

Chatham News + Record

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THE UNITED WAY'S EVOLUTION

Agency taking a more active role in addressing Chatham's most pressing needs

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

The United Way of Chatham County has been serving the county as an independent affiliate of the national United Way for nearly four decades. But its mission had a fundamental shift in the last year that coincided with changes and growth within Chatham itself.

"For the seven years now that I've been working here, we've been hearing 'change is coming, change is com-

ing,'" said Katie Childs, who became executive director of the UWCC two years ago after working earlier for the organization in a support staff role. "Well, change is now here. So how do we respond that?"

That question was central in conversations the UWCC's board had while engaged in strategic planning work during 2022 — looking, too, at how COVID-19 changed the needs inside Chatham County, and how existing nonprofits were adapting

during tumultuous times.

Addressing critical needs

The United Way's mission had been simply to increase the financial and human resources available to Chatham residents through its partnering agencies. It did that — and still does that — with an extended annual fundraising effort through businesses, neighborhoods and individuals, generating donations as an umbrella

organization serving 15 local nonprofits, including the Boys & Girls Clubs, Communities In Schools, Chatham County 4-H, the Salvation Army and Chatham Literacy Council.

As part of this evolution, Childs said, "we dropped the first part" — which focused primarily on fundraising and grant-making — and instead homed in on a simple objective.

"Our new mission is to See **AGENCY**, page A3



Photo courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

Katie Childs, United Way's executive director.

CAMARADERIE & REVVING ENGINES

Chapel Ridge's Classic Car Club aims to unite community through cars

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When Chris Tighe and his wife, Debbie Zastocki, moved to Chapel Ridge from New Jersey two years ago, they brought along their prized four-door, bright blue with white trim 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Station Wagon.

And when Shayne O'Neill queried neighbors through the Chapel Ridge newsletter about interest in starting a classic car club there, Tighe and Zastocki — she'd owned the '57 wagon since first receiving her driver's license — jumped at the chance.

"We managed to gather — all through email — around 20 people who were interested," Tighe said. "So this thing's basically just getting rolling."

The Chapel Ridge Classic Car Club met for the first time just before Thanksgiving, and O'Neill said it gave classic car owners in the community a chance to connect about their shared interest in vintage vehicles.



Courtesy of Chris Tighe

Chris Tighe stands with his wife, Debbie Zastocki, in front of their 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Station Wagon at a car show in New Jersey.

"We counted somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 classic cars in Chapel Ridge, which is a pretty good nucleus to start with," O'Neill said. "A number of people turned out — we had

people who had classic cars and they drove them up there. We had people who were in the process of buying a classic car, and they just wanted to pick our brains for what they should do."

Classic cars are deemed as such by their age: at least 20 to 25 years old. Their owners sometimes go to extreme lengths to restore them, usually with the goal of making them look even better

than the day the cars were wheeled off the factory floor.

Restoring these cars usually requires a specific level of expertise that everyday mechanics don't have — upholsterers, specialist mechanics and more. Tighe said that's why a classic car club is important: among other things, it allows members to share who they go to when they need help in

See **CARS**, page A9



6 OVER 60

Chatham News + Record

COA, News + Record to launch '6 over 60'

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The North Carolina State Demographer's Office indicated that in 2022, Chatham County was home to the 10th-highest percentage of population over the age of 65.

With explosive growth on tap in Chatham, that number only stands to increase exponentially in the coming years. For the county to realize its full potential, the 28% of its residents which fall into that category will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping its future.

Given that age does not have to be a limiting factor in authoring a meaningful contribution to the cultural, civic and community discourse, the Chatham County Council on Aging and the Chatham News + Record are partnering to launch an annual effort recognizing the best of these with the inaugural "6 over 60" award.

Nominated by the public and identified by a five-member selection committee, six award

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SHE ENJOYED 'THE DAILY GRIND'

Former Commissioner Diana Hales reflects on her eight years serving Chatham

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Few people in Chatham County have as much knowledge about the intricacies and nuances of local government as Diana Hales.

During her eight years as Chatham County Commissioner, the now-75-year-old Hales oversaw historic changes that will affect the future trajectory of the county. From the removal of the

Confederate monument in front of the Pittsboro Courthouse to paving the way for the likes of Vin-Fast and WolfSpeed to change the economic future of the region, she voted on plenty of headline-making moments.



Hales

But to her, it isn't those headline moments that define her

two terms in office, but rather what Hales calls "the daily grind." The things people don't see — like the rezoning requests and tax policy changes — are what excited Hales about local government.

