

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN

News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Hannah Councilman always had a dream: to have her own cooking show on the Food Network.

That dream got a step closer to reality when the Bear Creek native was selected as a competitor on the network's 2022 season of “Halloween Wars” — a spooky baking competition featuring sugar work, cake baking and pumpkin carving.

“I would go play outside and I would go to my play kitchen, and I would pretend I have my own cooking show,” Councilman said

See **FOOD**, page A3



Courtesy of Hannah Councilman

Bear Creek native Hannah Councilman baked spooky treats while filming for Food Network's Halloween Wars.

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 Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21, at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center for a work session and a public hearing on the county's Capital Improvements Plan. The regular session will begin at 6 p.m. The meeting will be broadcast via Microsoft Teams.

• **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21, at Wren Memorial Library's multipurpose room. The meeting will be live-streamed onto the town's YouTube channel.

• **The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 28, at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center. The meeting will be live-streamed onto the town's YouTube channel.

OTHER

• **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: 100 block of E. 3rd St

• 'Tis the season to celebrate with **Chatham County Parks and Recreation** at the fourth annual Holiday in the Park. The evening will be packed full of fun, family-friendly, free activities for the community to enjoy. Holiday in the Park will take place on Friday, December 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Northwest District Park, 2413 Woody Store Road, Siler City. This free event will include pictures with Santa, holiday-themed crafts, letters to Santa station, warm drinks and cookies, a hayride around the pond, and more holiday fun. The event will kick off with a tree lighting near the pond at 5:15 p.m.

• **The Teen Advisory**

Board (TAB) of the Chatham Community Library is excited to announce its first-ever Teen Writing Contest. Local teens, ages 12-18, are invited to submit a work of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry (max 3000 words) in response to one of the TAB-crafted writing prompts. Submissions will be accepted from November 18 to December 18, 2022. Participants should email their submission to Kathleen Pierce, Youth Services Library Assistant and TAB advisor. TAB members will judge the submissions. First, second, and third place winners will be awarded gift cards to McIntyre's Books in Pittsboro. Prizes for the Teen Writing Contest are sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library. For more information, visit the Chatham County Public Libraries website, or contact Youth Services at youth.services@chathamlibraries.org.

• **The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District** announces its 2022-2023 conservation poster, essay, and public speaking contests. The theme for this year is "Water ... The Cycle of Life." All contests are open to public, private, charter, and home school students. The poster contest is open to students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Essay and public speaking contests are open to grades 6, 7, 8, and 9-12. Entries are judged by grade level, with the exception of grades 9-12. Grades 9-12 will be judged together for each contest. - Poster and essay contest entries are due to the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 1192 US 64 W Business, Pittsboro, NC, 27312 by February 28, 2023. Those who wish to compete in the public speaking contest will need to contact Education Coordinator, Brandy Oldham, by January 16, 2023. -- For complete details, rules, study materials, and N.C. curriculum standards correlation information, individuals may contact Ms. Oldham at 919-545-8440 or brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov. Information also can

be found by visiting the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District Contests web page under the Education Programs link, www.chathamcountync.gov/swcd.

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

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

• **Second Bloom** hours are 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 630 East St., Pittsboro. Credit cards are accepted. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

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

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

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

• **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For

information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.

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

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

SCOUT NEWS

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

CN+R's holiday hours, deadlines

CN+R Staff Report
This Thanksgiving edition of the News + Record went to press early this week, on Monday afternoon, to accommodate timely mail delivery to subscribers in advance of the Thanksgiving

holiday.
The newspaper's offices will close early on Wednesday and be closed Thursday and Friday to give our staff time to spent Thanksgiving with family.
Ad deadlines for the Dec. 1-7 edition are 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28.

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- 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
- 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
- 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
- 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
- 4831 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres)
- 1571 Lydia Perry Road (3.007 Acres)
- 208 Stonewall Road (3.810 Acres)
- 1456 Hadley Mill Road (28.353 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)
- 00 Moons Chapel Road (86.599 Acres)
- 0 Alston Chapel Road (10.23 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)

LAND (Representing Buyers) 3 Units

- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

COMMERCIAL (Representing Sellers) 5 Units

- 1 Village Lake Drive (Siler City)
- 2 Village Lake Drive (Siler City)
- 3 Village Lake Drive (Siler City)
- 4 Village Lake Drive (Siler City)
- 7 Village Lake Drive (Siler City)

COMMERCIAL (Representing Buyers) 1 Unit

- 210 N. Chatham Avenue (Siler City)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 23 Units

- 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)
- 138 Oakwood Lane (Pittsboro)
- 218 A Poplar Street (Chapel Hill)
- 58 Lily McCoy Lane (Pittsboro)
- 1637 Briar Chapel Parkway (Chapel Hill)
- 9849 Twisted Oak Trail (Snow Camp)
- 5470 US 15 501 Hwy (Pittsboro)
- 5472 US 15 501 Hwy (Pittsboro)
- 390 New Salem Church Road (Pittsboro)
- 211/298 C D Thomas Road (Siler City)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 7 Units

- 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)
- 903 Woodland Drive (Siler City)
- 34 Carriage Court (Pittsboro)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

LAND (Representing Sellers) 5 Units

- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 10681 E US 64 Hwy (3.97 Acres)
- 0 Olives Chapel Road (75.43 Acres)
- 12190 E US 64 Hwy (15.158 Acres)
- 0 US 64 Hwy W (11.396 Acres)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 1 Unit

- 650 Half Dollar Road (Chapel Hill)

Visit & Subscribe to Eric's YouTube channel for a variety of fun & informational videos



'NC Thanksgiving Dishes and Unique Foods'

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ericandrewsrealtor>



CAROLINA PROPERTIES
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CHURCH

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SILER CITY

First Baptist Church of Siler City will have a Hanging of the Greens Service on Sunday, Nov. 27, during the 11 a.m. worship service. This will be a time of decorating and transforming the sanctuary for the Christmas/Advent season as we prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

You are invited to join us during this time of carol singing, music, scripture reading, learning of Christmas traditions, candles, First Sunday of Advent, lighting of the Chrismon Tree, poinsettias and etc.

The church is located at 314 North Second Ave., Siler City.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parents Morning Out will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10, at Mt. Pleasant U.M.C. Pre-registration is required. Drop off time is 9 a.m., ending at 12

to 12:15. Make sure your child has appropriate clothing and shoes. (Sneakers are the preferred footwear and remember to send a coat in cold weather.)

A healthy snack will be provided mid-morning. Please note on your registration form if there are any food allergies. Our church takes special care to provide a safe, clean environment for our Parents Morning Out. The teachers clean and disinfect the surfaces in our classrooms. We are committed to limiting the spread of sickness from child to child.

Register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C-0F4AA9A723A2FEC16-parents>. We will email you a registration form after you register via the SignUp Genius.

Contact the church at 919-929-8845 with any questions. We are located at 269 Mann's Chapel Rd., Pittsboro.

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NEWSROOM

Taylor Heeden, Reporter/Web Editor
theeden@chathamnr.com
Ben Rappaport, Reporter
brappaport@chathamnr.com
Maydha Devarajan, Reporter
mdevarajan@chathamnr.com
Jeremy Vernon, Sports Editor
jeremy@chathamnr.com
Peyton Sickles & Simon Barbre
Staff Photographers

NEWSROOM INQUIRIES, PRESS RELEASES AND WEBSITE QUESTIONS
news@chathamnr.com

ADVERTISING

JASON JUSTICE
jjustice@chathamnr.com

Advertising Specialist
advertising@chathamnr.com

OFFICE

KAREN PYRTLE
karen@chathamnr.com
DORIS BECK
doris@chathamnr.com
FLORENCE TURNER
billing@chathamnr.com

BILL HORNER III, Editor/Publisher
bhorner3@chathamnr.com 919-774-2728

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FOOD

Continued from page A1

of her childhood. "I was able to live my dream ... I just cannot believe that it's been checked off my bucket list."

She remembers being a toddler and sitting on the kitchen counter, swinging her legs while watching her mother create delicious treats and meals. In fact, her mother was the one who introduced Councilman to baking, which ultimately became her passion.

"I remember first thing I ever made was brownies, and mom would

always just encourage me," Councilman said. "She was so patient and, no matter if it took longer, or if I messed things up, she would always just have me in the kitchen as her shadow."

That passion would ignite something in Councilman — a dream to attend culinary school and work in the food industry.

After graduating from her home-school high school program in 2019, Councilman attended Wake Tech Community College in Raleigh, where she double majored in culinary arts and baking and pastry arts. Councilman also

received a scholarship from food distribution company U.S. Foods, which paid for her entire studies at Wake Tech.

And for her final project at Wake Tech, Councilman was tasked with making chocolate for Sam Ratto, founder and owner of Videri Chocolate Factory in Raleigh.

"He tried my desserts and he was like, 'Can I hire her right now?'" she recounted. "I was hired on the spot."

Councilman, then just 19, became one of the head chocolate makers at the Videri Chocolate Factory, where she works to this day.

And as her career at the chocolate factory was beginning, Councilman, 20 at the time, was contacted by a Food Network casting agency, which saw her sugar work on her Instagram page.

"This was the biggest dream of my life," she said. "I auditioned and found out I was going to be a sugar artist for Halloween Wars, season 12."

Before she knew it, Councilman was on a plane heading to a studio in Utah, where the show would be filming for over four weeks.

Halloween Wars traditionally features several teams, each team consisting of a pumpkin carving artist, a sugar artist and a cake artist. The three teammates work to create elaborate, spooky displays based on a themed challenge.

Councilman teamed up with two other Food Network newbies — Jannet Michael, who worked with the pumpkins, and Reggie Harris, who baked and sculpted the cakes. Together, they became Team Squad Ghouls — and according to Councilman, her team was seen as the least likely to win.

"What was crazy is that we were absolutely the underdog," she said. "All the other teams had at least one person who had already competed (in a competition show) before. So we were the only ones, we were walking into this blind."

Filming was a taxing event — a six-day work week with each day lasting 12 to 15 hours meant long, exhausting days for Councilman



Courtesy of Hannah Councilman

Hannah Councilman (top left) with her teammates Jannet Michael and Reggie Harris. Together, they made up Team Squad Ghouls.

and her team. Squad Ghouls created several elaborate displays during their time on the show, and in turn, proved they deserved to be competing against some of the best in the business.

Councilman said despite its underdog status, her team went on to win the first episode on which they were featured.

"The whole attitude shifted," she said. "Everyone realized we were here to play, so it was

just wild."

Each week from that point, Councilman's team continued to advance in the competition, even avoiding elimination in the "bottom two" in one episode.

Team Squad Ghouls eventually made it to the semifinals before they were eliminated, ending their five-episode tenure on the show. Despite being eliminated that episode, Councilman said some of the best compliments from the judges on her work came from that episode.

Former NFL player Eddie Jackson tasted one of Councilman's creations — a gluten-free chocolate cake with a peanut butter buttercream icing, with pieces of fried red seaweed coated in chocolate throughout the cake.

"Eddie said that it was the best cake he had all season," Councilman said. "You can see my facial expression when you watch that, and I had no words."

After filming through January, Councilman went back to Bear Creek, where she had to keep her role in Halloween Wars a secret for months. She said once she was able to reveal she would be featured on the show, the community came out in droves to show support.

"At the Goldston Old Fashioned event this year, I would walk two feet and someone would stop me and say they watched me on the show," Councilman said. "Just to be able to see the amount of support from everyone and from people that I didn't even know ... it was just so encouraging."

The last episode of Halloween Wars aired on Oct. 30, but there's more in store for Chatham's own Food Network star.

Councilman, now 21, said she is continuing her work at the chocolate factory, as well as working on her food blog, Rosemary Whisk (www.rosemarywhisk.com), which showcases gluten-free and dairy-free recipes Councilman uses on a daily basis.

Councilman said for her, being on Halloween Wars was validation she picked the right career, one she wants to continue for as long as she can.

"This is the right field for me," she said. "It was just a very validating mark of where I'm supposed, to be who I really am ... it was just so encouraging."

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

Chatham Artists Guild 30th Annual Studio Tour

Dec. 3-4 & 10-11

Sat. 10 to 5pm, Sun. Noon to 5pm



celebrating 30 years 1992 - 2022



54 Professional Artists - 39 Open Studios



Work by New Artists on the Tour
ChathamStudioTour.org



Courtesy of Hannah Councilman

Hannah Councilman poses with one of her creations.

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VIEWPOINTS

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE | BRENT LEVY

Reclaiming the Art of Feasting

A little over a month ago, I had the privilege of being part of a team which hosted a Pay-What-You-Can Community Feast in Pittsboro. It was truly a community effort where nearly 250 of our closest friends gathered to share good food, meet neighbors, and celebrate community under a beautiful fall sunset with 36 6-foot tables placed end-to-end. The weather was perfect. Everyone had a place at the table. The food was mouth-watering. It reminded me just how uncommon the act of feasting is — and how radical it can be in our world.

I tell folks often, “Jesus did his best work around tables.” This is why: in a world marked by partisanship and polarization, tables diffuse power and create space for deep connection. When we constantly receive messages of how this world is ours for the taking,

there’s something powerful about the act of receiving a meal and ensuring that everyone has enough. And when we feel like we must go it alone, and it’s us against the world, a feast reminds us that we need one another and our lives are caught up together.

This is why each Sunday, many churches, ours included, celebrate a feast together as the central act of worship — the Eucharist (which means thanksgiving!). We do it in part because belonging, abundance, and mutuality are central to our faith and central to who we know Jesus to be.

As you gather this week, consider transforming your Thanksgiving meal into a true feast. As you do so, here are four tips for feasting:

First, offer a brief moment of blessing or gratitude. In beginning your feast in this way, your attention moves be-

yond yourself to God and one another. You name the reality that a good meal is a gift. It’s a recognition of our dependence on the creator and the abundance we share from the One who is the generous giver of every good and perfect gift. With a 3-year-old and a 7-year-old running around my house, we’ve become accustomed to “Superman prayer” and the “Johnny Appleseed prayer.” But for you, this moment could also be as simple as taking turns to share what you’re grateful for, reciting a brief prayer together, or offering a toast. I’m partial to this toast from the Celtic tradition: “Here is food, we are hungry. Here is drink, we are thirsty. Here are friends, we are happy. Here is God, we are blessed.”

Second, turn off your phone, and keep it away from the table. This allows you to show up and be present. It limits distractions

and keeps your attention on the food and company. You don’t need to Instagram your plate quite yet. The calls and texts can wait a little while. I’ve even been a part of gatherings with a common basket for everyone’s phones to help maintain accountability. (Your teenagers will love it!) As Simone Weil puts it, “Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.”

Third, be curious, and ask good questions. Take some time to revel in the gift of those who gather with you. Good questions open us up, invite us into new stories, and help us find parallels and intersections in the lives of another. Once you’re done with small talk, you might ask for words of wisdom long-carried. Or maybe you ask, “What’s something you know a lot about?” Inquire whether anyone has outgrown any previously held beliefs — and how. Then, most impor-

tantly, listen with generosity, curiosity, and love.

Finally, take it slow. So much of our lives are hurried and frenetic, fast-paced and full. Many of us grab meals on the go and find it difficult to get everyone around the table. And even when we do, we barely fit it in before we’re off to the next thing. That’s what makes a feast counter-cultural. If ever there was a time to slow down and linger, let it be here. Savor the mashed potatoes and stuffing. Notice the varied colors and flavors that fill your table. Cherish the conversations. Celebrate the wonder and mystery of the company that gathers with you. You have nowhere else to be but where you are.

Lean in, give thanks, and enjoy the feast.

Brent Levy is the pastor of The Local Church in Pittsboro.

Little corners of ‘thank you’



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

A friend at church texted me to ask if she could write “a little corner of thank you” in the weekly newsletter. She meant “letter” — her voice text messed up her intended wording! But I love that phrase. It started my mind turning toward all the little corners of thank you in my life.

I give thanks for the little corner in my bedroom with my dog’s crate. I’ve wanted a dog since my last one died in 2015. The timing was right this year and Ramona completes our family.

I give thanks for the little corner of the utility closet where my son’s taekwondo belts hang. Over the past year, he has earned several colors; all the belts hang in testimony to his hard work and accomplishment.

There’s the little corner of my pastor’s study with a split-leaf philodendron. This plant is actually older than me. It is a cutting from the mother plant that was cultivated by my mother. Her plant is flourishing; I nearly killed mine about five years ago when I moved back to North Carolina — I accidentally left it in the snow! But though native to tropical climates, this particular plant is made of hardy stuff. It bounced back and is now thriving in my office, which I feel is a good sign.

In a little corner of the woods near my house, there is a rope swing from a tall, strong tree. My children safely launch over the creek and back, squealing with delight. We discovered this swing during the pandemic and, during lockdown, visited almost every day, regardless of the weather. Now, the kids are back in school and regular activities — something else to be thankful for! But that corner of the woods provided a blessed change of location and connection to nature’s beauty.

I give thanks for a little corner at UNC Hospitals known as the chapel. Over the years, I’ve slipped inside to pray for my dear ones. In the back of the room, there is a three-ring binder to offer prayer requests. I have listed people by first name only, asking for healing or comfort. On subsequent trips, I’ve flipped backwards in the notebook and found that a chaplain had signed my page, indicating my prayer was offered. It never fails to touch my heart.

I give thanks for my little corner of the News + Record. A big thank you to Bill Horner III and the staff for this privilege of writing as a columnist. I know my topics range widely from week to week. Doubtless, readers find some columns to be more effective than others. But I always share a little corner of my heart, trying my best to put into words something meaningful to me. It seems good, even sacred, to slow down and notice what is little, rather than rushing past.

Maybe you, gentle reader, sit in a little corner even now. Wherever you are, thank you for reading. And Happy Thanksgiving.

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.”