As Karen Howard, chairperson of the Chatham Commissioners, said at Hales' final board meeting, "All the things we all value about Chatham but many of us take for granted," Howard said, "Diana has had the foresight and fortitude

to stand up and defend those things."

Among her colleagues on the board, Hales earned notoriety for sending lengthy Sunday night email messages before Monday board meetings. Each was chock full of questions about agenda items and ideas for improving policies. Her colleagues also revered her as doing "the yeoman's share" of the work on the board through a keen

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

• **Siler City's City Hall** is currently under renovation. The Planning and Community Development Department is now located on the first floor and can be accessed through the front door to City Hall (door facing North Second Avenue). Public parking is available in the town parking lot located along the 100 block of East 3rd Street (parking lot is located between North 2nd Avenue and North Chatham Avenue).

• **Chatham Community Library** to Present Virtual Film Screening: Uphill All the Way; In recognition of Mental Wellness Month in January, Chatham Community Library will host a virtual film screening of Uphill All the Way (2000). This program is free and open to the public, Thursday, January 12 - Thursday, January 19, a Virtual Program. This is the astounding true story of five troubled teenage girls who face the challenge of their lives. Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning Thursday, January 12, by visiting <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/uphill-all-the-way-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window. Residents may also visit the libraries' website www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the Library at (919) 545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for more information on this and other events and programs.

• **Chatham County Public Libraries** to host Winter Reading BINGO Challenge - Children and teens are invited to participate at all Chatham County Public Libraries branches from January 3 through February 11. The Challenge, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to youth ages 2 thru 18. Readers participate by picking up a reading BINGO sheet at their local library branch and completing a 5-in-a-row BINGO to earn a free book (one book per participant, while supplies last). All readers who complete at least one BINGO will be entered into a drawing for a \$50

Gift Card to McIntyre's Books. For more information about the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge, or other youth events and programs at the Public Libraries, contact youth.services@chathamlibraries.org or visit www.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 Conservation Contests web page under the Education Programs link, www.chathamcountync.gov/swcd.

• **CORA will hold its 11th annual Empty Bowls Event** on Sunday, March 19, at Galloway Ridge. Tickets will go on sale in February. They are now requesting in-kind donations of pottery for this event. Please include business cards or brochures with your pottery to be displayed at the event. They ask that all pottery be donated to CORA by January 20, and if you need it to be picked up, get in touch with Rebecca at rebecca@corafoodpantry.org or 919-491-5896.

• **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 fol-

lowing 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://chatham-history.org>.

• **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.

• **Second Bloom** will be closed for the holidays on New Years Eve. Our winter hours are from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday until Saturday. Credit cards are accepted. We are located at 630 E. Street, Pittsboro, in the Food Lion shopping center. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

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

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

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

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

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

SCOUT NEWS

• **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstrop93.org for more information.

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

News + Record's offices for New Year's Day holiday

The News + Record's offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, for the New Year's Day holiday.

Ad deadline for the Jan. 5-11 edition is noon on Friday, Dec. 30. Email advertising@chathamnr.com for advertising-related questions and news@chathamnr.com for news tips and to

share stories with the newspaper's newsroom. Newsroom staff will be working remotely on Monday, Jan. 2.

Many local businesses and government offices and offices of local service providers will be closed all or part of Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day.



The Tri-County Ruritan Club would like to thank everyone for their attendance and participation in the Christmas in Bennett Celebration.

We wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

Our Christmas tree was decorated with red bows in Honor and Memory of: Judy Anderson, Frog & Donna Applewhite, Cathryn Bennett, Gurney & Nancy Brady, Bunn Brewer, Nellie Brewer, Linda Brewer, Junior (Albert) Brown, Bobby Cardwell, Billy Champion, Jimmy Cox, Linda Cox, Evelyn & Raymond Cress, Irene Davis, Milton Dillingham, Josh Toby Dixon, Lillian Ferree, Eugene & Maggie Frye, Burl Frye, Danny Handcock Sr, Calvin & Betty Hayes, Leslie Hayes, Nancy Hicks, Bonnie Hill, Travis Hill, Margie Hussey, Boob Hussey, Alfred & Linda Hussey, Kinney Hussey, John & Lena Jones, Howard Jones, Treva May Kidd, Minnie & Hamp Kivett, Farrell & Ellen Lambert, Eugene Maness, Judy Maness, Peggy Minton, Ethel & Albert Monroe, Jimmy Payne, Peggy Phillips, Lewis Poe, Tess Purdue, Ocia Purvis, Lennie Purvis, Lottie Purvis, Becky Routh, Robert Sicklebaugh, Dixie Smith, Linda Staley, Bobby Thomerson, Clyde & Vada Wallace, Lee Weidner, John White, Rhonda, Rebecca & Teresa, Mimi & Papa

How did you LAND here?



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

LAND (Representing Sellers) 20 units

- 1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)
- 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
- 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
- 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
- 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
- 4831 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres)
- 1571 Lydia Perry Road (3.007 Acres)
- 208 Stonewall Road (3.810 Acres)
- 1456 Hadley Mill Road (28.353 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)
- 00 Moons Chapel Road (86.599 Acres)
- 0 Alston Chapel Road (10.23 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 0 US 64 Hwy W (11.396 Acres)
- 0 George Brooks Lane (10 Acres)

LAND (Representing Buyers) 4 Units

- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 0 US 64 Hwy W (11.396 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) 22 Units

- 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)
- 7 45 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)
- 5975 Pleasant Hill Church Road (Siler City)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 8 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)
- 650 Half Dollar Road (Chapel Hill)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

LAND (Representing Sellers) 6 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 Callicutt Road (60.376 Acres)

Residential (Representing Sellers) 1 Unit

- 2955 Dewitt Smith Road (Pittsboro)

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



Is it Difficult to Buy a Foreclosure?

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



CAROLINA PROPERTIES
919-542-0523

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 For RWCP Property Management Call
Jennifer 919-545-9405
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919-545-9911

CHURCH NEWS

HOLLAND CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH

The New Year Watch Night service will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, at Holland Chapel AME Zion Church. Our guest will be recording

artist Sanina Barber.

Our New Year Day worship service will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1, in the church auditorium.

All are welcome to either or both of these events.

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AGENCY

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address the most critical needs of Chatham County residents — period,” she said.

“So that puts us in a much more active role than just raising money and making grants with that money,” Childs explained. “It really puts us in this central position to offer catalytic leadership to really move the needle on those needs.”

The shift was both strategic and necessary, she said, because local United Way agencies and other nonprofits are “so overwhelmed” trying to meet the basic needs of their own clients and raising funds from other sources to keep the doors open.

“There’s no capacity left for any one of them to step forward and say, you know, housing is an issue, or homelessness is an issue, or food insecurity or equitable youth education opportunities are issues,” Childs said — meaning, she added, no single entity is assigned the responsibility for the most pressing needs at any given moment.

“So that’s how we envision the United Way’s role changing in this new wave of development,” she said. “We envisioned ourselves becoming more of an active participant and an active leader in the coordination of addressing community needs.”

Childs emphasizes the United Way isn’t a service provider like the CORA Food Pantry or El Futuro or Chatham Cares Pharmacy, also among the agencies it helps fund.

“We don’t deliver service in any way,” she said. “But we can financially support those who are — and then we can coordinate some consolidated efforts around truly trying to move the needle on some big goals.”

And right now, that need involves housing and serving the homeless.

Driving the homeless effort

Chatham County’s affordable housing shortage is well-documented. And while the housing market has cooled slightly, earlier in 2022 the median price for homes being sold in the county hit \$600,000 — for many, an unimaginable number in a county where two-thirds of renters earn less than 80% of the federally-defined average median income.

Earlier in 2022, the UWCC was approached by community members and Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, at the time Chatham County government’s policy analyst, about helping to facilitate a new housing and homelessness “working group.” In the meantime, Watkins-Cruz left the county — she’s now director of housing policy at the North Carolina Housing Coalition in Durham — and the county has begun work to develop its own formal housing division. That left the working group on its own, in a way, to address housing and homelessness.

And with a knowledge gap when it came to knowing exactly what to do next.

Childs said some members of the working group — which now numbers more than 70 people from two dozen organizations — met with a consulting group called Partners for Impact, which is helping to lead housing cooperatives in other N.C. counties. Chatham County agreed to help fund the consultant’s involvement, and the United Way is helping to manage the work and coordinate with partnering groups. Those groups include Love Chatham and the Salvation Army of Chatham County — both of which have been heavily engaged in providing assistance for Chatham’s homeless population — and other groups like Central Piedmont Community Action, Chatham Hospital, Second Bloom, the Chatham Sheriff’s Office, Habitat for Humanity and the county’s already-formed Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Those involved says it’s hard to put an exact number on Chatham’s homeless population, which have been aided with temporary housing through help from Love Chatham and the Salvation Army.