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

BILL HORNER III,
Publisher & Editor

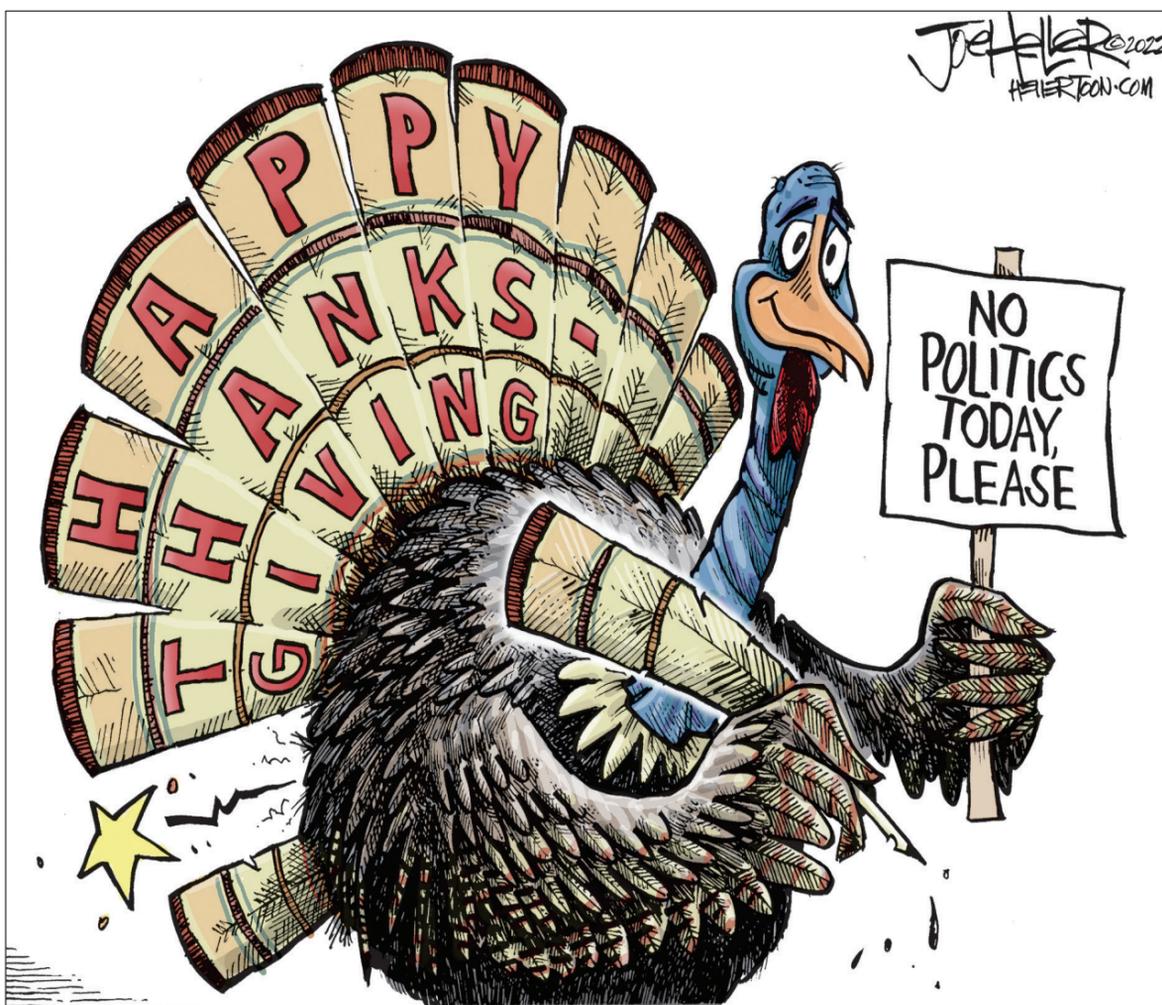
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City of Brotherly Love strikes out on this one



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

The 2022 World Series is long over now, having been replaced in America’s collective mind by college football, the NFL and other interests.

And to many folks and in many ways, especially to the general public outside of Philadelphia and Houston, it’s no great loss that it’s done and over with and few tears are being shed. Various outlets tell us that it was among the least-watched editions of the Fall Classic.

To be sure, there was some interest in how many homers the Phillies sluggers sent out of the park. And the no-hitter by committee that Houston threw was a bit of history. But it will always pale in comparison to Don Larsen’s perfect game for the Yankees in the 1956 Series, when he faced the minimum 27 batters and threw a no-hitter by himself.

All this is to say that baseball remains an interesting yet strange game, a game in which an inferior team can get hot and whack the big boys. And its fans can be just as strange and interesting.

Case in point: the Phillies fans of this year. In the interest of full disclosure, let me assure you I have no dog in this hunt but am merely making an observation about human nature. And I’m not attempting to paint everyone with same brush. But some behavior by some fans and businesses in what my U.S. history classes said was the “City of Brotherly Love” has caused me to wonder.

You may have heard or read of the story. Seems that while Game 3 was in Philadelphia, the Houston bunch wanted food from a couple of famous Philly restaurants that specialized in steak and cheese sandwiches and pizza. But no, said the establishments; we’re not going to serve them. They’re the bad guys.

Social media, that thing that shapes so much of our nation in so many ways, exploded, mostly with great joy. “Wonderful! Great! Atta boy! Stick it to ‘em.” Later, the restaurants said they couldn’t provide the meals because they were requested to be delivered after the game, which they said, again on social media, was after the businesses closed for the evening and not because they weren’t being nice.

Maybe so, but here’s another thought about us

humans. Wouldn’t it have been kind for the firms to go an extra mile and 1) stay open a bit longer, or 2) pay some employees some overtime to provide the meals. That response would have gone a long way toward fulfilling the Golden Rule (which is not, as some think, “He who has the gold makes the rule”) and turned some Houston players and fans into friends.

It is a dangerous thing to paint everyone with the same brush, but that incident reminded me of a trip my crowd made to Philadelphia a few years back. We did the usual tourist visit stops — Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the U.S. Mint, even nearby Valley Forge. All were great. And we even shelled out a small fortune to buy tickets to take in a baseball game at Citizens Bank Park.

About halfway through the game, my better half left her seat with our two (at that time) grands for a visit to the concession and souvenir stands. Again, we floated a small loan for soft drinks, hot dogs and popcorn and then on to the souvenir place. The conversation between Better Half and the attendant went something like this:

Better Half: How much for this toy bat?

Attendant: WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Better Half: North Carolina. We’re on vacation.

Attendant: I THOUGHT YOU MUST BE FROM SOMEWHERE WITH THAT AWFUL ACCENT.

Better Half (by this time more than annoyed at rudeness): Yay-uh. Ure rat. We awl tawk lack this in the sti-ix.

Two thoughts here. One is if that gal came to Chatham County, I don’t think we’d say, “Geeze! You guyz tock weed.” And secondly, I’m wondering if the attendant is married to the owner of the restaurants.

For crying out loud, why can’t the world do as my mama said to my brothers and me when she sent us out to play: “Now play pretty!” It would be an improvement.

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

VIEWPOINTS

CHATHAM SCENE | BEN RAPPAPORT

Gather ‘round children, it’s time to make a change



BEN RAPPAPORT
Columnist

PITTSBORO — Put smart and engaged people in a room and good things are bound to happen.

That was exactly the case at the Chatham Partnership for Children event I attended last Thursday.

The partnership is undertaking the ambitious project of a Community Needs Assessment and Early Childhood Action Plan for children of Chatham County. The assessment will show where the community’s children age 0 to 5 stand, and the action plan will show where to go in the future to make necessary changes.

Thursday’s event at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro was the kickoff for that process. Community stakeholders like the Love Chatham, Community Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE) and Chatham Education Foundation — along with county employees and officials — were all in attendance collaborating and envisioning what this project could look like and the impact it could have for the young people of

the county. It sparked meaningful conversations about the status of education, childcare and social services currently available for families and the challenges that lie ahead.

The event began with a thought experiment: imagine your dream for children in Chatham 20, 30 or 40 years from now. In a room full of people who work with children across the county every day, the ideas were wide-ranging, including universal Pre-K, increased teacher pay and the development of better food systems in the county. Across all these ideas, however, one theme emerged: equity.

No matter what organization members came from, they each recognized the economic and social disparities in different geographies in the county. And how those disparities are leading to vastly different outcomes for children.

That’s where the Community Needs Assessment hopes to fill the gaps. Chatham Partnership for Children has hired two community engagement consulting firms — Partners for Impact and Community Voice Consulting — to help make this project meaningful. Both groups have experience in similar projects, but this marks one of the first times

they have each worked on early childhood issues. The partnership and its consulting groups outlined the plans for the assessment on Thursday.

The partnership advertised this project to potential consultants and both firms bid on the assessment, but rather than choose one, Chatham Partnership for Children chose both because each has different specialties. Despite this project being both organizations’ first time working in this space, Genevieve Megginson, the executive director of the Chatham Partnership for Children, said she landed on these firms because they have experience in solving equity issues.

“They have researched the method that works at lifting up voices,” she said. “That’s what I want to see. It’s a new partnership for them, but it seems like neither one could’ve done this process on their own.”

The assessment is set to take place in two phases: community engagement and data collection. The first phase will consist of surveys, data collection and interviews with families about the current state of affairs in Chatham. The second phase will involve focus groups and listening sessions regarding ways to improve the community in the future.

This project is still in the very early stages with the first surveys launching in December and plans to be completed by the end of next year. The final product will include presentations to the Chatham Board of Commissioners and a special film created using the interviews.

Megginson said the organization decided this assessment was necessary because the county has changed by leaps and bounds since the last assessment in 2008.

“We need to be deeply community-based,” Megginson said. “Everything is changing and we’re building back. As we build back we need to look deep at what it is we need to be doing.”

She said to be community-based means involving all levels of society, not just the most outspoken voices. We need to be asking questions like who are the families in the county? What do those families need? And what are we, as a community, not doing for children today?

Megginson said the other motivator for the assessment was the inevitable growth and change in the community with incoming development. She said childcare is the “overlooked essential infrastruc-

ture.” While roads, housing and water are important, we also have to care for the families that are bound to make our communities more vibrant. Megginson believes this assessment and subsequent action plan will become a model for other areas of the state as N.C. continues to be a hotbed of growth and development.

If we don’t understand where we stand and where the gaps in coverage exist currently, then we won’t be prepared for the future — where more folks of all classes and creeds will inevitably become our neighbors.

Undertaking a project like this is also a privilege in itself. To be able to zoom out and take broad views of the community and say “we are doing well, but we could be doing much better” is a task that takes introspection and trust from every facet of the community.

For more information about the Chatham Partnership for Children and its Community Needs Assessment plans including methodology, resources and how to get involved visit chathamkidsmatter.com or email genevieve@chatham-kids.org.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@



GUEST COLUMN | DENNIS STREETS

The voters’ mandate

Before the mid-term election, most analysts predicted that voting would be driven again by “It’s the economy, stupid!” — a phrase used by Bill Clinton in his successful 1992 presidential campaign.

Despite the fact that we all want an improved economy, the electorate showed the issues were broader and stakes even greater.

While exit polls reported that bringing down inflation was a top priority, the polls and actual outcome also revealed people want other concerns addressed as well. Most importantly, they want mature, honest and thoughtful leadership to maintain our democracy.

At all levels of government, our elected officials would do well to listen to voters’ intent and act responsibly on their behalf.

It doesn’t matter that inflation is a global issue — driven by the pandemic, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and other factors beyond our control. People need economic relief at the grocery store and gas pump and when paying their utility and health care bills. Others want lower interest rates and recovery in the value of their investments.

The newly elected U.S. Congress should have a head start in helping improve the financial picture given the bills President Biden already signed into law. These include the Inflation Reduction Act that will eventually lower health care costs and the CHIPS and Science Act designed to bring key manufacturing jobs back to America. It also includes the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that is already helping fund critical repairs of bridges and roads and expanding broadband access to rural communities.

It will take time to fully realize the positive impact of these previous legislative successes, aided by the neces-

sarily tough decisions of the Federal Reserve to curb inflation.

The electorate made it clear that they have faith in Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, as essential sources of financial support for many.

In addition to the economy, voters are calling upon public officials to address climate change, gun violence and other factors threatening our communities. The majority of voters across the county also rejected draconian actions to restrict reproductive and other human rights.

At this time in American history, our citizens overwhelmingly reaffirmed that the United States is a democracy. They are beckoning our leaders to unite in helping our nation be the “shining city on a hill” that President Reagan envisioned. They accepted President Kennedy’s call for us to “stand for freedom” — with some voters demonstrating this commitment by standing for hours to cast their vote.

Hopefully, this marks the end of election deniers and voter suppression. Maybe all can now work to restore faith in our election process and prevent future January 6 insurrections.

2024 will be here before we know it. We have two years to judge how well our leaders have united to act in our best interest to address economic woes, tackle the many other voter concerns, and further build trust in our Democratic principles.

The whole world is anxiously watching as we proceed. Our strength and moral fiber are vital to our future as well as to those around the globe who yearn for peace, food security, honest and caring leaders, and so much more.

Dennis Streets is the retired director of the Chatham Council on Aging.

Adversaries need not be enemies



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Nearly a decade ago, former Canadian politician Michael Ignatieff argued in the New York Times that democracy can only thrive when its practitioners respect the difference between adversaries and enemies. “An adversary is someone you want to defeat,” he wrote. “An enemy is someone you have to destroy.”

Ignatieff was drawing on personal experience. He spent three years as leader of the Liberal Party in a Canadian Parliament controlled by the Conservatives. Two other politicians with relevant experience, U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis and former state Sen. Cal Cunningham, embraced Ignatieff’s distinction during a recent joint appearance in Chapel Hill.

Two years ago, they squared off in one of the most expensive Senate races in American history. Tillis, the incumbent Republican and former speaker of the North Carolina House, ended up defeating Cunningham, an attorney who in addition to serving a term in the state senate is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. The margin of victory was, however, rather small: 48.69% to 46.94%.

Most of the TV spots in the 2020 Senate race came from independent-expenditure (IE) groups, not the campaigns themselves. As they noted during their conversation, which was hosted by the UNC Center for Public Discourse, Cunningham and Tillis couldn’t by law exercise any control over what those IE groups said or did over the course of the race. What the candidates could control were their own words and actions, and how they interacted with each other.

At their broadcast debates, for example, the two strove to stick to substantive issues when on camera and exchanged playful banter during commercial breaks. After the election, their cordiality turned into something more. The two met for breakfast at a popular Raleigh restaurant. Then Tillis called Cunningham for advice on military matters. Through conversation, a friendship developed. Later,

they began talking about it in public.

Notice that I didn’t call it an unlikely friendship. Contrary to what our toxic media climate might lead you to believe, many people in public life get along pretty well with their ideological opponents. When the North Carolina General Assembly convenes for its 2023 session, you won’t find groups of lawmakers prancing through the halls like hostile gangs from West Side Story, singing lines like “When you’re a Dem, you’re a Dem to the tee / We are out to lay waste to the whole GOP!”

To say real-life legislating and lobbying bear little resemblance to the wrestling-match caricatures you find on cable news or social media is not to say political disagreements are all for show. They’re very real. Tillis and Cunningham don’t see eye-to-eye on the federal budget, gun control, climate change, and a host of other issues. They still debate them, publicly and privately. What they don’t do — what all of us should try not to do — is accuse the other of being stupid, dishonest, or evil.

“You see, a lot of behavior driven by leaders is a reaction to something that has surfaced on social media,” Tillis said at the Chapel Hill event. “I just ask people that before you press send, or tweet or snap, ask yourself: would you sit in front of a room like this and say the same sort of thing, with the same sort of tone?”

To encourage our leaders to model better behavior is precisely why former state Sen. Leslie Winner and I founded Duke University’s North Carolina Leadership Forum in 2015. Our program brings together some three dozen leaders at a time — from politics, business and nonprofit groups — to practice constructive engagement across political difference.

One tool for building relationships is to share personal stories about how we come to believe what we believe. Another is the lubricant of laughter. Asked at the UNC event about the much-ridiculed tweet of him in a pristine “barbecue” apron standing next to a gas grill, Cunningham raised his hands in mock surrender. “Bless my out-of-state staff,” he said apologetically.

“Bless your out-of-state staff!” Tillis said appreciatively.

What’s on your mind?

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

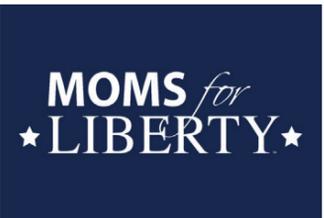
At our discretion, we may edit letters for clarity. We reserve the right to refuse letters and other submissions that promote a commercial product, contain either libelous material, personal attacks on individuals or vulgar language. Consumer complaints and letters containing unverifiable factual claims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

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

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

Moms for Liberty leader questions school board

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff



PITTSBORO — The head of Chatham’s chapter of Moms for Liberty — the organization which endorsed and heavily promoted the candidacies of Jessica Winger and Tim Moore, who lost their races for school board — addressed Chatham’s Board of Education last Thursday, coming to “dispel rumors” about its mission.

Amy Kappelman, who started Chatham’s Moms for Liberty group earlier this year, was the only speaker during the public comment period of Thursday’s meeting.

The national Moms for Liberty organization has widely called for increased parent input in school curriculum, made widespread claims about Critical Race Theory — using it as a catch-all phrase for race-related school issues — and attacked LGBTQ+ students by frequently supporting “Don’t Say Gay” bills, and moving to remove queer-focused literature from schools. Most recently, the organization made national headlines last week when South Carolina school board members, six of whom were endorsed by Moms for Liberty, in the Berkeley School District moved to fire the district’s first Black super-

intendent and the district’s lawyer, ban CRT and establish a committee that would decide whether certain books and materials should be banned, NBC News reported.

Kappelman said she came to the meeting Thursday to talk about the organization and explain what its aims are on a local level. She said the media has painted a false narrative of M4L — as its known — including making claims that it bans books.

Kappelman told board members the organization locally and nationally has “never banned books.”