A “robust” count is planned for January, but for right now the working group is busy. It was awarded federal and local grants including \$40,000 from Housing & Urban Development and \$10,000 from Chatham County to hire a Street Outreach Coordinator whose job is to increase the ability of those in need to connect with vital local services through the outreach of a navigator. A partnership formed through the working group has resulted in the utilization of 15 emergency housing vouchers (provided by HUD) in Chatham — meaning that 15 individuals or families will be provided housing for at least a year, and have an opportunity to renew and extend

the voucher if they still meet eligibility criteria after the first year.

On the front lines

The group has also utilized referral and client tracking software from partners Childs says “are on the front lines” of housing service delivery — Love Chatham, the Salvation Army, Central Piedmont Community Action, and Social Services, in addition to the United Way — allowing for less duplication and more collaborative efforts to provide elevated level of service to those in need.

And the working group continues to meet and expand.

Meanwhile, amid that effort, Childs and her United Way staff — Alane Coore, the finance officer and volunteer coordinator, and Shelley Smith, who coordinates outreach — are working to wrap up the 2022 fundraising effort. This year’s Chatham campaign, which technically ends Dec. 31, is short of its \$750,000 goal.

“We have a little more than 25% to go, which, you know, is more than I would like to say,” Childs said.

Childs said she’s often asked by people in Chatham County why they should donate to the United Way rather than giving directly to agencies the United Way supports. She points to the Homeless and Housing Working group as a “real life” example of why.

“No single agency in Chatham County has been able to convene as many decision makers and key players around the table and focus on a single issue,” she said, “and really, truly build solutions around that because they’re all very busy with their own missions, their own full-time work. So by giving to United Way, you’re supporting the agency, certainly, but you’re also allowing for this level of leadership to be placed on top of that — so that all of our agencies can work in unison to achieve kind of this larger goal larger than any one of us could do on our own.”

Childs said donors no longer want to simply fund programs. They want to make investment in substantive, transformative change. And because there’s such a huge divide in Chatham between those who have and those who have not, she said, the needs and opportunities are aligning in a way never seen before.

So what better way than helping to close those gaps than through the United Way?

About the United Way

Mission

To address the most critical needs of Chatham County residents

To give

To make a contribution: <https://unitedwayofchatham-county.org/donate/>

“Fair share giving” means making an annual gift equivalent to one hour’s wages per month — or your hourly wage times 12, donated each year.

Local organizations the United Way of Chatham County helps fund:

- Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina
- Chatham CARES Pharmacy
- Chatham County 4-H
- Chatham County Council on Aging
- Chatham County Partnership for Children
- Chatham Literacy Council
- Chatham Trades
- Communities In Schools

of Chatham County

- CORA Food Pantry
- El Futuro
- Piedmont Health Services
- Rebuilding Together of the Triangle Second Bloom
- The Learning Trail
- The Salvation Army
- West Chatham Food Pantry

Coordinates

- Mailing address: P.O. Box 1066, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312
- Office: 72 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro. Open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays.
- Phone: 919-542-1110
- Web: unitedwayofchathamcounty.org

Staff

- Executive Director Katie Childs; Katie@UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org
- Finance Officer/Volunteer Center Coordinator Alane Coore; Alane@UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org
- Outreach Coordinator Shelley Smith; Shelley@UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org

she asks. Chatham residents and business that give to the United Way through tax-deductible donations enable the organization to support 15 local nonprofits. In 2021, the UWCC’s annual campaign raised \$733,000 — the most money in its 36-year history, surpassing its already-ambitious goal of \$645,000. The bulk of those funds — 84% — came directly from organized neighborhood campaigns, and the campaign also featured a record number of individual donors and volunteers.

(Those funds don’t include another \$87,500 the UWCC invested into three agencies — Communities In Schools, the Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina and Chatham County NC Homeless Shelters — through its first-ever Issue-Based Grant program, focused on the issues of homelessness and COVID-19 learning loss.)

Creating stable outcomes

Childs said the needs here are so great, that as wonderful as last year’s campaign was, the funds were allocated quickly — and they weren’t enough.

“The needs support that [\$750,000] goal,” she said of the current campaign. “We’re hoping we can get more participation, a larger number of donors. If we had more people give, the campaign will yield better results. Every gift does

help, even if it’s small.”

Contributing the United Way, she said, is a simple and effective way to make a local charitable contribution that helps benefit a cross-section of the county. It’s also effective: 87% of UWCC’s budget goes directly to programs and services,

Childs says the UWCC “connects the dots” in Chatham by mobilizing resources, helping to identify basic needs, and working collaboratively to build a community where eradicating poverty and providing resources are tantamount. It’s not an easy task: in addition to many pockets of low income residents cost-burdened by housing expenses, many families struggle to put food on the table. More than one in three Chatham residents visited a food pantry in the last year, and the county’s growing senior population faces basic living expenses here much higher than the statewide average, according to United Way data.