The organization has, however, called for school boards across the state and country to “consider the age appropriateness” of certain books and educational materials. Under that guise, it has predominantly called out books that express themes regarding the LGBTQ+ community, protagonists of color and stories of political activism or religious persecution.

According to PEN America, a non-profit aimed at improv-

ing civil liberties and free expression, there were 2,532 instances of individual books being banned, affecting 1,648 unique book titles across the country, between July 2021 and June 2022. Sixteen of those instances occurred in North Carolina; none occurred in Chatham County.

Kappelman told board members the organization would not move to ban books in the county.

The rise in book banning or questioning has largely been attributed to Moms for Liberty and its adjacent groups. M4L now has more than 200 chapters across the country. PEN America estimates around 20% of the book bans enacted in the time frame could be linked directly to the actions of these groups, with many more likely influenced by them.

Chatham Moms for Liberty, according to Kappelman, was created because of a perceived lack of transparency by the school board.

“Our chapter came about because, despite the effort to participate in listening sessions, focus groups and board meetings, the legitimate concerns of a large group of parents have been repeatedly ignored,” Kappelman said. “It was, and still is, our sincere goal to give voice to these disenfranchised parents and seek

out solutions that work for all Chatham County families.”

She said the other reason she attended the meeting because she believed CCS was “inexplicably” moving to “ban” the U.S. Constitution. She said this was the case because a nonprofit organization donated pocket-sized copies of the Constitution to Moms for Liberty, which they were planning to distribute to 8th graders across CCS.

In mid-September, Kappelman said she gave the pocket Constitutions to the district offices, but the district has not yet given them to students. The district has requested approval from parents and guardians before distributing them.

The Constitutions were donated by 917 Society, a nonprofit whose aim is to provide copies of the Constitution to 8th grade students across the country and “ensure our children learn the value in and the contents of the founding principles of our nation’s most sacred document,” according to its website. 917 has partnered with Moms for Liberty chapters across the country and lists several chapters as some of its top donors on its website.

“Interestingly, Moms for Liberty across the country has been accused of book banning simply because we ask for

parental consent on certain age-inappropriate books,” Kappelman said. “Therefore, by this measure is Chatham County Schools banning our Constitution? It’s a reasonable thought. Reasonable people understand asking for parental consent is not the equivalent to banning books.”

She went on to say she believed the Chatham school board is not doing enough to address bullying and mental health concerns in CCS. Kappelman’s remarks extended beyond the allotted three minutes for public comments, at which point she was cut off by board chairperson Gary Leonard, who defeated Moore in the November election. (Incumbent Del Turner defeated Winger.)

Kappelman provided a copy of her full prepared remarks to the News + Record after the meeting. She said she was frustrated at having her remarks cut short because she was the only person signed up to speak.

“I had hoped for more curiosity and grace from those in the room,” Kappelman said. “We all have the same interests: Our children’s well-being.”

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

Governor’s Volunteer Service Award nominations sought

From the United Way of Chatham County

Do you know an exceptional individual whose volunteer contributions deserve recognition? Consider honoring their work by nominating them for the Chatham County Outstanding Volunteer Award.

The United Way of Chatham County coordinates the nomination and award process to recognize those individuals who selflessly give their time, talent and expertise to benefit the residents of

Chatham County.

Chatham County nominees will also be considered for recognition on the state level. The United Way of Chatham County Volunteer Center coordinates this effort with the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. Those selected will receive recognition from the Governor, in addition to being considered for the Governor’s Medallion Award. The Governor’s Office honors only 20 volunteers with the Medallion Award state-

wide and selects from nominees submitted by 100 counties. A minimum of one year of volunteer service is required to be eligible to receive the Governor’s Volunteer Service Award.

Nomination forms are available on the United Way of Chatham County’s website at www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/governors-awards/ as a fillable PDF. The forms include eligibility criteria, so please review it carefully. Please email all nomination forms to Shelley Smith by Dec. 31

to Shelley@UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org.

If you have any questions regarding the awards or the form, contact the United Way of Chatham County at 919-542-1110.

COLLEGE HONORS PHI KAPPA PHI INITIATION

Faith Deering of Pittsboro was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest honor society. She was initiated at The University of Mississippi.



MEAL

Continued from page A1

everything else — fruits, vegetables, sauces and gravies, bread, and rolls. Even desserts are affected, increasing by as much as 25% in the last year during a period of record inflation.

But the cost of goods isn’t the only culprit. Some analysts and observers suggest the increase in the cost of diesel fuel — which has more than doubled in some parts of the nation — has contributed to a 15% increase in today’s inflation rate.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture says the total cost for a typical meal for 10 people this year is \$53.31. In 2020, that figure was \$46.90 — that’s an increase of nearly 15%.

There’s a silver lining, however: supply-chain issues seemed to have slowed.

Grover Paige, a veteran of 47 years in the grocery business in Siler City, said supplies of food at Food Lion, where he is assistant manager, are “better than the pre-pandemic days.”

“As a matter of fact, they are the best they’ve been in some time,” Paige said. “There are a few dairy items we have a bit of trouble getting in, but the core items are in good shape.”

Right now, he says, the store is “seeing record sales.” “Part of that is because prices are up, but we’re also seeing record amounts of product being moved,” Paige said. “I think people find



Shutterstock photo illustration

Sticker shock at the grocery store is commonplace, with inflation driving up prices — meaning your Thanksgiving meal may be more costly than ever.

ways to cope. We’ve got to eat.”

One way some people cope is with alternative cuts of less expensive meats — maybe even venison, in a nod to what Pilgrims and Native Americans ate — along with vegetables such as squash, corn or pumpkin, again items, along with fish, that were likely on those first Thanksgiving Day tables.

And as Thanksgiving arrives, USDA nutritionists have a word of advice: it’s not uncommon, and actually very easy, for a person to consume as many as 3,000 to 4,000 calories during that meal.

That’s a heavy load, especially when many medical personnel and nutritionists recommend about 2,500 calories per day for men and 2,000 per day for women.

Even more reason to watch your wallet — and your waistline — this Thanksgiving.

As Rotarians, we are a network of friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who are united in taking action to create lasting change across the globe, in our community, and in ourselves. Food insecurity knows no season, so it was our honor to deliver 124 turkeys, 25 hams, and a plethora of dry & canned goods to CORA for distribution to families in Chatham County. We wish everyone in our community a happy & healthy Thanksgiving!

Sponsored by

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Happy Thanksgiving

We hope your home is filled with family and friends sharing joy and laughter this Thanksgiving holiday.

<p>Pittsboro Chad Virgil, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU® 630 East St Suite 2 919-545-5669</p>	<p>Governors Club Sharon A Dickens, AAMS® 50101 Governors Dr Suite 118 919-967-9968</p>	<p>Pittsboro Lee Shanklin, AAMS® 120 Lowes Drive Suite 107 919-545-0125</p>	<p>Ferrington Kathy Brommage, CFP® 190 Chatham Downs Drive Suite 103 919-960-6119</p>
<p>Penguin Place Eric C Williams, AAMS® 114 Russet Run Suite 120 919-542-3020</p>	<p>Pittsboro Kevin C Maley, AAMS® 984 Thompson St Suite E2 919-444-2961</p>	<p>Chapel Hill Jessica L Villagrana 180 Providence Rd Suite 1c 984-219-6635</p>	<p>Siler City Laura Clapp, CFP®, AAMS™ 301 E Raleigh St 919-663-1051</p>

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

edwardjones.com Member SIPC

CANVASS

Continued from page A1

these people can't work any harder — they need help.”

Results, no recount in BOE race

The Chatham Board of Education race in Dist. 3 between incumbent Del Turner and challenger Jessica Winger ultimately did not result in a recount following the county board of elections' meeting to approve absentee and provisional ballots, which was also held last week on Thursday. The numbers remained close through Election Night, with Turner maintaining a 462-vote lead, remaining 1.35 points ahead of Winger.

Winger could have called for a recount if the margin was within 1%, but after counting the more than 350 absentee and provisional ballots, Turner's margin of victory grew to 1.4%. She received 162 additional votes while Winger received 156.

Winger did not respond to questions from the News + Record regarding whether she intended to call for a recount prior to the canvass.

Breaking down the voting

Ultimately, in Chatham, 3,057 people utilized absentee voting, which included absentee-by-mail, overseas citizen and military ballots.

In Chatham, 10,634 residents voted on Election Day. In comparison, 25,866 people submitted ballots at one-stop voting sites in the county during the 17-day period for early voting, mirroring national trends as the 2022 election saw record numbers for midterm early voting.

And of the 160 provisional ballots received by the county, the board approved 43 ballots.

Provisional ballots are a fail-safe method of voting; individuals may receive a provisional ballot if questions arise regarding a person's qualifications to vote, ranging from not having a record of registration to having an unrecognized address. Provisional ballots are held aside while election officials conduct research to determine voter

eligibility, and election results are only finalized once the status of the ballots has been determined.

Absentee ballot challenge

Prior to certifying the 2022 midterm results, Chatham's board also oversaw a challenge to a mail-in ballot in which the voter sent in their absentee ballot during the early voting period but died before Election Day.

Deputy Director of Elections Steve Simos said staff found out the voter died a few days prior to Election Day, after receiving a list from the county register of deeds and checking it against the voter list.

In accordance with state law, staff filed the challenge and sent a letter on Election Day to the voter's address to ensure there were no administrative errors. Because the county did not hear back with objections and none were presented at the canvass, the board moved to sustain the challenge, pulled the ballot and removed the deceased individual's votes from the total count.

The process of removing votes from the total count required multiple steps and bipartisan observation. First, board members Frank Dunphy II, a Republican, and Barroso, a Democrat, watched as members of the county's IT department manually removed the votes using Verity Count, a standalone computer that reads thumb drives from the scanner that voters insert their ballots into for counting. The Verity Count system is not connected to the internet, and a clean thumb drive must be inserted into the computer to extract the votes that are eventually uploaded to the state's reporting system.

After observing the manual removal of votes, Dunphy, Barroso, Chairperson Laura Heise and Elections Director Pandora Paschal checked the physical ballot of the deceased voter against the new total for votes in the county, going race by race to ensure the system had made the appropriate changes.

“Everything we do is tedious,” Paschal told the CN+R at the close of Friday's canvass. “Because all eyes are on us, we have to make sure that we cross every ‘t’ and dot every ‘i.’”

Finally, board members signed off on certifying the results as Paschal uploaded the official canvass report and prepared to mail a hard copy to the state board of elections office in Raleigh.

Reflecting on election season

Board members also spent much of Friday's canvass reflecting on what led this election season to be successful and where improvements could be made. Most of the discussion revolved around what members perceived as a lack of resources for staff.

Dunphy began his comments by pointing out technological issues that occurred at the board's last three meetings, including Friday's canvass. The board had to move around its agenda, delaying the removal of votes from the deceased voter's absentee ballot because county IT staff were waiting on an external hard drive to be brought to the Chatham Board of Elections office to archive voting totals before any changes were made.

“Now, I'm just going to say it here and it's maybe embarrassing, but I'm going to say it — I think we have an information technology deficiency in this office,” Dunphy said.

He pointed to a computer deficiency on Election Night, in which the board had to wait an hour for repair, and to an issue the board had printing out a report during the absentee/provisional ballot meeting.

Simos attributed the delay in printing the report to a miscommunication between the board and the IT department, as the way the board had requested the results be printed differed from the default that most states use. He stated the issue would be corrected for the next election.

Simos also addressed the delay with the external hard drive, saying the hard drive is purposefully kept off site as a

protection measure.

“The external hard drive is kept off the board of elections [office], in case anything happens to the board of elections office and that machine goes down, catch fire, or whatever and all that, we always have a backup of an external hard drive that's off site,” he said.

Board members clarified that they felt the issues were not the fault of current staff at the elections office, and recognized the limited bandwidth the three full-time employees face.

Barroso said the board has struggled with getting adequate resources from county commissioners to support funding positions in the elections office.

“I don't want to be too drastic about it, but it's critical that we keep up with the growth of this county, [that] this office does in terms of staffing and expertise,” Barroso said.

Staff agreed that they faced certain constraints with the limited number of employees in the elections office, and noted the benefits that adding IT personnel and someone to assist with training poll workers would have.

“Getting additional resources in here frees us up to do additional voter outreach,” Simos said. “I think one of the biggest problems we have not just in Chatham County, but in the state, is there's not enough voter outreach programs out there.”

“If we can get more voter outreach to our citizens, and the high school kids that are learning how to vote, that will, in turn, be a positive and help us when people vote and know what they're supposed to be doing,” Simos continued. “But because we're so strained with lack of resources at our office and constrained, we can't do that.”

Board members also discussed what they saw as a need for another site to be added in North Chatham during early voting, aside from the current one-stop site at the Central Carolina Community College Chatham Health Sciences

Center.

“I don't think there was a day [when] there wasn't a line at North Chatham,” Elections Specialist Chance Mashburn said.

Heise said that the board is able to demand the use of government-funded or -owned buildings, but other than public schools and CCCC, there aren't any such buildings in North Chatham. The board discussed different options of expanding the CCCC site, which saw 10,910 voters during the early voting period, the highest of any site in the county by several thousands of voters, but several board members ultimately agreed that the construction of a community center in North Chatham could fulfill the role of a one-stop site.

“We're having a bigger turnout than we've had in previous elections for early voting, so it's only going to get worse at that site,” Heise said.

Simos also suggested training more people to serve as back-up judges at precincts, in case an individual cannot make it to the site in person — an issue that Mashburn underscored earlier in the meeting.

Mashburn said there was a “highly unusual number” of poll workers who had to drop out in early voting, mostly due to health issues, conflicting doctor's appointments or emergencies that cropped up.

Still, there was much to applaud with the election cycle, with Simos saying he thought the process went fairly well considering the county's high voter turnout.

“I was happy with our chief judges, I was extremely happy with our site managers, they did a good job,” Simos said. “I was happy with emergency management and the sheriff's office, they did a good job backing us up if we needed something. So there's always improvements we can make, but I think we're heading in the right direction.”

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

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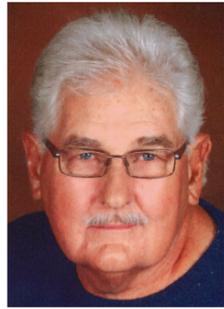
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OBITUARIES

TROY MCDONALD 'MACK' HANCOCK JR.



Troy McDonald "Mack" Hancock Jr., 81, died at his home on November 18, 2022, surrounded by his family.

Mr. Hancock was born in Chatham County on February 26, 1941, to the late Troy McDonald and Mary Ollie Phillips Hancock. In addition to his parents, Mack is preceded in death by his half brothers Charles, Lewis, June, Garrett and Billie Tillman.

He retired after 45 years from Glendale/Acme McCrary as a maintenance supervisor and was a member of Beulah Baptist Church. He loved his family and his beloved dog Cutie Pie.

Mr. Hancock is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ann Pickett Hancock; half sister: Mary Joyce Tillman Russavage, of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania; and several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at Smith & Buckner funeral home on Monday, November 21, 2022, from 6 to 8 pm. The funeral service will take place on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 2 pm, at Beulah Baptist Church, 8454 Howard Mill Rd., Bennett, with Dr. Neal Jackson officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Siler City.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorials be made to Beulah Baptist Church or Liberty Home Care and Hospice. Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Hancock family.

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

WILLIAM D. MONTGOMERY

October 10, 1938 ~ November 11, 2022

William David Montgomery, 84, of Sanford, passed away Friday, November 11, 2022, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

He was the son of the late Arthur Lee Montgomery and Jesse Hazel Millwood Montgomery, who preceded him in death, along with his wife, Ann Ivey Montgomery, and a

daughter, Marie Raynor. William was a member of Bethel Baptist Church. Services will be held at a later date.

Survivors include his daughter, Teresa Ann Hodges of Sanford, and son Donnie Dwayne Montgomery of Cameron; a brother, Edward Montgomery of York, S.C.; seven grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren

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

FRANK GEORGE PETRONE JR.

April 8, 1952 ~ November 8, 2022

Frank George Petrone Jr., 70, of Lillington, passed away at his home on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

No services are scheduled at this time.

He was born in Macomb County, Michigan, the son of Frank George Petrone Sr. and Marie Froh Melnyk. He was a U.S. Army Veteran, serving as a heavy equipment operator. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Rose Howey, Theresa Holland and brother Joseph Petrone.

Frank is survived by four sisters, Janice Dandron of Cameron, Robin Ann Yow of Sanford, Nancy Morrison of Lillington, and Bell Stathakis of Goldsboro.

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

WILLIAM 'BILLY' BLAIN OLINGER SR.

July 10, 1952 ~ November 13, 2022

William "Billy" Blain Olinger Sr., 70, of Durham, formerly of New Hill, passed away Sunday, November 13, 2022, at Duke University Hospital.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 17, 2022, at the Haywood Bible Church in Moncure, with the Pastor Danny Evans, officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was the son of James Cedric and Hazel Louise Tuttle Olinger, who preceded him in death, along with his sister,

Sandra L. Olinger.

He is survived by his wife, Christy M. Olinger of the home; daughters, Tonya M. Olinger of Stem, Christi Lynn Olinger of Cameron; step-daughter, Jennifer Evans of Durham; son, William Blain Olinger Jr. of Butner; brothers; Jerry Olinger of New Hill, Larry Olinger of Hillsborough; fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

On-line condolences can be made to www.smithfuneral-homeoncure.com.

SANDRA 'SANDY' PATTERSON LASSITER

August 29, 1959 ~ November 13, 2022

Sandra "Sandy" Patterson Lassiter, 63, of Cameron, passed away on Sunday, November 13, 2022, at FirstHealth Hospice House.

Graveside services were held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Buffalo Cemetery with Pastor Mike Horton officiating.

Sandra was the daughter of the late Wilbert G. and Peggy C. Patterson.

Sandy is survived by her husband of 34 years, William "Len" Lassiter; son, William Shane Lassiter of Killeen, Texas; one grandson and two step-grandchildren.

DOROTHY JEAN BRAFFORD

December 8, 1951 ~ November 17, 2022

Dorothy Jean "Sissy" Wilson Brafford, 70, of Sanford, passed away at home on Thursday, November 17, 2022.

The family received friends on Monday, November 21, 2022, at Smith Funeral Home in Broadway.

Dorothy was the daughter of Sherwood and Doris Knight Wilson, who preceded her in death, along with her son, Grady Brafford; brothers, Donnie Wilson, Jim Wilson, Snowball Wilson, Larry Wilson, Peanut Wilson; and sisters, Lumpy Wilson and Barbara Ann Wilson.

Surviving is her husband of 43 years, George Brafford of the home; sons, Michael and Gene Brafford of Sanford; siblings, Betty "Moe" Wilson Dennis of Lillington, Harold Wilson of Sanford; and one granddaughter. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com.

ANGELA HAZEL REAVES

Angela Hazel Reaves, 35, of Spring Lake, passed away on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.

The funeral service was held Friday, November 18, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford, with burial following at Chapel Hill AME Zion Church.

MARGIE REE SILER MILLIKEN

Margie Ree Siler Milliken, 79, of Pittsboro, passed away on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

Walden, award winners highlight Chamber meeting

BY CHAD KNUTH
News + Record
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting last Tuesday, closing out 2022 with a series of awards and presentations.

As community business leaders took their seats around the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, Cindy Poindexter, president and CEO of the Chatham, welcomed economist Michael Walden, who shared his thoughts about the 2023 economic forecast for Chatham County and the surrounding Triangle and Triad area.

"Right now we're in a challenging situation," Walden said, referencing the economic turmoil seen both nationally and in North Carolina over recent years. "[Since COVID struck] we've come back in terms of production and employment, with unemployment now back down at 3.7 percent, but we are now faced with another challenge, and that is inflation."

Walden, a retired N.C. State professor and author, spoke on the rise of prices throughout the nation, climbing at rates not seen in 40 years. He did, however, remain hopeful.

"We think we're a little past the peak," he said, mentioning June's year-over-year inflation rate of 9.1%, which dropped to 7.7% by October.

"And where did this come from?" Walden asked the room. "In economics, everything is supply and demand. We've obviously had supply chain issues, unable to meet rates seen pre-COVID. But the other factor is on the buying side."

Walden said more than a trillion dollars rested in a variety of savings and investment accounts

across the country, held by households and there only "because of the massive amount of spending that the government has pushed over the last few years."

Walden said that although many people have a lot of money now to spend, products to buy simply aren't there — directly contributing in the rise in prices.

Over the last three years, the Trump and Biden administrations have combined to spend more than \$5.5 trillion on COVID relief programs.

"We have never spent that much money dealing with a crisis," Walden said, "even going back to the Great Depression."

Walden projected that the Federal Reserve will aim to slow spending by raising interest rates in order to ultimately bring inflation back down to 2%.

"This is known in the business as a soft landing," he went on to explain. "A soft landing means that the Reserve will be able to raise interest rates, pull money out of the economy just enough to slow spending down, but not enough that it causes a recession."

"Now that's not a very rosy scenario, but that's what I think will happen," he added. "[And no,] I don't think we have been in a recession, but we could certainly head towards one."

Walden felt optimistic that although North Carolina may not be capable of avoiding a recession, should one come, he felt strongly that recovery will likely be faster here in the Triangle and Triad region — due primarily to our capacity for rapid growth.

"I can't think of a better place to go through a recession than here," he said.

The meeting moved into a series of awards presentations, recognizing



Staff photo by Chad Knuth

Economist Michael Walden was the featured speaker at last Tuesday's annual meeting of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce.

ing outstanding businesses and individuals throughout the county. Those recognized included:

- Small Business of the Year winner Van 2 Auto Sales, Siler City, and owners Dimas & Elva Benitez
- Distinguished Business Person of the Year winner Amanda Newton of Farm Bureau, Pittsboro
- Citizen and Service Person of the Year Award winner Marie Hopper of Hopper Cummings PLLC
- Young Professional of the Year Award winner Connolly Walker of Harris & Company Insurance
- Ambassador of the Year Award winner Ronda Stubbs of Cambridge Hills Assisted Living in Pittsboro.

Chamber board Chairperson Sharon Dickens announced several advancements in the Chamber's marketing and public relations efforts, as well as a slew of new events set for the coming years.

As the Fall winds blow in another Holiday Season, we want to take time to Give Thanks for all of you, our friends, our neighbors, and our family.

Wishing all of you a Warm and Happy Thanksgiving and reminding you to take time to make a difference in someone else's life today.



Gov. Cooper celebrates Apprenticeship Week, highlights program at CCCC

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Gov. Roy Cooper last Tuesday celebrated Apprenticeship Week by touring the Caterpillar Pre-Apprenticeship Training in Welding Program at Central Carolina Community College.

He has also proclaimed November 13 through 19 as Apprenticeship Week to recognize how apprenticeship programs strengthen North Carolina's economy and help students across the state.

"It's great to see so many talented young students learning the skills they need to succeed while they're still in high school," Cooper said. "This program is a wonderful example of our community colleges, local businesses and schools working together to strengthen our workforce for years to come."

Dr. Lisa Chapman, president of CCCC said, "Central Carolina Community College is a first-class opportunity and leading workforce partner. Two keywords in that sentence are community and partner. We serve a community with exceptional partners, and our Caterpillar Youth Apprenticeship exemplifies this and has for 10 years. Partnering with Lee County Schools, Caterpillar, and ApprenticeshipNC has resulted in an effective response to a workforce concern where we consistently develop our local talent. National Apprenticeship



Gov. Roy Cooper celebrated Apprenticeship Week by touring the Caterpillar Pre-Apprenticeship Training in Welding Program at CCCC in Sanford.

Week was established to showcase successes, and I cannot think of a better one to recognize than our Caterpillar Youth Apprenticeship."

Dr. Andy Bryan, superintendent of Lee County Schools, said, "What

better way to celebrate apprenticeships than to highlight this Caterpillar Apprenticeship program — a nationally-acclaimed example of what local and statewide partnerships can do to provide life-changing opportuni-

ties for our students and to develop the workforce that our communities need to thrive."

Last year, over 13,000 North Carolinians participated in an apprenticeship program with over 1,600 employers statewide. Of the participants, almost 1,000 were considered youth apprentices who participated in programs in several different industries including, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, construction, health care, IT and logistics.

During his visit, Cooper saw the registered welding youth apprenticeship program, a partnership between

Caterpillar, Lee County Schools, CCCC and ApprenticeshipNC. High school students in Lee County who go through this program take college-level welding classes and Caterpillar-specific training. In the spring of their senior year, they work part-time at Caterpillar. Apprentices are paid for the time working at Caterpillar or engaged in Caterpillar-specific training and their tuition costs are covered.

Central Carolina Community College serves three counties, Chatham, Harnett and Lee. CCCC offers a wide variety of programs including one and two-year degree

programs, transfer programs, college and career readiness training, GED programs, and technical, vocational and general interest training.

Caterpillar Inc. is the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, off-highway diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and diesel-electric locomotives. Caterpillar is a member of the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE). Caterpillar's Clayton plant participates in NCBCE's LiNC-IT program, an internship for early career autistic professionals.



Nov. 12-13

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Nov. 19-20

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North Chatham Performing Arts Center

NCPAC project updates & opportunities to make tax-deductible donations online

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Celebration of Lights

St. Julia Catholic Church
210 Harold Hart Road, Siler City
Saturday, Dec. 3, 6:15-7:15 PM

Celebrate the season under the stars with live entertainment, a bilingual Christmas message, and luminaries lighting the way. **This event is free**, but luminaries can be purchased in advance for \$10, in person or online. The parking lot opens at 6:15 pm. **100% of luminary sales is used for prescription drug purchases for our low income clients.**

ChathamCares.com/Celebration-of-Lights



127 E Raleigh St, Siler City

Students, get your applications in for the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!

Each year, Central Electric sponsors two rising high school juniors or seniors on the trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C in connection with the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. While in D.C., you'll join 1,800 other students from across the country to meet members of Congress and learn more about American history and electric cooperatives.



The 2023 trip is June 17-23 and the deadline for all applications is Jan. 23. Visit CEMCPower.com to apply or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity. Central Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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

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

FOR SALE

TV ANTENNAS - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 North Third Avenue, Siler City, 919-227-6698, N10,24,2tc

FOR SALE - Collards for sale - \$4 to \$5 per head; Broccoli and Brussels Sprouts are available too. Crutchfield Crossroads area. 984-265-0402 or 919-663-5780, N10,17,24,D1,4tc

FOR SALE - FIREWOOD for sale. Dry, ready to burn. Call 919-

742-4561. O27,N3,10,17,4tx

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D1,1t

CASH PAID - For Junk Cars and PickUps - Call 336-581-3423. N10,17,24,D1,4tp

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

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

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

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CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Active relationship with Christ and membership in a church of like-faith required. 20-25 hrs/wk to manage office, prepare publications, and maintain records. Computer proficiency required. Submit resume and hourly salary

requirement to: Personnel Committee, Tyson's Creek Baptist Church, 10891 Siler City-Glendon Rd., Bear Creek, NC 27207 or email to tysonscreek@tysonscreek.com. N24,D1,2tc

HELP WANTED SALVATION ARMY... Want to add income during the holidays? We are hiring paid bell ringers for several locations starting November 18 through December 24. You must be 18 years or older, have own transportation and have a good personality. Pay is \$10 per hour of ringing. Interested persons please call 919-542-1593 to speak to Jane Wrenn. O27,N3,N10,N17,4tc

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 **Executor of the Estate of MARJORIE LOWE STACKHOUSE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said decedent or her estate to present them to him at 24039 Bradford Green Square, Cary, NC 27519 on or before the 3rd day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All of those indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned. This the 3rd day of November, 2022.
CECIL W. STACKHOUSE, JR. Executor of the Estate of MARJORIE LOWE STACKHOUSE 24039 Bradford Green Square Cary, NC 27519
N3,N10,N17,N24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 602
All persons having claims against **CLYDE A. DOWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of November, 2022.
CLYDE A. DOWD, JR. 190 SAN FIELDS RD. SILER CITY, NC 27344
N3,N10,N17,N24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **HELEN P. GUTHRIE aka HELEN PIKE GUTHRIE**, late of 145 Pike Memory Lane, Staley, Chatham County, North Carolina 27355, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 4145 Randolph Church Road, Liberty, NC 27298, on or before the 7th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 3rd day of November, 2022.
Myra Bunton Martin, Executor of the

Estate of Helen P. Guthrie aka Helen Pike Guthrie Pamela E. Whitaker, Attorney at Law 4145 Randolph Church Road Liberty, NC 27298 (336) 622-3553
N3,N10,N17,N24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 603
All persons having claims against **DAVID CLARENCE OAKLEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of November, 2022.
Tonya H. Oakley, Administrator 383 Oakley Farm Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27517
N3,N10,N17,N24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 620
All persons having claims against **TRUDY KAREN JONES AKA TRUDY PEARCE JONES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.
Jeffrey Lee Badders, Administrator 700 English St Thomasville, NC 27360
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 625
All persons having claims against **SHERIE FANETTE RIVES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.
Hannah Reynolds Clewis, Administrator 8240 Old US Hwy 4215 Bear Creek, NC 27207
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 604
All persons having claims

against **LOUIS LYON MARTIN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of November, 2022.
Jeanne Martin, Executrix 276 Boothe Hill Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27517
N3,N10,N17,N24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 599
All persons having claims against **ALEXANDER GUNTER KLAUSMANN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of November, 2022.
Sandra Delouis Wilson, Executrix 1110 Windy Ridge Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27517
N3,N10,N17,N24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 613
All persons having claims against **JOHN ALAN WOODCOCK**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of November, 2022.
Sheryl Sturdivant Woodcock, Administrator 502 W. Poplar Ave; C-4 Carrboro, NC 27510
N3,N10,N17,N24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 585
All persons having claims against **EZZIE LEE SMITH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.
Teresa Kearns, Co-Administrator 1346 Epps Clark Rd. Siler City, NC 27344 Sharon Elkins, Co-Administrator 1305 Henderson Tanyard Rd. Pittsboro, NC 27312
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 484
All persons having claims against **HOWARD LEE BADDERS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.
Jeffrey Lee Badders, Administrator 700 English St Thomasville, NC 27360
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 625
All persons having claims against **SHERIE FANETTE RIVES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.
Steven K. Bowman, Administrator 2013 Peninsula Lane Hillsborough, NC 27278
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 625
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **JOHANNA WINTERWERP PRINS** deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 17th, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 17th day of November, 2022.
JOHANNA H. PRINS and JONATHAN F. KESSLER, Co-Executors Estate of Johanna Winterwerp Prins c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 620
All persons having claims against **TRUDY KAREN JONES AKA TRUDY PEARCE JONES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are

notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.
Aaron Bradley Jones, Executor 2388 Fall Creek Church Rd. Bennett NC 27208
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against the estate of **VAHAN PARSEGHIAN** of Chatham County, NC, who died on December 7, 2021 are notified to present them on or before February 17, 2023 to Tanya Dellolio, Ancillary Administrator, c/o Maitland & English Law Firm, 2 Couch Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Michele L. English MAITLAND & ENGLISH LAW FIRM 2 Couch Road Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Attorney for the Estate N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Landis James Phillips qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on October 31, 2022, in File 22 E 612 as Executor of the Estate of **ELMO LOU PHILLIPS**, 5885 NC 42 Highway, Bear Creek, NC 27207. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before February 17, 2023, 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. Payments and claims should be presented to Robert Gilleland, Attorney, P.O. Box 1045, Sanford, NC 27331-1045. Sanford Law Group PO Box 1045 Sanford, NC 27331
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 04 E 346
All persons having claims against **GEORGE WILLIAM BROWN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 17th day of November, 2022.
Carol J. Hall Brown, Administrator 2666 Corinth Rd Moncure, NC 27559
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 635
All persons having claims against **VIVIAN CATE BOWMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 17th day of November, 2022.
Steven K. Bowman, Administrator 2013 Peninsula Lane Hillsborough, NC 27278
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 625
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **JOHANNA WINTERWERP PRINS** deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 17th, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 17th day of November, 2022.
JOHANNA H. PRINS and JONATHAN F. KESSLER, Co-Executors Estate of Johanna Winterwerp Prins c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **NANCY MORGAN WORTHINGTON**, of Chatham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 90 days from this date, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This, the 17th day of November, 2022.
Christina Patskoski, Executor c/o Vail Gardner Law 732 9th St., #621 Durham, NC 27705
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 633
All persons having claims against **MARGARET ANNELL BRAZZELL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 17th day of November, 2022.
June Thomas Woodall, Executrix 107 Granite Ridge Road Chapel Hill, NC 27516
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 600
All persons having claims against **VIRGINIA QUILLEN PORCH AKA VIRGINIA KATHRYN QUILLEN PORCH**,

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deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 17th day of November, 2022.
Donna P. Tucker, Executrix 908 Pebblebrook Drive Raleigh, NC 27509
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 644
 All persons having claims against **GLENN RAY MURPHY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded

in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 24th day of November, 2022.
 Donna B. Murphy, Administrator
 232 Moody Loop Rd
 Siler City, NC 27344
 N24,D1,D8,D15,4tp

competitive bids for the provision of specific FAMILY SUPPORT services meeting Smart Start evidence-based/evidence-informed program requirements. Services to be provided in Chatham County, NC between July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026. Open to all interested human service agencies and organizations. A Bidder's Conference will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 via zoom from 9:30-11:00 AM. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ELIGIBILITY to submit a bid. Additional information is available at www.chathamkids.org or by calling (919) 542-7449 ext. 131. N24,1tc

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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS District touts test score growth above state averages

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
 News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools officials shared additional data analysis on statewide test scores Thursday, which show the district improved at a better rate than many schools in the state.
 The data from N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction (NCDPI) shows growth for both students and teachers in the district throughout the 2021-2022 school year, despite pandemic declines across the state.

NCDPI defines growth as the positive change in student performance for assessments given during a school year.
 Dr. Amanda Moran, the assistant superintendent for academic services and instructional support for Chatham County Schools, presented the data to the Board of Education Thursday. It showed 13 of 19 schools were recognized by the state for meeting or exceeding growth at rates above the state average. Nine of those 13 schools were in the top 50% of growth in N.C., two were in the top

20%, one in the top 10% and one in the top 5%. The following schools were recognized by the state:

- Perry Harrison School (top 5% of the state)
- Seaforth High School (top 10% of the state)
- Virginia Cross Elementary School (top 20% of the state)
- Margaret B. Pollard Middle School (top 20% of the state)
- Jordan-Matthews High School
- Moncure School
- Silk Hope School
- Northwood High School
- Bennett School
- J.S. Waters School
- Chatham Grove Elementary School
- Siler City Elementary School
- George Moses Horton Middle School

“This provides great insight into how our students progressed last school year, and we are really proud of their results,” Moran said. “Our educators and administrators did an excellent job helping our students transition back to in-person instruction, and our children rose to

the challenge.”

The recently released data also reported 93% of the teachers in CCS met or exceeded growth in tested subject areas, meaning 7% of teachers did not meet growth expectations. Seventy-five percent of CCS teachers met growth in tested subjects. Statewide, 71% of teachers met growth. Seven percent of CCS teachers did not meet growth, compared to 14% of teachers statewide.

The data also showed CCS improvements in most subjects, with 94% of tested subjects showing improvements. The district struggled, however, in Math 1 and 3 (high school math courses), 8th grade science and, most importantly, 3rd grade reading.

Third grade reading levels have long been claimed as the benchmark for lifelong literacy. The district did not meet growth expectations in this subject area, with the current mark around 30% proficiency, an 8% decline since last school year. Statewide, the 3rd grade reading proficiency is just 27%, a decline of 7%.

A study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a charitable nonprofit focused on improving educational outcomes, found students who were not proficient in reading by the end of 3rd grade were four times more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers and less likely to earn a high school diploma. Third grade is the final year children are believed to be learning to read, after which students are “reading to learn.”