But Childs is optimistic. Those 15 emergency housing vouchers, for example, wouldn’t have happened had the right people not been sitting around the same table at the same time.

“We’re really focusing on creating stable outcomes for people,” she said. “And it’s starting to happen.”

LAUNCH

Continued from page A1

winners will be saluted during a luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 24, at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. The event will be the culmination of “We Love Seniors” month in Chatham County, a month-long celebration of older adults that is unique to Chatham.

“We are excited to partner with the Chatham News + Record in launching the ‘6 over 60’ awards here in Chatham County,” Council on Aging Director Ashlyn Martin said. “Chatham County is a place where people still come together at the grassroots level to effect meaningful change in their community, and we are confident that our nominees will reflect the best of that in the growing 60-and-over population.”

Nominees must be 60 years of age or older — the initial age of entry into Council on Aging services — as of Jan. 1, 2023. They must have made, or continue to make, meritorious contributions to Chatham County. Award winners must live in Chatham County, or spent the majority of their life and career in Chatham.

The selection committee will consider, in no particular order, the number of nominations an individual receives as well as the merit and quality of their work in the Chatham County community.

“I think by any mea-

sure or by any standard, any list of those who have made the greatest contributions to Chatham County would include a significant number from the 60-plus crowd,” News + Record Publisher/Editor Bill Horner III said. “So we can’t wait to see who gets nominated. We value our partnership with the Council on Aging and what the COA does for Chatham

County, and we’re eager to help share the stories of the inaugural ‘6 Over 60’ honorees.”

Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 4, an online nomination portal will launch at the News + Record’s website, chathamnewsrecord.com.

“We are excited to partner with the Chatham News + Record in launching the ‘6 over 60’ awards here in Chatham County,”

Martin said. “The News + Record has been a place where generations of Chatham County citizens have come for trusted information and discourse for well over a century, and we look forward to honoring the best of our county’s older adults within its pages with the ‘6 over 60’ awards.”

The public may submit nominees through Friday, Jan. 20. In addition

to online nominations, the public may send nominations and supporting documentation to jimmy.lewis@chathamcountync.gov or by mail to the Chatham County Council on Aging at 365 Hwy. 87 North, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312, “Attn: 6 over 60.”

Award winners will be notified on or before Thursday, Feb. 3, with the winners announced in the Feb. 17-23 edition of

the News + Record with photos and biographical sketches.

For more information regarding the 6 over 60 program, contact Jimmy Lewis, Council on Aging Grants and Communications Specialist, at 919-542-4512 or email jimmy.lewis@chathamcountync.gov.

Employees of the Council on Aging and the News + Record are not eligible for the award.

Your local team of Real Estate Experts wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!





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VIEWPOINTS

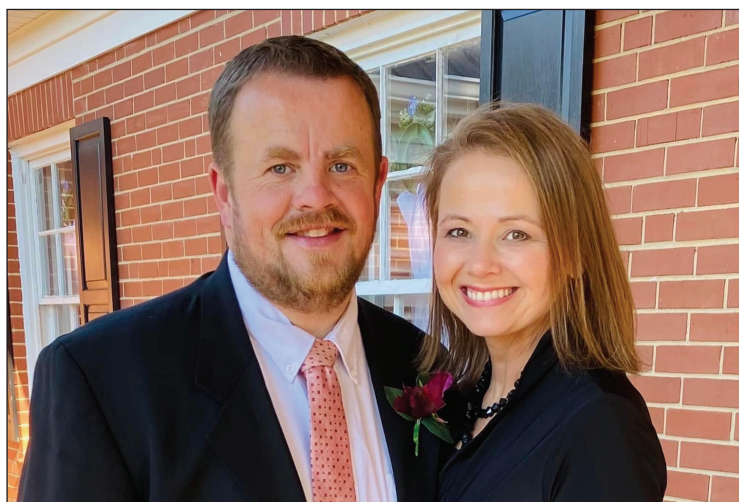
GUEST COLUMN | JOSH SMITH

This New Year, forget a new you — but find a new creature

With the New Year fast approaching, many have already begun thinking and planning for their New Year resolutions.

Of course, there are many of the “normal” plans such as spending more time with family, saving more money or the most common, becoming healthier. For some there will be more serious resolutions in hopes of a fresh start as they vow to conquer their addictions, make necessary changes to save their family from falling apart, or desperately search for the hope and peace they are searching for in their lives. In fact, according to several surveys one third or more of Americans will set their goals but one poll from CNN found that in 2021 more than 80% said they failed in achieving their change. While there are many reasons why, one of the most common reasons for missing the mark was simply going back to their old ways or habits.