Moran and education professionals across the state attribute the decline to virtual learning during critical years of literacy. Students pick up critical reading comprehension skills during 1st and 2nd grade, which many of today’s 3rd graders spent online, which may be why their scores suffered, Moran told board of education members Thursday.

NCDPI data is also broken down into subgroups to account for factors such as race, language and socioeconomic status. CCS had every subgroup meet or exceed growth expectations. Moran said this is the first time this has happened in CCS in at least a decade.

“I am very proud of the work our students and staff are doing here in Chatham County,” said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. “Growth is such a key area, as it allows apples to apples comparisons from year-to-year. While proud of the progress of our students, until all students are making progress, and learning and achievement gaps closed, we will always have more work to do. I am proud of the work of our students, teachers and school leaders.”

Full results are available on the NCDPI’s testing dashboard, www.bit.ly/3cQpZt6. Testing data reports are also posted on the accountability section of the district website www.chatham.k12.nc.us

my will replace SAGE Academy, which has seen declining enrollment since the Chatham School of Science & Engineering was created on the same campus.

“This proposal not only invigorates the programmatic pieces of SAGE through the establishment of the ONE Academy,” said Tracy Fowler, CCS senior executive director of student services. “It provides a larger umbrella for students who may need a non-traditional pathway to graduation. We want to work to meet the needs of all students who may thrive in a smaller setting where they can receive additional support, individualized learning or a flexible schedule.”

The ONE Academy is planning to open next semester in January with a limited capacity of 20 students. The cost for the startup is \$425,000 for a non-traditional pathways coordinator, four core teachers and training to support individualized learning. Jackson said this first year will work as a trial run to see if expanded capacity is needed and to gauge interest.

A new strings program is also on the way to some CCS elementary schools. The board unanimously approved an afterschool program at Siler City Elementary and Virginia Cross Elementary. The program is a partnership between CCS, Chatham Arts Council and Triangle Youth Music Organization. The 1.5-hour class will take place twice a week at the schools between 3:30 to 5 p.m. with the capacity to teach 25-30 3rd grade students.

The annual cost for the program, including supplies and materials, is \$25,000. This cost also includes one teacher for the program and stipends for the music teacher at each school for support. After the item was approved, Jackson revealed the district had secured an anonymous \$10,000 donation to purchase the instruments for the students. The program is expected to begin in January.

The board also approved a Legion Baseball program to take place at Jordan-Matthews High School. Legion Baseball is a summer youth baseball league for 13- to 19-year-olds to participate in the sport locally during the off-season. J-M will allow the team to use the fields during the season in exchange for Post 93 American Legion maintaining the field. CCS board Chairperson Gary Leonard played Legion baseball when he was in high school and said the addition of the league to Siler City would provide an incentive for promising players to stay in the area rather than pursuing travel baseball teams during the summer.

The next scheduled Chatham County Schools Board of Education meeting is at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, in the George Moses Horton Middle School multi-purpose room. For more information visit www.chatham.k12.nc.us

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

FARMS

Continued from page A1

fresh turkeys and smoked turkeys, which can be purchased as whole birds or by turkey breast, leg quarters or wings. A standard white turkey costs \$7 a pound and a smoked turkey costs \$15 a pound.

Withington cherishes getting to supply people across Chatham with turkeys for the holiday. When he sits down for his family's Thanksgiving dinner, he knows other families are gathering for a meal at the same time, eating the same product.

"It's a one afternoon where you know for sure that there are literally thousands of people enjoying the product that you made," Withington said.

Lilly Den Farm's products can be found at the Pittsboro Farmers Market, as well as the farm's retail store at The Plant in Pittsboro. For more details about pricing and times for Thanksgiving pick-up locations, visit lillydenfarm.com/product/poultry/#holiday-turkeys.

In Good Heart Farm

While turkey may be the star of the show for some, at In Good Heart Farm, it's all about the vegetables.

The un-certified organic farm, owned by married couple Patricia Parker and Ben Shields, is located in Pittsboro. The two first began farm operations in Clayton in 2010, but eventually moved to Pittsboro in 2016, taking over farming pioneer Bill Dow's former land.

In Good Heart Farm grows more than 100 different varieties in annuals on two acres of garden and three acres of orchard. Parker said because the farm grows year-round, they begin planning for the year ahead as early as December or January.

The farm's produce includes orange, white and purple varieties of sweet potatoes, collard greens, butternut squash, fennel, leeks, beets and arugula.

This year, the farm hand-harvested 4,000 pounds

of sweet potatoes — planted in June and gathered in early fall — and then cured the starchy root vegetables. Curing is a process that involves keeping the potatoes in 90-degree heat with high humidity for at least 10 days; as the starches are converted to sugars, the potatoes sweeten up and can be stored for longer.

"A lot of people don't know that you have to cure it to make it sweeter, that if you just pull it out of the ground, and tried to cook one and eat one, it would be kind of savory and starchy," Parker said.

As days shorten and temperatures drop, Parker noted what is termed the "Persephone period" is quickly approaching — the time of year best for hardy winter produce when daylight lasts for 10 hours or less and plant growth reaches a crawl.

"That was fascinating to me to learn that, 'Oh, huh, everything kind of slows down,'" she said. "And that makes sense, like even your vegetables are essentially hibernating."

And this transition to the colder season can also lead to more tasty crops; for example, cooking greens tend to become sweeter as the weather gets more frosty.

"The plants produce sugars to protect themselves and those sugars translate into deliciousness," Parker said.

For Parker, starting up a farm wasn't something she necessarily envisioned she'd do. Both she and her husband come from non-agrarian backgrounds — Smith worked for the Smithsonian Magazine and Parker was a sociology professor. Now, part of what she loves most about her job is getting to share "the magic of the farm" with others.

"You just have to live it to know it, like community really does start to form around food," she said. "It's 'agri-culture.' Like in all societies, we very much have these traditions centered around food, and it builds community or

reinforces community in ways that it's just so much bigger than what it seems like it would be."

In Good Heart Farm sells fresh produce at the Fearrington Farmers Market and Pittsboro Farmers Market, in addition to having a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) arrangement, in which individuals can sign up for weekly boxes with items of their choosing. Produce from In Good Heart Farm can also be found in local restaurants, like the Root Cellar Café, Postal Fish Company and Angelina's Kitchen.

Visit ingoodheartfarm.com for additional information about where to find the farm's fruits, vegetables and herbs, and how to place an order.

Green Panda Farms

For Chatham residents looking for ways to brighten their Thanksgiving table and weave in some lighter dishes amongst what can be an all-day affair of heavy eating, Green Panda Farms in Siler City provides flavorful, nutrient-dense microgreens and herbs.

The farm is owned and operated by Tenita Solanto, a Navy veteran. Solanto's farm sells microgreens — seedlings of greens and herbs harvested as the first set of true leaves appear — of various kinds, from basil and cilantro to pea tendrils and sunflower shoots.

The greens are considered a superfood because of their nutritional value, and are also useful through its visual appeal for decorating dishes, Solanto notes.

"It's a nice aesthetic for a chef's plate, but there's also some nutrition behind them as well," she said.

When it comes to adding microgreens to a Thanksgiving meal, Solanto said she always has salad as part of the spread to help lighten things up, and will even add micro herbs to stuffing.

"When you buy them in a microgreen format, they're more intense in flavor," she said.

Solanto, who has a background in IT, began her business around five years ago,



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

In Good Heart Farm, based in Pittsboro, sells a variety of vegetables at the Pittsboro Farmers Market each week. Sweet potatoes are one of the farm's specialties.

after attending the Minority Landowners Conference hosted by Fayetteville State University and getting inspired by a session on sustainable farming techniques. Solanto was living in Raleigh then, with plans to use the acre of land she had around her home to grow crops, joking that at the time she couldn't keep a houseplant alive. Thus began a deep dive into research — and when Solanto came across microgreens.

"I was looking for things that I could grow faster," Solanto said. "And so I just started tinkering with it, and started learning about different types of soil, the seeds, the quality of seeds, and just like really started digging in deep about what this was...until I was able to perfect it and be

able to grow something."

Solanto moved the business to Siler City in 2018. Now, she's looking to expand Green Panda Farms' range of products to include more leafy greens using hydroponics.

Aside from offering weekly and bi-weekly subscription services, Green Panda Farms provides microgreens to local eateries like Root Cellar Café and Lucha Tigre.

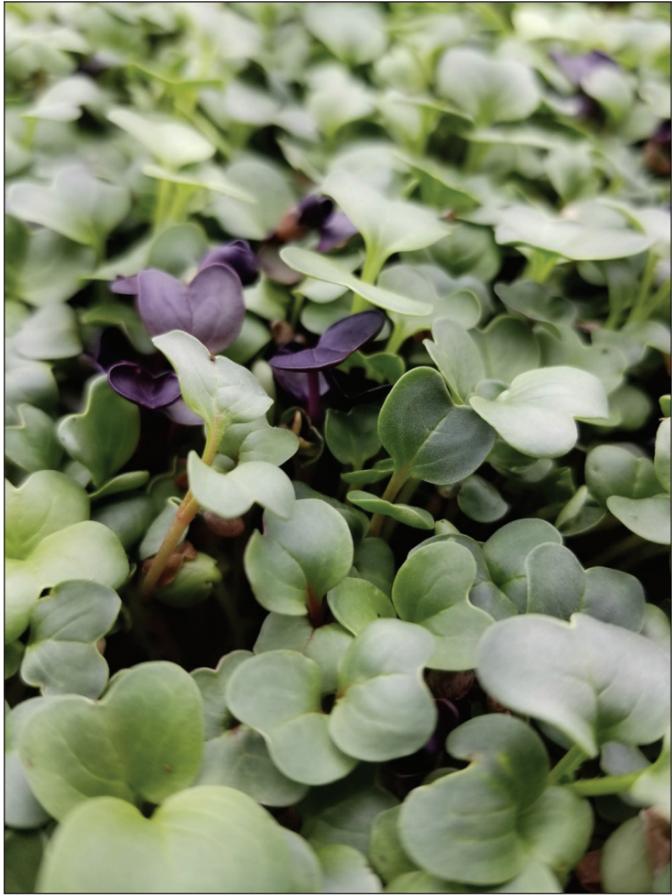
The subscription service allows the farm to create custom blends and tailor produce to a particular chef or individual's needs. For example, Solanto said the farm has provided produce to cancer patients who specifically request broccoli microgreens for the therapeutic properties found in its dietary compounds, and those of other cruciferous vegetables.

Because Green Panda Farms is located indoors, the farm can grow greens all year, and is working towards fully outfitting the building to be climate controlled. The balance of determining various factors — climate, humidity, temperature, soil and pH level — is tricky, but Solanto appreciates that there's always something to learn with her work.

"It's like you're kind of like a scientist, you know, we're always doing experiments all the time," she said. "And all seeds don't grow the same, in the same climates and things like that, so it's always like an experiment all the time, where we're testing different things and seeing what we can do."

Green Panda Farms' microgreens are sold at the Durham Co-op Market as well as online through direct sales. For more details on pricing and placing an order, visit greenpanda-farms.com.

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



Submitted photo from Tenita Solanto

Green Panda Farms, a small farm based in Siler City, specializes in microgreens, a nutrient-dense superfood.



Submitted photo from Tenita Solanto

Green Panda Farms' indoor setup in Siler City. The locally-owned and operated farm harvests microgreens and herbs all year.

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SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 - 30, 2022 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

LIL' FOOTBALL FAN

Meet the young football fanatic ready for the spotlight

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff



Aside from a few family photos, every part of Anik Gupta's room is full of football memorabilia including helmets, jerseys and his bedding.

A natural talent

The idea seemed like just another after-school activity for the always-energetic Anik. But when he showed the video to his parents, they were surprised at his natural charisma in front of the camera and his depth of knowledge about the sport.

prised at his natural charisma in front of the camera and his depth of knowledge about the sport.

Anik knew he was the real deal when he received praise from his father, an

avid sportswatcher.

"Anik and I talk football all the time in the house and quiz each other about the players on every team," his father, Sachin said. "But I was really surprised at how much of a natural he is at being a sportscaster."

That natural talent now fuels Anik Gupta's career aspiration. He wants to be on ESPN's Sportscenter and share analysis and commentary on all things football. His favorite thing is making predictions about the outcomes of games. In fact, it's his fortune-telling abilities that earned him acclaim when, in 2019, he accurately picked the winner of each game in the NFL Playoffs — including the Patriots' Super Bowl victory.

"When I predict a game correctly, I just get so happy," Anik said. "I want to

See **FAN**, page B4



SEAFORTH GIRLS

Hawks lean on experience and new blood in first win of season

BY EVAN ROGERS
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The Seaforth girls' basketball opened up its season with a home win Friday night. Headlined by the return of sophomore guards Gabby White and Peyton Collins — who averaged 15 and 12 points per contest last season, respectively — Seaforth is aiming to surpass last year's second-round appearance in the state playoffs. In the Hawks' 61-38 win over Carrboro on Friday, White's efficiency in transition and Collins' touch from beyond the arc suggest such goals are well within the realm of possibility.

But for a squad that returns all of its production from last season, it was a new face that shined above the rest against Carrboro — first-year guard Katherine Leonard.

"She's really just an all-round, aggressive and great player, which we really needed last year," White said. "She takes a little bit of pressure off me and some other players that had to step it up last year."

From the jump, a mental lapse defensively put the Hawks in a hole. White picked up two fouls in the first 63 seconds of play, prompting head coach Charles Byrd to sit the team captain.

As White sat on the bench, Seaforth's offense went cold and the Jaguars opened up a four-point lead. With his team struggling to find a rhythm, Byrd knew

See **HAWKS**, page B4

SEAFORTH BOYS 58, CARRBORO 56

Stevenson's 26 points lead Seaforth past Carrboro

BY EVAN ROGERS
News + Record Correspondent



Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson (15) scored 26 points in the Hawks' 58-56 win over Carrboro on Friday.

Staff photo by Nikki Witt

PITTSBORO — Last season the Seaforth boys basketball team didn't secure its first win until December.

But with another year of experience under their belt, the Hawks clinched a home-opening victory over the Carrboro Jaguars, 58-56, on Friday night. Though ultimately pleased with the final result, head coach Jarod Stevenson expressed that the victory featured a plethora of teachable moments.

"Getting this first win is real good," Stevenson said. "I thought we started out well and it was looking like it would be a comfortable game, but obviously Carrboro is a good team. I thought the guys took a step forward toward the right direction and will hopefully get better as the season goes."

After a 9-3 run in conference play last year — their first ever as a varsity program — the Hawks enter this season with increased expectations. Seaforth returns a young core headlined by junior forward Jarin Stevenson, a five-star prospect according to 247Sports and the No. 1 player

See **SEAFORTH**, page B2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Northwood's Bland, McManaman sign letters of intent to play collegiately

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Just before the start of the 2022-23 season, a pair of Northwood girls basketball players have made the decision where they'll eventually play in college.

On Nov. 9, Northwood's Te'Keyah Bland and Gianna McManaman gathered around family and friends as they signed their national letter of intent to play at Howard and New Mexico, respectively.

The decision was a long time coming for both

girls, especially McManaman, who had been verbally committed to the Lobos since she was a sophomore in 2020-21.

McManaman actually has plenty of family history with her college choice. Her mother, Lia and two of her grandparents, Robert and Bonnie Sanchez, also attended New Mexico. McManaman, a 5-foot-7 guard, is one of a handful of seniors on this Northwood team coming off a state-championship win last season — the first state title in Northwood

See **COMMITTS**, page B2



Photo courtesy of Northwood Athletics

Northwood senior Te'Keyah Bland will play college basketball at Howard, which won the MEAC Conference championship in 2021-22.



Photo courtesy of Northwood Athletics

Northwood senior Gianna McManaman will be the fourth member of her family to attend the University of New Mexico.

SCORES AND SCHEDULES

SCORES	SCHEDULES	Swimming
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21	Chatham Charter at Voyager Academy (7:30 p.m.) Chatham Central vs. South Davidson (7:30 p.m.)
Wrestling	Girls basketball	Girls basketball
Seaforth defeats Northwood, Chatham Charter and Southern Alamance.	Jordan-Matthews at Southern Lee (6 p.m.)	Chatham Charter at Research Triangle (6 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Trinity (6 p.m.) Chatham Central at South Davidson (6 p.m.) Seaforth vs. J.H. Webb (6 p.m.) Northwood at Wakefield (5:30 p.m.)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18	Boys basketball	Boys basketball
Girls basketball	Jordan-Matthews at Southern Lee (7:30 p.m.)	Chatham Charter at Research Triangle (7:30 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Trinity (7:30 p.m.) Chatham Central at South Davidson (7:30 p.m.) Seaforth vs. J.H. Webb (7:30 p.m.) Northwood at Wakefield (7 p.m.)
Seaforth 61, Carrboro 38 Apex Friendship 60, Northwood 52	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22	
Boys basketball	Girls basketball	
Seaforth 58, Carrboro 56	Northwood at Panther Creek (6:30 p.m.) Chatham Charter at Voyager Academy (6 p.m.) Chatham Central vs. South Davidson (6 p.m.)	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19	Boys basketball	
Boys basketball	Northwood 75, Wayne Country Day 63	<i>Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_vernon.</i>

SEAFORTH

Continued from page B1

from North Carolina in the Class of 2024.

The rangy forward has all the tools of a modern big man, with the ability to both handle the ball in tight spaces and extend his range from beyond the 3-point line. But out of the gate, it wasn't Jarin's lethal play that helped Seaforth open up a 12-point lead at the half.

Rather it was the scrappy, defensive leadership shown by Noah Lewis.

The sophomore guard's high ball pressure resulted in a number of fastbreak points for the Hawks, that were either finished off by Lewis himself or fellow teammates, namely junior guard Kooper Jones.

"I love to keep up the intensity for our team," Lewis said. "I'm a point guard. I'm a leader for the team so they like to build off my tempo."

Though it appeared the Hawks would cruise to victory, the Jaguars

knew their program was capable of fighting back.

For the past five seasons, Carrboro has built one of the more consistent 3A programs in the state. Excluding the shortened COVID season two years ago, the Jaguars have won at least 16 games every year since 2017.

Out of the break, Carrboro offered its first punch of the night. Senior guard Truman Terry drilled back-to-back buckets from distance to spark an 11-0 run by the Jaguars.

With its lead trimmed to two points, Seaforth turned to its five-star forward.

"Jarin, he's really the heart and soul of this team," Lewis said. "He's just a blessing to play with. He's a great teammate, he's a great leader and he always pushes us to our best."

Over the final minutes of the third quarter, the five-star prospect slowly asserted himself within the flow of the game.

Compared to a first-

half performance that saw Jarin Stevenson pass many opportunities to fellow teammates, the junior forward took matters into his own hand in the second half.

Come the end of the third period, Stevenson — who finished the night with a game-high 26 points — had swished two 3-pointers and converted an and-one play to help keep the Jaguars at bay.

"When you got it going, that's when you love (basketball)," he said. "That's when it really feels good and right there I guess I was feeling it, and I was having fun."

During the final quarter, Seaforth again turned to its budding star. This time at the charity stripe, the junior drilled four free throws with under a minute to play to help the Hawks maintain a two-possession lead.

"I just think of practice (at the line)," Stevenson said. "It's the same thing as practice — just focus on what I have to do. It's just a regular free throw and it's nothing to get

distracted on."

But even with Stevenson's pressure-cooker free throw makes, the Jaguars still had a chance to win the game in the closing seconds.

An inbound violation on Seaforth awarded Carrboro possession under its own basket, trailing by two points with 1.6 seconds remaining. But on the ensuing play, Lewis' defense prevailed again, this time allowing him to block a Jaguar 3-point attempt as time expired.

The sophomore guard's rejection secured the marquee win for the Hawks. And even though the team took a moment to celebrate its season-opening victory and Jarin's 26-point performance, Seaforth knows there is plenty more work to be done this year.

"It was definitely a big (win)," Jarin Stevenson said. "We went in and celebrated a little bit, and jumped around a little

bit — we were happy. We definitely have some stuff to clean up on though and this sets the tone for the rest of the season."



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



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

Seaforth junior Kooper Jones (4) shoots a floater in the Hawks' season-opening win over Carrboro on Friday night.

COMMITTS

Continued from page B1

school history.

McManaman averaged 5.6 points, 2.2 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game from the point guard position in 2021-22, but she's expected to take on an even larger role this season. The Chargers hope she can improve on her shooting, where she was already making almost 40% of her 3-point attempts.

Bland, on the other hand, committed to play at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Unlike McManaman, Bland's recruiting process was open until the final few days before she made her decision. In fact, only a few days before signing her NLI, Bland has a visit at Hampton University. Bland's last official visit to Howard came in late October.

Standing at 6-foot-1, Bland is a forward who does most of her work down low on both ends of the court, both as a scorer and rebounder/shot-blocker. As

a junior in 2021-22, she was second on the team in points per game (8.8) while also averaging 4.4 rebounds, 2.0 blocks and 1.4 steals per game.

Bland scored at least 15 points in a game five times last season, including a 17-point performance in Northwood's win over Enka in the state championship game.

This year, the Northwood girls began the season with a 60-52 loss to Apex Friendship on the road Friday night. The Chargers now have as many losses this season as they did all last winter, when they went 30-1 en route to the state title.

Head coach Kerri Snipes' team also played on the road Tuesday at Panther Creek. The Chargers are back in action next Tuesday on the road at Wakefield. Northwood plays each of its first four games on the road before taking on Jordan High at home on Dec. 6.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_vernon.



Council on Aging Activities Calendar
November 28th through December 2nd

Monday, November 28
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#)
- 9 a.m. - [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) (in-person and on Zoom)
- 10 a.m. - [Geri-Fit w/Jackie](#)
- 2 p.m. - [Table Tennis](#)
- 6 p.m. - [Caregiver Virtual Support Group](#) (RSVP to Rodney Dietrich for link)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Walking Through Grief Support Group](#)
- 10:30 a.m. - [Bingo with Woodman Life](#)
- 2 p.m. - [Geri-Fit](#)

Tuesday, November 29
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#)
- 9 a.m. - [3G's Men's Group](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joe & Coffee](#)
- 11 a.m. - [Music w/Front Porch Ministry](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Rummikub](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:45 a.m. - [Chair Exercises with Olivia for Beginners](#) (in-person and Zoom)
- 10:30 a.m. - [Ping Pong](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Rook; Phase 10; Rummikub; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering](#)

Wednesday, November 30
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) (in-person and on Zoom)
- 10:30 - [Program w/Alan](#)
- 11 a.m. - [Lunch Bunch](#) (Olive Garden - Holly Springs)
- 1 p.m. - [Open Art Studio](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - [Veterans Benefit Assistance](#)
- 9 a.m. - [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Craft Club \(Plastic Canvas\); Bible Study](#)
- 11 a.m. - [November Birthday Party](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Cornhole](#)
- 2 p.m. - [Crafting w/Kathryn](#) (Decoupage Wooden Ornament)

Thursday, December 1
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#)
- 9:30 a.m. - [Blood Pressure Screening](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Crafts & Conversation; Let's Move w/Jackie](#)
- 11 a.m. - [Nutrition Education w/Ann Clark](#) (Digestive Health)
- 1 p.m. - [Bridge](#)
- 1:30 p.m. - [Line Dancing](#)
- 3 p.m. - [Gentle Yoga w/Liz](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. - [Matter of Balance; Men's Coffee and Doughnuts](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Music Jam Session](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Book Club](#)
- 2 p.m. - [Tai Chi](#)
- 3 p.m. - [Trivia & Treats](#)

Friday, December 2
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#)
- 10 a.m. - [Geri-Fit w/Jackie](#)
- 1 p.m. - [Card Games/Euchre](#)
- 3 p.m. - [Jukebox Live! \("Music to Get You Movin"\)](#)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#)
- 9:30 a.m. - [Blood Pressure Checks](#)
- 7 p.m. - [Friday Night Dance](#) (fee required for participation)

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

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CLIPBOARD Q&A

Reed glad to give Northwood swimming much-needed consistency

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Rebecca Reed is entering her second season as the Northwood swimming and diving coach, and she hopes the 2022-23 season will bring the Chargers similar levels of success to what they experienced last winter.

Last season, Northwood's girls finished third at the 3A state championship meet. The Chargers have graduated eight of their 14 girls swimmers from last year over the offseason, but there's still an abundance of talent on that side of the team, including sisters Abby and Lauren Emrich, both of whom were state finalists last season.

On the boys side, Reed is dealing with another small roster, with only five boys currently competing for the Chargers. Three of the five are newcomers, and Reed feels excited about how the team could progress over the course of the year.

Reed spoke with the News + Record earlier this week to discuss the upcoming season, her experiences as a first-time coach last winter and much more.

You had a fairly successful year last season, finishing third in the girls 3A state championship meet. Describe how you're feeling entering the season compared to where you were last year.

REBECCA REED: I'm excited. I feel like there are some things that were uncertainties last year that I feel a little bit more comfortable with, in terms of how things play out from the meet perspective and the practice perspective in high school, and specifically in this area. Our team's pretty small this year. We've got a really great group who are excited to be on the team. But we are a lot smaller. It should be interesting to see how things play out when we get to compete.

How difficult was it last year going through the season without a set practice schedule? What changes have been made over the offseason?

We've got a really great partnership with the Ingram YMCA in Sanford. We were able

to increase not only the number of days we were practicing there, but also the duration of time. That has been great. But it's hard being a Pittsboro school and having to drive into Sanford, into a different county, to practice. I think that's honestly a deterrent for some kids on the team to join. You have to have, whether it's carpool or your parents' car or your own vehicle, you have to get 25 to 30 miles down the road to practice. I think not having somewhere for the kids to practice more locally is not a great thing. But the place that we are at has been really supportive of us and really flexible.

We went from honestly having two hours a week in the pool to this year, now we're at four and a half. We're practicing three times a week for 90 minutes. Last year we were only there two days a week for 60 minutes. We've definitely increased the amount of time the kids are in the pool. I think that's going to yield great results. In absence of a local pool, we're very thankful for the partnership we have with the Ingram YMCA.

This Northwood program hasn't had a lot of consistency between years when it comes to coaching. How important was it for you to stick around for this season and try and help develop the program from where it is now?

It was interesting to me. The juniors and the seniors last year told me they hadn't had a coach stay more than a year the whole time they were in high school. Being a former athlete myself, that was powerful to me. For the year-round swimmers, that consistency probably isn't as important, but we have a pretty decent contingent of kids on the team who are not year-round swimmers and who are coming to my practices three days a week and swimming. It was important to me to give them that consistency and that assurance that they could work hard for themselves, but also for me and for the team. That was very important to me. I'm really glad that the swimmers we have this year are getting that consistency.

You graduated eight of the 14 girls on your roster last year. Who are some swimmers on that side of the pool you're expecting to step up and lead the charge this year?

We have another large senior class this year. I think the ones to watch out for are both of the Emrich sisters, Abby and Lauren. They were finalists at states last year, and I expect them to be finalists again this year. Abby is a sophomore and Lauren is a senior. We also have another sophomore, Holly Thesing. I think she's going to be a really strong competitor at the conference, regional and state level. I think she was a consolation finalist last year at states. And then we have another senior, Bianca Perez, who went to states last year. We're expecting great things from her. A couple of our girls who made regionals for the first time are also coming back — Savannah Matthews and Bella Papendick — and we're expecting big performances from them, too.

You had a small number of boys compete last year, and you have a small team again this year. What has it been like seeing them grow?

Two of our boys graduated last year, two more boys decided to play other winter sports, and we have three new boys who joined the team who are all new students at Northwood. I'm actually really jazzed about our boys team. The three new boys we got are all year-round swimmers. Two of them are really strong, and I'm expecting to see big things from them. We did take some relays last year, and we had two boys compete at regionals, but I'm looking forward to having some boys at states this year, I think. The two boys who did return from last year are Morgan Turner and Jacob Garrett. They're at practice everyday. They've worked really hard. The team is so small, we kind of think of the boys and girls as one team, and (Morgan and Jacob) are two guys I lean on for leadership. I'm excited to see great things from them.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@jbo_vernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_vernon).

UNC's Drake Maye should still be the Heisman favorite



JEREMY VERNON
Sports Editor

North Carolina quarterback Drake Maye is currently third in odds to win the 2022 Heisman Trophy, listed as high as +650 at Caesars Sportsbook.

But should the redshirt freshman be the outright favorite with one week to go in the regular season? I think so.

Maye currently trails C.J. Stroud (+110) and Hendon Hooker (+375) in odds. While the Ohio State and Tennessee quarterbacks have had very respectable seasons, neither have been as important to their team as Maye has been to the Tar Heels.

Maye is currently third nationally in passing yards with 3,4614, which is more than either Stroud (2,991) or Hooker (3,135). He's also just one behind Stroud with 34 touchdown passes.

Where Maye has differentiated himself from the other two is in the running game. In 10 games this season, he's run for a team-high 584 yards and added five rushing touchdowns. As things stand, Maye currently has more rushing yards than Hooker and Stroud have combined (488).

While the normal stats tell part of the tale, the advanced analytics really hammer home who the clear favorite should be. According to Pro Football Focus, Maye has 38 big-time throws, more than Stroud (23) or Hooker (19). He's also only had "turnover-worthy plays" on 1.8% of his throws, which is just slightly behind Hooker (1.2%) but considerably better than Stroud (4.3%).

UNC is currently ranked No. 18 nationally at 9-2, and there's no reason to believe the Tar Heels would be nearly as good with anyone else besides Maye under center. Unlike Ohio State and Tennessee — which could likely still find a way to win games with a backup quarterback — North Carolina would be in absolute panic mode if Maye went down with an injury.

As a team, UNC ranks 121st out of 131 Division-I teams in yards allowed per game (452.9) and 104th in points allowed (30.4). Without Maye carrying the offense, the Tar Heels could very well be a 5-6 team, not one about to compete for an ACC Championship.

If Maye can lead UNC through the rest of the regular season unfazed, the title game against Clemson — scheduled for Dec. 3 — will likely determine whether or not he takes home the Heisman. A win would give him a solid shot. But even a loss shouldn't disqualify him from taking home the trophy.

Maye has had the best season of any college football player this season, and the best individual season by any UNC quarterback ever. He deserves to be recognized for that.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@jbo_vernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_vernon).

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HAWKS

Continued from page B1

something had to change. So, the second-year head coach prompted White to walk up to the scorer's table and check back in midway through the first quarter.

"(Byrd) just told me to relax, which really means a lot," White said. "For him to put me back in the game shows a lot of trust from him, which really makes me feel good."

Now back in the game, White's presence was immediately felt. She maneuvered her way through Carrboro's defense to finish two layups, tying the tilt at end of the first period.

In between quarters, Byrd altered his game plan as he looked to compliment White's newfound presence with Seaforth's defensive capabilities. Out of the brief stoppage, the Hawks extended their two-three zone past the 3-point arc and fronted passing lanes.

"There was a lot of emphasis on moving your feet and having your hands out wide to cut off passing angles," Leonard said. "We noticed as we pressed them, they got nervous so we just kept doing it."

The Jaguars' discomfort resulted in a number of Seaforth steals, allowing White to get out in transition. In the fast break, the sophomore guard displayed her full arsenal, navigating lanes to the hop and kicking out to open teammates for 3-point baskets.



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

Seaforth sophomore Gabby White (3) drives to the hoop during the Hawks' 61-38 win over Carrboro on Friday night.

"Transition is really where I like to play," White said. "I know when to pass and when to shoot. It's just how I play — it's really easy for me."

One of the beneficiaries of White's selfless play was Leonard, who canned the Hawk's first 3-pointer of the season after a transition opportunity found the first-year guard open in the corner. Even when White took a rest,

Seaforth's fast break remained potent with Leonard leading the charge. By the end of the second quarter, the Hawks had opened up a 28-11 lead.

The second half mirrored the same play seen in the first 30 minutes of action. White dazzled her way to a 15-point double-double and Collins' team-high 16 points featured a pair of second-half makes from distance. Simply put, the

Hawks' returning cast replicated performances Bryrd and his staff have come to expect.

However, the difference that allowed Seaforth to pull away from Carrboro was Leonard.

No, she wasn't the leading scorer against the Jaguars, nor did she make the flashiest of plays. But her confidence — seen both as the primary ball handler and spotting up from long range — suggests the

young guard is primed to build off her 12-point performance.

For assistant coach Antonio Hayes, he knows the team's newest addition might be the missing piece the Hawks need to propel them to new heights this year.

"(Leonard's) just an extra point guard and someone that's very talented," he said. "She gives us another level of poise."



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles.

As the commissioner, commentator and creator of the Helmet League, Anik Gupta keeps the stats and scores of every game. The Miami Dolphins currently top the standings in the league.

FAN

Continued from page B1

be the best predictor in the league."

Those predictions got him a feature story on Raleigh Spectrum News 1, then WRAL-TV and even an invite from the Ellen DeGeneres Show. Unfortunately, the Ellen appearance never happened because of COVID-19, but the legacy of Anik Gupta continued to rise.

On his channel, he's now conducted inter-

views with the likes of Gov. Roy Cooper, Buffalo Bills running back Nyheim Hines and Carolina Panthers play-by-play announcer Anish Shroff. But you'd be sorely mistaken if you think the status of these big names shook Anik's confidence.

"I'm a little terrified at first, but then I just sort of calm myself down," he said.

Anik eases his nerves with breathing exercises or reigniting his passion for the game by playing "Madden" — an NFL video game.

Before a big interview, Anik said he researches his subject and finds niche details about them — favorite teams and players and previous places of work — to make sure he asks the right questions.

A family affair

It helps that Anik has the support of his family to help his channel continue to improve. His mom, Dr. Radhika Gupta, provides the equipment, edits the videos and books all his interviews with the stars.

"When everything is done and the kids go to sleep at night I sit and do all the contacting, editing, etc.," Dr. Gupta said. "It is quite demanding, but I believe in his passion and I want to support him."

His mom also runs his channel growth strategy and is attempting to get Lil' Football Fan to 1,000 subscribers by the end of the year. She's also started posting snippets of his videos to Facebook and Instagram profiles to help increase engagement. Dr. Gupta also helped create a website for all of his content: lilfootballfan.com

"We always encourage him to think and take time with these videos," Dr. Gupta said. "If this is truly what he wants to do then we want him to give the best he can, it's about more than just shooting a video and uploading."

His dad Sachin provides the inspiration for the videos. Their conversations revolve around what games to watch for the week and the most recent top performers in the league. Anik's older sister, Anushka, is also a frequent guest on the

show. She's just as well versed in the game as Anik and is quick to add her own insights about the game into Anik's videos.

In the Gupta household, football is truly a family affair. The family even keeps its own spreadsheet to predict the outcomes of weekly games; whoever predicts the most games correctly gets to pick the dinners for the week.

For the love of the game

When he isn't in front of the camera talking football, Anik keeps up his passion for the game in other ways. He is also the commissioner, creator and commentator of the Helmet League — a league where WWE Wrestler action figures wear the helmets of different teams and act out a full football game on Anik's living room floor.

Throw pillows become the goalposts, the red floral rug becomes the 100-yard field and the two wrestlers become quarterbacks, linebackers and everyone else on the 53-man roster. Anik commentates every play, gives the players halftime speeches and even keeps the stats for his league. Currently, the Miami Dolphins and Los Angeles Chargers sit atop the standings in the Helmet League standings.

In his spare time, Gupta also plays Fantasy Football, where he's second in his division, and runs a virtual Madden franchise, where his team is 11-0. Somewhere in between all the football, he finds time to play soccer for North Caroli-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

On the wall of his room, Anik Gupta has a custom jersey painted to show off his favorite team: the New England Patriots.

na FC, and attend school as a 4th-grade student at Thales Academy in Apex.