It was once said that the definition of insanity is doing what you have always done expecting different results. So many plan to go after their goals with the intention of



Josh and Amy Smith

creating a “new you”, and fail.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the Bible says “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Christ does not ask for reformation; He ask for surrender. He isn’t interested in a restoration project, but new construction. He isn’t looking for a new you but a new creation!

When we surrender our lives to Christ it is no longer our efforts, but Christ living

through us. That is why Paul would say in Galatians 2 :20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

For Paul to say that, says a lot. While he wrote roughly half the New Testament and is considered by many the greatest preacher of all time outside the Lord Jesus, it was not always that way. In his past while he was certainly

wealthy, powerful, and influential, he was also a murderer and rejoiced in seeing people imprisoned and killed. Paul would call himself the chief (or worst) of sinners. How could a man that killed Christians become one of the greatest the world has ever known?

wealthy, powerful, and influential, he was also a murderer and rejoiced in seeing people imprisoned and killed. Paul would call himself the chief (or worst) of sinners. How could a man that killed Christians become one of the greatest the world has ever known? How could a man that rejoiced in death and destruction, leave it and rejoice in life, peace and joy? What made such a radical life altering change?

The answer is simple Jesus. Paul did not try to do better; he did not make plans to accomplish a goal. In Acts 9, Paul simply surrendered everything to Christ and EV-

EVERYTHING changed!

Maybe today you are looking for answers far bigger than yourself. Maybe you are wishing 2023 will bring you peace, joy, hope or solutions to the things you are facing. Can I encourage you today that there is a real Savior named Jesus that is waiting to make the difference in your life He made in Paul! It won’t come through your plans or efforts but through total surrender to Him.

In 2023 may you find not a new you, but a new creature!

Josh Smith is youth pastor of Community Baptist Church in Siler City.

A little light goes a long way ...



JAN HUTTON
This Being Human Thing

My best (and totally unexpected) Chanukah/Christmas/Holiday present arrived on Christmas Eve.

The backstory: North Carolina hit 9° that morning and took out power for thousands of cold folks. When our power returned, I fell face first into my unacknowledged addiction: Uber user of the internet. Sigh. There are two Wi-Fi networks in this house and the gods of energy knocked both of them out. (Adding my very plaintive and pitiful “ARGH!!”) In addition to being an Uber user of the internet, I’m a news junkie. Sigh. Just letting it all hang out in the interest of making myself vulnerable.

I watched myself go through the five stages of grief. Seriously. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. No, no, this wasn’t happening to me (denial). I don’t drink, smoke, or watch TV, but as mentioned earlier, I do liberally feed at the internet trough. And suddenly, it was gone! (And I’d already meditated.)

9° outside and you think I’m gonna go for a walk? Dream on.

Anger was up next. Coursing through my mind, I could hear my little 5-year-old yelling, “I want my Internet! I want my internet!” Grinding my teeth, I tried to revive the Wi-Fi with my very limited repertoire of technology gambits. And of course, I tried the same ones again, and again, and again because, well, it was Christmas Eve and maybe there was magic in the air.

Ah, yes; bargaining was next. If I really, really Googled all sorts of options, I bet I could work this out. I’ll be good and responsible to myself. Plunged into a high-minded Google search, but you guessed it, bargaining with the technology gods is not my forte. (Somehow, showing those technology gods that I was being responsible still didn’t do the trick.)