At school, Anik said most of his friends aren't as fanatical about football as he is, so he sees the game as a sort of private passion to get excited about, and his YouTube channel — www.youtube.com/@LilFootballFan — is a way to share that passion beyond his social circles.

Anik said he'll con-

tinue to provide weekly predictions and analysis on his Lil' Football Fan channel as the season winds down. As for those predictions, he said he thinks the Super Bowl will feature a battle of the birds between the Baltimore Ravens and Philadelphia Eagles.

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Anik Gupta, 10, exudes energy and enthusiasm. That energy makes his YouTube channel, Lil' Football Fan, so successful.

EXPRESSING THANKS

This Thanksgiving, what are you most thankful for?

I am thankful for two healthy children (including our 2-week-old Emily) and our wonderful team at the Public Health Department.
**Mike Zelek, director
Chatham County Public Health Department**

I'm incredibly thankful for this wild quirky life and community here in Chatham County. I feel like we have one of the most special places in the world to live. I'm grateful for the farmers, the artists, the chefs, the small business owners, the many folks that keep this town running, the trees, the rivers and the lake. So much abundance. There is enough.
xoxoxo
**Tami Schwerin
The Plant**

This Thanksgiving, I am most thankful for my family. I was lucky enough to grow up with a large extended family and all of my greatest memories are family-centered. I love the fact that my kids are getting that same experience now. God and the love and support of my extended family, along with my wife and children, are the primary reasons for all of the good in my life.
**Rep. Robert Reives II
N.C. House, Dist. 54**

I am thankful to have lived 58 years with the wonderful people of Siler City, the surrounding countryside where my home is, and all of Chatham County. It would be remiss not to include all of North Carolina and the South. You gave me wonderful people to be my patients as I learned to practice medicine. Grand opportunities to learn about birthing babies and calving and raising the young to promising adults. You welcomed my efforts at new business, cushioned my failures and enjoyed my successes. I am most thankful for the opportunities that still beckon our combined efforts.
**Dr. John R. Dykers Jr.
Retired physician**

Now that Chatham County's dark history has been confronted, I am thankful to have the chance to help build a strong county where racial justice can be achieved. Nelson Mandela said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I am truly thankful for the opportunity to help impact change in Chatham County.
**Mary Nettles
President, Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham & Chatham Community NAACP**

I'm thankful for time with family and friends, for good health, and for the ability to work in and for an amazing community.
**Allen Baddour
Chatham/Orange County Superior Court Justice**

I am thankful for the good people in Chatham County who are working to make life better for all of us. I'm grateful for our elected officials, for people who are working for racial justice, for people addressing the climate crisis, and for all those who serve on committees and civic organizations who work to make our democracy stronger.
**Vickie Atkinson
Member, CRC-C**

I am thankful for friends and family, businesses in Chatham County and the relationships I have built, the opportunity to work for the Chatham Chamber, and for knowing that God always takes care of us.
**Cindy Poindexter
President, Chatham Chamber of Commerce**

I am thankful for each of the participants, volunteers, and staff members at the Council on Aging!

**Ashlyn Martin
Director, Chatham County Council on Aging**

This year I'm most grateful for family: my husband, our 12-year-old dog, and our small extended families. Several generations of us are scattered across the country, but this summer we enjoyed our first reunion since COVID. We're also fortunate to have dear friends going back decades, most in N.C. but elsewhere too, and have been able to enjoy time in person again this year. We're new in Chatham (a couple of years) and are enjoying our home and also getting to know the community, which has resources from native plants and farming/gardening experts to food coops and groups like CORA working to improve life for all. That's a few on a long list — and we're glad to have a strong local news source in the Chatham News + Record, too.
**Melanie Sill
Former editor, Raleigh News & Observer, Sacramento Bee**

I'm thankful that since my first Thanksgiving, circa 1960, the global rate of starvation has declined by a factor of 100. Ingenious agricultural technology made this possible even as the population grew to be almost 3x larger. I'm thankful for semi-retirement. U.S. life expectancy in 1960 was about the same as the average retirement age. Thanks to better medical knowledge and a wealthier population, a retiring person today can expect to live another 20 years. I'm thankful for the internet. In 1960 the 20-volume World Book Encyclopedia cost \$1,700 in today's dollars, updated yearly for another \$200. The internet costs \$900/year and has 5 billion times more information, updated continuously for free. An internet user can find friends among the other 6 billion internet users. A very lucky internet user could even work with colleagues all over the world from the comfort of a place they love. Let's make sure everyone is able to access the internet. Finally, although I complain because things could be better, when I remember past visits to countries with highly-corrupt and dysfunctional institutions I am profoundly thankful to be here.
**Burney Waring
President, Innovate Chatham**

I am so thankful to live in the USA where we are still allowed to worship our religious beliefs the way we choose! I am thankful for my God that is so gracious to continually forgive me of my short comings while I attempt to live a Christian life worthy of His acceptance. I am thankful for my wife of 42 and a half years. I am thankful for our four daughters, son-in-laws, and six wonderful grandchildren! My final thought is that through the years Chatham County Schools has given me the opportunity to serve its children, parents, and communities for over four decades. May God continue to Bless our families in Chatham County. Happy
**Karen Howard
Chairperson, Chatham County Board of Commissioners**

I am especially thankful this year for the opportunity to serve the children of Chatham County and support Chatham County Schools. It is truly incredible to see up close how everyone employed by the school system works so hard every single day to help our children learn and grow. I am also thankful for my husband Diego and our two little girls. They make life better than I thought possible.
**Julie Bridenstine
Chatham County Board of Education**

On this Thanksgiving, I am thankful, as always, for my loving, supportive family, especially my great-grandson, who makes my heart sing everyday. I am also immensely grateful for the opportunity to literally help shape the future of Chatham County and through the children, the world.
**Del Turner
Chatham County Board of Education**

I am thankful for our family, especially for another granddaughter, Ryann, to spoil. I am also thankful for our Chatham community for all the kind gestures that they do for each other.
**Gary Leonard
Chairperson, Chatham County Board of Education**

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am grateful to see our students and staff have the opportunity to more normal environment. Our students are thriving, and I am deeply appreciative for the help we are able to provide with social and emotional support in the wake of the pandemic. I could not ask for better colleagues than the ones I have in Chatham County Schools. Their dedication and the results they help their students achieve are qualities I appreciate every day. Watching our students develop, whether it's through academics, athletics or the Arts, is so fulfilling, and something I am so glad I have the opportunity to witness. We are fortunate to be part of a community that so strongly supports and invests in public education. Our county leaders and
**Mike Wagner
Chief, Siler City Police Department**

I am thankful for the natural beauty of Chatham County. We are incredibly lucky to live in such a gorgeous area of the planet — one with ready access to so many blue and green spaces. I encourage more residents to enjoy these features and do their part to preserve them for future generations.
**Mike Roberson
Sheriff, Chatham County**

I am grateful for the kindness and generosity of others. Chatham County was recently highlighted as the most charitable county in N.C., and I think that speaks volumes about the hearts and minds of our residents. I personally associate Chatham with a shared love of community, helpful attitudes, and unparalleled empathy ... The people here are a daily source of inspiration!
**Sara Pack
Chatham County Sheriff's Office**

Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!
**David Hamm
Chatham County Board of Education**

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I am thankful for my wife of 50 years and our kids and grandkids, and for the good health all of us enjoy. I am thankful for living in beautiful Chatham County, N.C., and I am thankful for waking up today in "the land of free, the home of the brave." Let each of us extend a helping hand to all, so that all of us may enjoy this celebration of a bountiful life.
**Rick Brownfield
Chatham County GOP**

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**Gary Leonard
Chairperson, Chatham County Board of Education**

I am grateful for the men and women of the Siler City Police Department (sworn and civilian) who remain committed to serving our community. May God continue to bless them.
**Mike Wagner
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**Sara Pack
Chatham County Sheriff's Office**

I am thankful to have been a part of a community that has had visionary leadership over the past decade that has positioned us to be ready the economic development successes we have had in 2022. I am grateful for a board that is very supportive of our staff and continues to be a resource for us. This is such an exciting time to be in Chatham County and to be a part of the significant growth and opportunities we will have going forward. I look forward to 2023 and the work we will do together to continue the momentum we now have.
**Michael Smith
President, Chatham Economic Development Corporation**

I am grateful for the spectacular colors of October, November's rain from Tropical Storm Nicole, and a routine Chatham-style election on November 8 where 65.2% of our registered voters cast their ballots. Living in Chatham is a blessing, and I was privileged to have been your County Commissioner these last eight years.
**Diana Hales
Chatham County Board of Commissioners**

I am thankful to have

partners such as the Boys & Girls Clubs and the Chatham Education Foundation have been invaluable in assisting us in providing outstanding opportunities for our students. Being part of the Chatham community has been an extremely rewarding experience. On a personal note, I am thankful for my family and good health. My grandchildren bring me pure joy every day. I am also thankful to the Chatham News + Record for providing the opportunity for so many in the community to share what is on our hearts and minds this Thanksgiving. I hopes everyone has a safe and happy holiday.
**Dr. Anthony Jackson
Superintendent, Chatham County Schools**

I am grateful for the privilege of living and working in the town of Pittsboro, where there is a true sense of community. Our residents, business owners, and visitors give their time and service to better the town, making the work day much easier.
**Colby Sawyer
Public Information Officer & Emergency Management Coordinator, Pittsboro**

I am grateful for the wonderful donations from local organizations, businesses, churches and individuals. Without those we could not serve county residents fully.
**Diane Smith
Executive Director, West Chatham Food Pantry**

On this Thanksgiving, I am thankful for American voters' defense of democracy. I look forward to greater national unity in addressing the issues important to our future. When subsequent generations celebrate Thanksgiving, I pray that they will do so in a world that is peaceful and caring.
**Dennis W. Streets
Retired director, Chatham Council on Aging**

I am grateful for the privilege of living in a democracy. I am thankful at the local level we focus on solving problems, not politics.
**Hazen Blodgett
Interim Pittsboro Town Manager**

I am grateful for my two boys and eternally grateful to the voters and community of Pittsboro, for their acceptance and for the opportunity to be a small part of such an active and informed community.
**James Vose
Pittsboro Town Commissioner**

I am thankful for my family, for my friends, for my community, and for the opportunities presented to Chatham County. May we all be happy, safe, and blessed.
**Franklin Gomez Flores
Chatham County Board of Commissioners**

I would say I'm most thankful for the men and women who work or volunteer at North Chatham Fire Department, the sacrifices that families often make when they are at work, and safety for everyone particularly during the holiday season, and a special pray for all those who loved ones are not with them to celebrate the holidays.
**John W. Strowd Jr.
Chief, North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department**

I am thankful to have

grew up with World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans. It gave me a deep appreciation for our freedom and the high price that was paid so that we can have a Thanksgiving. I am thankful that I have been privileged to serve as a Siler City Commissioner and hope I have been able to contribute in a meaningful way for the betterment of the town. It's a scary thought to me, that I lived, but was not able to make someone's life better.
**Curtis Brown
Siler City Commissioner**

This year I am thankful to call Siler City home and be a part of this growing community while we prepare for the future development of our town.
**Hank Raper
Town Manager, Siler City**

I am thankful for the privilege of living and working in the town of Pittsboro, where there is a true sense of community. Our residents, business owners, and visitors give their time and service to better the town, making the work day much easier.
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**Dennis W. Streets
Retired director, Chatham Council on Aging**

I am thankful for COVID vaccines and boosters. I know the virus continues to spread and evolve, but the data is very clear that vaccines and boosters work. We are so lucky that we live in space and time of such medical advancements. I am also forever thankful of my teammates here at UNC Health Chatham. They are an incredibly skilled and dedicated group and remain committed to Siler City and Chatham County.
**Eric Wolak
Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Officer, UNC Health Chatham**

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**John W. Strowd Jr.
Chief, North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department**

Mountaire's 'Thanksgiving for Thousands'



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Shane New, a processing supervisor at Mountaire Farms, left, and Chris Gegorek load boxes of food into a trailer. Saturday's event saw volunteers pack around 10,000 boxes of food at the company's Siler City location.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Boxes loaded with frozen turkeys are moved down an assembly line and stuffed with food during Mountaire Farms' 'Thanksgiving for Thousands' event in Siler City.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Volunteers stand ready to organize food into boxes at the Mountaire Farms' 'Thanksgiving for Thousands' event on Saturday.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Kevin Perez carries cans of corn from a pallet of food to be organized by volunteers at Mountaire Farms in Siler City on Saturday.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Mountaire Farms management trainee Julia Henneke wraps food slated to be donated at the company's Siler City location.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Shane New, a processing supervisor at Mountaire Farms, loads boxes of food into a car Saturday during the company's food distribution in Siler



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Volunteers and Mountaire Farms employees are framed by pallets holding boxes of food ready to be donated to families in need. On Saturday, volunteers packed around 10,000 boxes of food at Mountaire Farms' Siler City location.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Sage Coykendall, left, shoves cardboard into a trash bin during Mountaire Farms' 'Thanksgiving for Thousands' event in Siler City on Saturday.



Don't Feed the Grease Goblin!

DO

- ✓ Put oil and grease in collection containers
- Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment and food preparation areas with scrapers/towels/brooms
- ✓ Keep grease out of wash water
- ✓ Place food scraps in collection containers

DO NOT

- Pour oil and grease down drains
- Wash fryers/griddles, pots/pans and plates with water until oil and grease are removed
- Use hot water to rinse grease off surfaces Put food scraps down drains



¡No Alimente a el Duende de Grasa!

SI

- ✓ Ponga la grasa en contenedores apropiados
- Remueva el aceite y la grasa de utensilios de cocina, equipos, y areas de preparación de comidas con espátulas/toallas/escobas
- ✓ Mantenga la grasa fuera de el agua de lavar
- ✓ Ponga los desperdicios de comida en contenedores adecuados

NO

- No tire aceite o grasa en los drenajes
- No lave con agua freidora/planchas, ollas,cacerolas y platos hasta que el aceite y la grasa hayan sido removidos
- No use aua caliente para limpiar la grasa de las superficies
- No tire desperdicios de comida en los drenajes

Children's Business Fair at Mosaic



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Ally Friedman, 9, frolics with other children during the Children's Business Fair at Mosaic in Chatham Park two Saturdays ago. The event was designed for children to experiment with entrepreneurship by launching a business for a one-day sale.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Isaiah Sanders, 5, stops to look at items at McKenna's Art booth at Children's Business Fair at Chatham Park. The events saw dozens of vendors and shoppers congregate at Mosaic.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Sophia Grimes, 11, and Daniel Grimes, 9, talk with a customer at their booth, Buddy's Treats, which sells snacks for humans and pets.



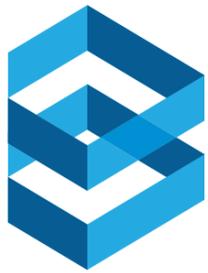
Staff photo by James Kiefer

Marion Jacobs, 10, (left) and Iris Jacobs, 6, survey the crowd at Mosaic during the recent Children's Business Fair. The event was designed for children to experiment with entrepreneurship by launching a business for a one-day sale.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Phillip Thompson passes cash to Iris Jacobs, 6, after purchasing an item at her booth during the recent Children's Business Fair.



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HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

From parades to tree lightings, here's how to celebrate the season in Chatham

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

It's November, which means it's officially acceptable to start playing Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You."

And as the pumpkins get packaged away and the Christmas wreaths are pulled out, Chatham County residents have a plethora of activities in the area to choose from to get into the holiday spirit and reap all that the season's festivities have to offer.

From parades and tree lightings to artisan fairs and cooking classes, we've compiled this list of events across the county to mark the upcoming holidays. Here's what you need to know.

Thursday, Nov. 24

• For the first time, the Quiltmaker Café is holding a **Pay-What-You-Can Thanksgiving dinner** in partnership with the Postal Fish Company and the Travelling Café. It'll take place from 1 to 3 p.m. The family-style dinner, hosted at the Postal Fish Co. in Pittsboro, will feature Thanksgiving classics and include some vegetarian and gluten-free options. Space is limited to 50 guests, and free registration is available at eventbrite.com/e/thanksgiving-dinner-registration-449706523317, though attendees can also register with a pay-what-you-can donation or make a pay-what-you-can contribution on the day of the event.

Friday, Nov. 25

• Choose and cut a Christmas tree from the **Jordan Lake Christmas Tree Farm**. Reservations are required to visit the farm during Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 25-27) and the following weekend (Dec. 3-4), and are needed even if picking up a tree that was previously tagged. The farm in Apex is offering fresh cut N.C. Fraser firs, N.C. white pines, Concolor firs, table-top Fraser firs, fresh wreaths and more. Visitors will also have the chance to check out a Christmas Shop with locally-made and -sourced items, en-

joy snacks from a concession stand featuring hot mini donuts, apple cider and hot chocolate, and participate in hayrides. There will also be a bounce house for kids. Check out jordanlakechristmas.com for more details on hours of operations, pricing and how to book a reservation.

Saturday, Nov. 26

• Attend the Bynum Front Porch's **Holiday Bazaar** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Pittsboro for a day featuring local artists, pottery and crafts. Sales benefit educational grants for Chatham County students part of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) college readiness system.

• The Pittsboro Business Association is hosting a **Small Business Saturday** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to support independent businesses in downtown Pittsboro. The day features special sales, refreshments, Shop Small Passports and a raffle, and free gift wrapping will be available at the Pittsboro Welcome Center.

• Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge, an animal sanctuary in Pittsboro, is holding a **Day with the Turkeys Tour & Explore**. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., take part in turkey-themed activities, including trivia, a raffle, treat bowls for the sanctuary's turkeys, and one-time holiday turkey sponsorships. Attendees can also meet more than 100 farm animals and tour the refuge's grounds. The Refuge offers sliding scale tickets; previously tickets cost \$15, but this month are ranging from free to \$40 in price.