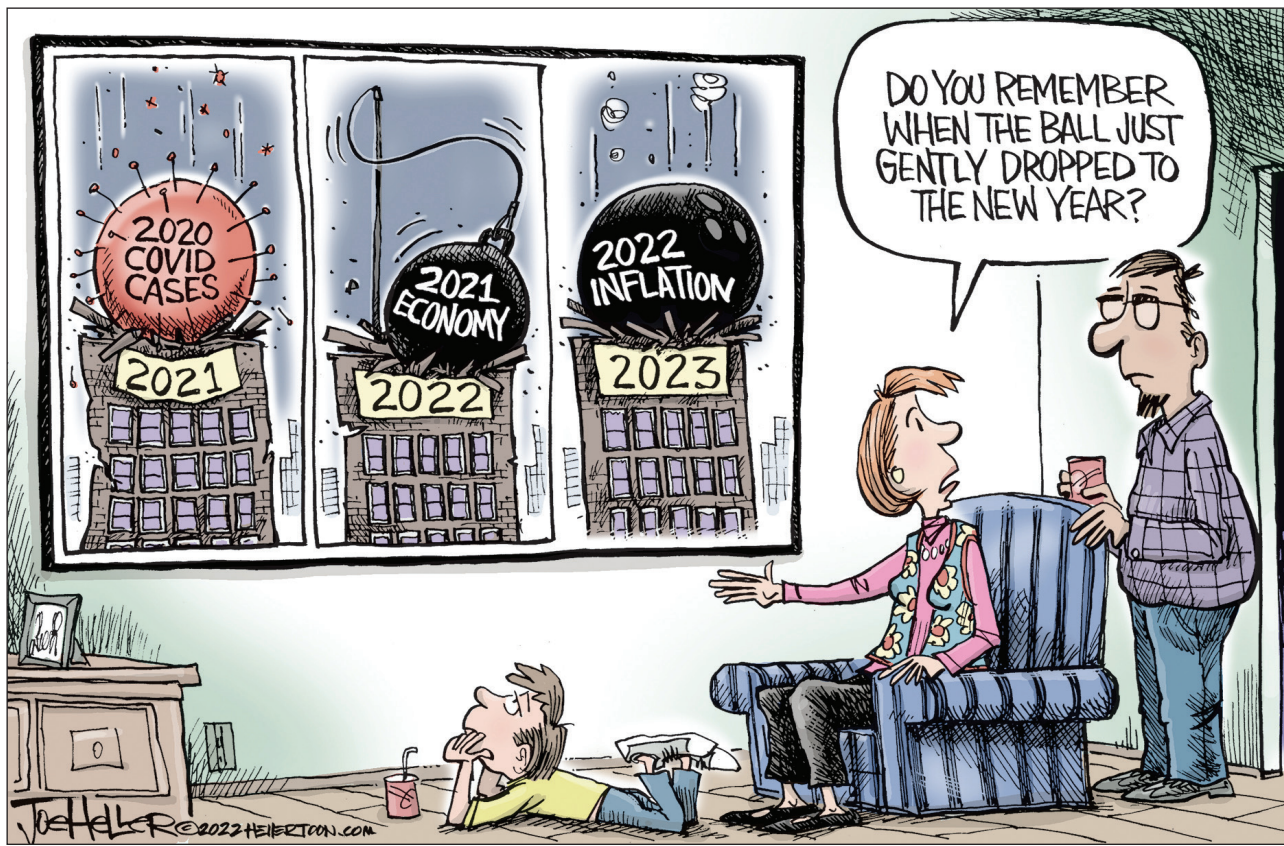
Ah, depression finally made an appearance. I missed my annual Christmas Eve Quaker candle lighting worship because I couldn’t get online. Deep sigh.

Finally (and oh so reluctantly) I rolled into acceptance. Oy. I could still hear some small plaintive cries in my head, “I want my Internet!” But realized I’d unsuccessfully run my personal gamut for bringing the Wi-Fi back. I emailed a very busy young man from my neighborhood, asking if he could help me in the next few days. (It was SO difficult to write the words “in the next few days!” — I wanted my Wi-Fi NOW!) However, I did execute them and finally settled down to do what I should’ve done hours ago — eat some dark chocolate on Christmas Eve, that panacea for sore souls.

Ten minutes later, there was a loud knock on the front door. Too early for St. Nick, I thought. No, it was St. Travis, my young neighborhood technology wunderkind. (I wish I could say he was astride a reindeer, but his glowing with goodness was more than enough for me!) In less than five minutes, my internet trough was once again full and I was aglow with unexpected Christmas Eve magic.

The moral of this Christmas Eve story? I have no idea, but it’s such a gift to watch a young man transform from the 6-year old I once knew into a loving Santa.

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



A loosening in the New Year



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

I sit down to write about New Year’s resolutions and realize that I grip my pen more tightly than usual. The word “resolve” causes tension in me, for most often my resolutions have been to do better, to pick up a new habit or

to be more productive. I was surprised to learn that the word “resolution” comes from the Latin root “to loosen.”

Looking back on the past year, there were times when I grabbed the proverbial bull by the horns. I tried to affect change and make a positive difference. My intentions were good.

Yet, I admit that I occasionally rushed ahead instead of waiting back to fully understand the complexity of the challenge. OK, more than “occasionally.”

Albert Einstein once noted that, if he had one hour to solve a problem, he would spend 55 minutes on the

problem and only 5 minutes on the solution. Too often, I remember this wisdom after I’ve spent 55 minutes on the solution.