• The Travelling Café Culinary Studio in Pittsboro is hosting a **Flourless Holiday Cake Workshop** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Try making cakes from around the world with desserts safe for those with gluten-free dietary restrictions. Participants can register for a ticket online at eventbrite.com/e/incredible-flourless-holiday-cake-workshop-tickets-444823959437?aff=ebdssbdestsearch; tickets cost \$75 for general admission and \$10

for a wine ticket.

Sunday, Nov. 27

• Visit the Inn at Celebrity Dairy's **Holiday Open Barn** from 1 to 4 p.m. for the chance to grab photos with goats dressed in holiday attire, enjoy tours of the farm, sample products made on the farm and partake in other activities for kids. The Siler City farm will also have cheeses, fudge, soap, gelato, logo shirts and sweatshirts available for attendees to the holiday open barn. Tickets, which cost \$10 each, are available at eventbrite.com/e/holiday-open-barn-tickets-469997253437.

Friday, Dec. 2

• Take the kids out for a **Supper with Santa** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Earl B. Fitts Community Center in Siler City. Enjoy a to-go boxed dinner and a holiday craft kit, as well as photo opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Attendees are required to have a ticket, which can be purchased for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children online at secure.rec1.com/NC/siler-city-cmNoPTIyNDgzODM or in person at City Hall. The deadline to buy tickets is Nov. 25 or until the event is full, and space is limited.

Saturday, Dec. 3

• The Union Taylors Community Center is holding Chatham's first **Interfaith Holiday Thrift Market** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Taylors Chapel Baptist Church in Sanford. The community center is directly accepting donations at their Bear Creek site through Nov. 30; to schedule a donation drop, call (919)-545-1812. Donations will benefit the community center's purchase of a new HVAC system. For more details on what the community center is looking for, visit www.oneunitedchatham.com/donate-items.

• The Mosaic at Chatham Park and United Way of Chatham County are partnering for an afternoon with holiday vendors, local artisans, food trucks and a Christmas tree lot. **The Holiday Festival**,

held at Mosaic, will be from 2 to 5 p.m., and attendees will get the chance to meet and snap photos with the Grinch. A number of United Way's nonprofit partners will also be in attendance, including Chatham County 4-H, Chatham County Council on Aging, Love Chatham, Chatham Literacy, Chatham Trades, West Chatham Food Pantry, CORA Food Pantry and the Boys and Girls Club of Pittsboro.

• Go on a **candlelit tour of the decorated Alston House** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Sanford. The House in the Horseshoe site will be dressed in greenery for the season, and guided tours will focus on Christmas practices, celebrations and traditions from the 18th century. Tickets, which are limited, cost \$8 each and tours take place every 15 minutes. Visit eventbrite.com/e/o-blessed-season-candlelight-tours-tickets-449797495417 for tickets.

• St. Julia Catholic Church is hosting the **Celebration of Lights**, a fundraiser for Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy, from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. The event will feature live music and a bilingual Christmas message as well as the opportunity to drive through hundreds of luminaries. Admission is free, but luminaries can be bought for \$10 each to honor loved ones and all proceeds will be used for prescription drug purchases dispensed to patients at the pharmacy.

• Join Starrlight Mead, a meadery located in the Chatham Beverage District at The Plant in Pittsboro, for its annual **Community Solstice Party** from 6 to 9 p.m. The celebration includes a raffle, food pantry donation bin, optional bring-and-take pagan present table, drum circle and potluck

snacks, in addition to a family-friendly ritual presented by the Triangle Wednesday Kindred.

Sunday, Dec. 4

• From noon to 4 p.m., the town of Pittsboro is holding a **First Sunday Artisan Fair**, featuring food, crafts and music. The Chatham Historical Museum, as well as shops and restaurants in town, plan to host special events.

Thursday, Dec. 8

• The **Siler City Christmas Parade** will be held at 7 p.m., with its theme of "Christmas: Past, Present, and Future." Santa will visit with attendees in the courtyard after the parade. For information, go to ccucc.net.

Friday, Dec. 9

• Chatham Parks and Recreation is marking the holidays with the fourth annual **Holiday in the Park** celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. This free event at Northwest District Park in Siler City includes a tree lighting ceremony, picture opportunities with Santa, holiday-themed games and crafts, warm drinks and candy canes, caroling performances, letters to Santa and a hayride around the pond. The tree lighting will kick off the event at 5:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10

• Sign your kids up for a **Kids Holiday Craft Workshop** hosted by the Farm at Piper Hill in Silk Hope from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a day of reconnecting with nature and participating in arts and crafts. Kids will also get a chance to feed and play with animals, go on a hayride and snack on warm cocoa and cookies by the bonfire. There will be a staged area by the barn to grab a family picture.

A waiver must be signed for each family, and the farm asks that children bring a packed lunch. The workshop is limited to those ages 8-12, and costs \$75 per participant. The rain date for the event is Dec. 11. Visit farmatpiperhill.wufoo.com/forms/mn-vy7f1letcq5l to register.

Sunday, Dec. 11

• **Pittsboro's Holiday Parade**, with marching bands, handmade floats, dance teams, horse-drawn wagons and more, takes place from 3 to 4 p.m. The parade will move from east to west along U.S. Hwy. Business 64.

Thursday, Dec. 15

• Shop, dine and see downtown Pittsboro lit by luminaria from 3 to 7 p.m. for the **Pittsboro by Luminaria** event. Catch performances by strolling Victorian carolers.

Saturday, Dec. 17

• Partake in a **Christmas Village Around the Loop** in Haywood at 438 Moncure Loop Rd., Moncure. The event, from noon to 4 p.m., includes shopping, a holiday sleigh wagon, Santa Station and Kids Zone, and special food vendors, such as Seven Springs Winery, Vicious Fishes Brewery, Que's Ribs and Brisket, Favors Desserts and Stephanie's Philly Steak and Cheese. The celebration is free to attend but interested individuals can register at eventbrite.com/e/christmas-village-around-the-loop-in-haywood-tickets-459983421797?aff=ebdssbdestsearch or contact Karen Cheek at (919)-770-2089 for more information.

Do you have a holiday event you'd like to add to this list? Send it to [Maydha Devarajan at \[Maydha.Devarajan@chathamnc.com\]\(mailto:Maydha.Devarajan@chathamnc.com\)](mailto:Maydha.Devarajan@chathamnc.com)

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Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

DANG! I ALWAYS GET MY FINGERS STUCK IN THE JAR!

HURRY UP, FRANK! I WANT TO GET THERE BEFORE ALL THE COURTS ARE TAKEN!

THEY KNOW THAT PICKLEBALL DOESN'T MEAN PLAYING WITH ACTUAL PICKLES, RIGHT?

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

THANKSGIVIN' WOULD BE A BETTER HOLIDAY IF IT HAD CANDY LIKE EASTER AND HALLOWEEN DO.

THANKSGIVIN' DOES HAVE CANDY, JUNE.

I'M STILL FINDIN' CANDY CORN IN THE COUCH CUSHIONS FROM HALLOWEEN!

EW, DAD! EW!

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

KNOCK KNOCK WHO'S THERE?

AYATOLLAH.

AYATOLLAH WHO?

AYATOLLAH YOU ALREADY.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

THIS TREADMILL IS JUST NOT USER-FRIENDLY. THERE'S NO DRINK HOLDER FOR SODA OR PLACE FOR MY NACHOS.

CRIM BEAR IT

"The Pilgrim kids didn't get a toy with their Happy Meal, Otis!"

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

PLAYING A ROUND

ACROSS

1 Willing to go along with it
9 Lyric work
12 It follows pi
15 Swindle
19 Receiving steady pay
20 Extreme agitation
22 Woman
23 Golf tee shot that goes down a mountain cliff?
25 Sheriff Taylor's boy
26 Leaking goop
27 Suffix with hero
28 "Ho-hum"
29 Harder to find
30 Pretty soon
33 Brilliant golf shot?
38 Big continent
40 Outfielder
41 Slaughter
42 Yearning to play golf again?
47 Bell's ring
48 Your and my
51 Red as —
52 Scarf down
53 Gift topper
54 Singer Fisher
56 Crater parts
57 Eye sore

58 Young woman who's very skilled with metal golf clubs?
60 CBS series set in Vegas
61 "I never — purple cow ..."
62 Actress Dunham
64 Tennis star Andre
65 Precious gem hidden among a golf course's long grass?
70 Immediately
72 — buco
73 In addition
74 Sigh of relief
77 Amazingly executed approach shot that a golfer recalls often?
80 "I Shot Andy Warhol" actress Taylor
81 Lhasa —
82 Circus venue
83 Muffin grain
84 Tot's batting game
86 Food intakes
87 Bellite, in hip-hop
88 Cafe freebie

90 Goller's cry when a would-be one-under-par shot almost goes in the hole?
92 Sheep group
93 Foal's mother
94 Tears on foot
95 Lettuce or spinach cultivated in a golf putting area?
101 One of the Twin Cities
105 Bolt variety
106 Cattle call
107 Jackie's "O"
109 Height: Prefix
110 Elliptical
111 No matter how an errant golf shot is made?
117 Walk in shallow water
118 — Boys (rap trio)
119 Thrombocyte
120 Winter glider
121 Mag workers
122 Likely (to)
123 Special outdoor mall event

3 Doolittle of "Pygmalion"
4 Places for warships
5 Is plural?
6 Life story, in brief
7 Jeans maker Strauss
8 Idyllic places
9 Slugger Mel
10 "Obviously!"
11 In advance of
12 Bronc riding event
13 Pompous
14 Corrida yell
15 2017 U.S. Open winner
16 — pants
17 Kin of "Ciao!"
18 Clinton aide
21 Viral videos, e.g.
24 On social Sec., say
29 Group of amateur sports teams playing for fun
31 "— really true?"
32 Stannite yield
34 Brand of lens solution
35 Like spud-peeling GIs
36 Boxing stats
37 Damsel

39 Tot's "terrible" time
42 With 2-Down, stand-up comic who co-starred on Netflix's "GLOW"
43 Heron cousin
44 Rounded roof halves
45 — egg (flop)
46 Native suffix
47 In addition
48 Having an irregular form
49 Road 180s
50 Italian painter
53 Male bud
55 From corner to corner: Abbr.
57 Lacking in variety, informally
58 Grooving on
59 Native Kiwi
61 Christian rite
62 Speech flaw
63 USNA grad
66 A part of
67 "Get going!"
68 Actress Blunt
69 Hair curler
70 In — rush
71 Actress Garr
75 Spumante
76 Stockings
78 Sentenced to punishment

79 Cap
80 Testing site
81 Often-restricted flying zones
84 Banks of fashion
85 Telly network, with "the"
86 By — of (due to)
89 Hip-hop mogul Gotti
90 Belfry filer
91 Urban vehicle
92 Followed closely, as a dog
93 Cat calls
95 Gets bigger
96 Opponent
97 Sidestep
98 Works by painter Francisco
99 Thai tongue
100 Explode
102 Amtrak train
103 An archangel
104 Singer
108 Atoll unit
111 1860s prez
112 — glance
113 Quick bark
114 Despite that
115 Multiple-PC system
116 "Addams Family" cousin

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19									20		21					22			
23							24									25			
26							27				28				29				
30						31	32		33		34	35	36			37			
						38			39						41				
42	43	44					45	46				47				48	49	50	
51							52					53				54	55		
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						65	66								68	69			
70	71											73					74	75	76
77																			
82																			
87																			
95	96	97																	
105																			
110																			
117																			
120																			

DOWN

1 "Likewise"
2 See 4-Down

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

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Pictured: Cathy Baker



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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MAGIC MAZE ● COW WORDS

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

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

- | | | | |
|----------|------------|---------|---------|
| Coward | Cowboy | Cowhand | Cowpeas |
| Cowbell | Cowcatcher | Cowhide | Cowpoke |
| Cowberry | Cowfish | Cowlick | Scows |
| Cowbird | Cowgirl | Cowling | |

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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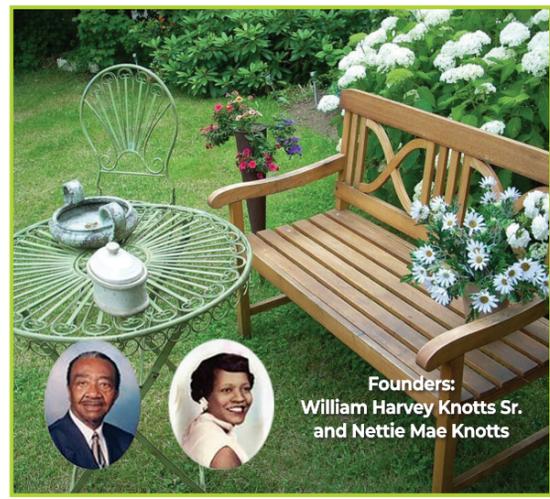
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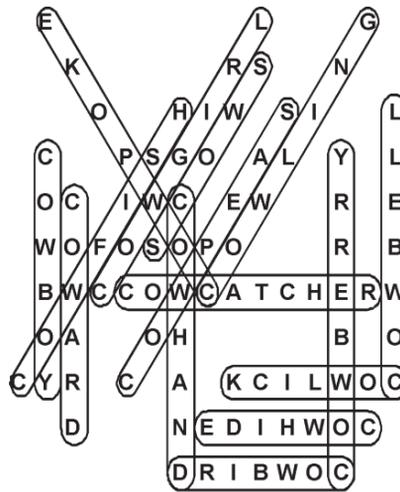
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COW WORDS



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

The waste of it all



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Here's some stuff that makes me madder than the near-sighted snake who married a garden hose: Shoe sales that never have any size 10's.

Evil incarnate Carmen, who keeps calling about lowering my credit card interest rate.

Those ridiculous choreographed pantomimes that NFL players have started doing after a touchdown.

And finally, waste — opportunities, potential, passion, and, worst of all, food.

You wanna hear some horrific facts? Forty percent of the food produced in the U.S. is never eaten. It's thrown away. That's around 250 pounds per person per year. Globally, 4 billion tons of food is wasted each year. More than half of all shoppers buy more food than they need. What's almost criminal is that fact that they know they're doing it at the time of purchase.

You may think that the little bit you throw away doesn't add up to very much. But the average family of four loses at least \$1,500 a year this way.

It's actually not that hard to reduce the amount of waste each household produces. The biggest tip I can give you is to stop making more food than you need. When I was first married, I had no idea how to cook for two. I was used to cooking for an Italian four, which is an anyone else's 12. I couldn't understand why that five-pound meatloaf didn't get eaten up before it got furry.

If the food doesn't make good leftovers, you don't want



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Turkey lasagna — a great way to use your turkey leftovers.

it hanging around. If, on the other hand it reheats well, and would make a lunch that you'd actually take to work and eat, go for it. When you're cleaning up after that original dinner, portion it out and wrap it for brown bagging. If you won't get to it for more than four days, label then freeze it.

And your freezer is your best ally in the quest to quell waste. Don't throw out old crackers, chips and bread. Dump it all into a zip-top bag, throw it in the chill chest, and when you need breadcrumbs, breadier or such, take it out, season it according to food and mood, grind it finely in a food processor, then toast it at 300 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Only make as much as you need, and if it's touched raw meat, toss it.

Have another bag for left-

over veggies. When you have enough, make soup or use it for stuffing peppers, or pork chops, or any other stuff-able stuff. Freeze extra pancakes, cooked pasta, rice, or potatoes. Once you have a nice assortment in suspended animation you could make a meal solely from the Frigidaire.

If Thanksgiving's at your place, you're going to have leftovers. The turkey can be used in place of chicken in any dish. Make tacos, or pot pie, or white chili. I've included a recipe that I invented when I had more leftover turkey than a small village should have. And don't forget the mandatory sandwich before bed (well, mandatory for me, anyway).

So, think about how you shop, cook, how your family eats, and figure out workable methods to eliminate food

Turkey, Pea & Kale Lasagna

For the Lasagna:

- 15 no-boil lasagna noodles, or more, if necessary
- 3 to 4 cups shredded turkey
- 12 ounces frozen peas, thawed and drained
- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup coarsely grated Swiss or Gruyere cheese
- 1 cup chicken stock
- ¾ cup panko breadcrumbs

For the sauce:

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 4 large cloves of garlic, diced finely
- 1 shallot diced
- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, minced
- 1 teaspoon dry thyme
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoon kosher salt (or to taste)
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 5 cups dairy (I use 4 ½ cups skim, and ½ cup heavy cream)
- 1 cup frozen chopped kale thawed, with the water squeezed out.

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add garlic and shallots, sauté about 1 minute stirring frequently.

Whisk in flour, herbs and salt. Cook for 1-2 minutes.

Add the milk, a cup at a time, whisking smooth after each addition and allowing it to thicken before adding next cup. When all the milk is in, and it starts to gently bubble, remove from heat, and stir in kale.

Grease 9x13 pan with cooking spray (or 2-8X8's).

Cover bottom of pan with lasagna noodles (if needed, use broken pieces to fill), half of the chicken, peas, and Parmesan, 1/3 cup stock, and 1 ½ cups sauce (if using 8X8's just cut all measurements in half and fill both dishes at the same time).

Repeat this layer once more.

Lastly, top with third layer of noodles, the rest of sauce and stock, and all the cheese.

Spray underside of a piece of foil with cooking spray. Cover casserole with foil and bake 40 minutes.

Remove foil. If you need to at this point, use paper towels and blot up any grease on top. Sprinkle evenly with breadcrumbs, and bake until top is golden brown and bubbly and internal temp in center is 165 degrees (approx. 15-25 minutes).

Let stand 15 minutes before slicing. Serves 8.

waste.

Then next year, instead of losing sleep getting up before dawn and losing your mind in the Black Friday Thunderdome to score a Barbie dream house for 25% off, you've saved enough money to pay for all

the Christmas gifts, plus shoes for yourself (you've earned them).

And instead of retail mayhem, you get to sleep.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.



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



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