Recognizing the need for patience also prompts me to loosen my need for control. In his lovely book, “Things My Son Needs to Know about the World,” Fredrik Backman has a chapter about holding his son’s hand a little too tight. Most parents would know the reason for that grip — fear. Of course, you hold his hand when crossing the street to keep the boy safe. “All we want is to protect you,” writes Backman, speaking for most parents.

But he acknowledges that there is also a need for control: “To save you from life’s disappointments and shortcomings and unhappy romances.” Here’s the truth: We can’t protect our children from those life experiences. And we shouldn’t! For that’s how they grow. The paradox is that, by letting go, our children walk on their own. You have to trust that they will find their own way. It is awful!

How ironic that, when your chil-

dren are born, they are completely dependent on you, but as they grow, you realize that you are the one who is completely helpless — there are things completely out of your control.

This reminds me of how I drive my three children to school. I park the minivan and we walk to the crosswalk. My older sons then race ahead into the building, calling goodbye over their shoulders. My youngest daughter still holds my hand as we walk to her classroom. I know these days of hand-holding, however, are coming to an end. Maybe in the new year.

So, I’m thinking about resolving to loosen my grip. To let go. To have faith and practice deep spiritual truth.

Ugh. Maybe I’ll resolve to exercise more instead!

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

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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

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

Anna, thanks for your example

TO THE EDITOR:

I cannot recall ever seeing an article featuring such a brave young woman as Anna Hackney, especially with a photo, on the front page of a community newspaper (“Victim speaks out about childhood sexual abuse,” Dec. 22-28 edition).

Our society usually wants such things as this to remain hidden as they are so difficult for the victim and their family. She sets a stunning example of personal strength and is a beacon to others who have experienced or may be experiencing such trauma. I predict she will go on to help many others

through such dark times.

Robert Waldrop
Chapel Hill

A lump of coal for the liberals

TO THE EDITOR:

Now that we have all had a taste of Christmas “rolling blackouts,” perhaps it is a good time to think about how we came to this point of barely enough electrical generating capacity.

When the Shearon Harris nuclear plant was built in the 1970s, it was intended to have two to four units. Hysteria generated by the left restricted it to the one unit it has. The nationwide “no nukes” effort

also stalled or prevented many other such projects.

When Obama came into office, one of his first actions was to crush coal production. Another attack on our power production.

When Obama 2.0 (Biden) became president, one of his first actions reversed our energy independence to our now depending on enemies or untrustworthy sources to fulfill our energy needs. When this resulted in gasoline price increases of \$1+ per gallon, he attempted to deflect the political heat by depleting our national strategic oil reserves. A temporary fix, giving a few cents cheaper fuel, but also reducing national security in

the event of war.

Our public universities are also no more than indoctrination camps for a new generation of libs. A graduate of the sustainability program at Appalachian State shuttled protesters of the Keystone pipeline, which was ultimately shut down. (As a side note, that same activist still drives a fossil-fueled car and frequently flies in fossil-fueled jets. A typical lib disconnect of integrity).

So, while you are enjoying your next blackout, use it to consider how we got here and where we go from here. And use it to consider whether the supposed “save the planet” reasons we are given for the above actions may merely be cover

for simply crippling the might and leadership of the USA.

Maybe that is the reason Obama tried to kill coal — so he would not have a lump of it in his Christmas stocking. Thirty-minute blackouts are only the beginning.

James Andrews
Siler City

Editor’s note: On Saturday, N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper issued this statement: “This morning I spoke with Duke Energy CEO Lynn Good to offer assistance and to express urgency about the need to restore power quickly in this extreme cold while keeping customers accurately informed. I’m grateful for the workers braving the wind and cold to get the power back on.”

Honors for Chef Ricky Moore



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Moore as “Tar Heel of the Year” for 2022.

Moore shares the honor with distinguished prior Tar Heels of the year such as banking leader Hugh McColl and historian John Hope Franklin.

This new honor follows Moore’s designation as “Best Chef: Southeast” in the 2022 James Beard Awards competition.

These recent successes have not surprised people who follow North Carolina food trends. North Carolina’s cultural icon David Cecelski, author

The Raleigh News & Observer got it right last week when it named Ricky

of “A Historian’s Coast: Adventures into the Tidewater Past,” gushes in his praise of Moore’s book and the food he prepares and serves at his Durham restaurant.

These honors and the praise are capstones to Moore’s amazing and inspirational life. In his book, “Saltbox Seafood Joint Cookbook,” Moore describes how he rose from a hardworking family in coastal North Carolina and used his growing up experiences, military service, an education at the country’s leading college for chefs, and experience in kitchens of the best restaurants in the U.S. and Europe to make a tiny seafood restaurant in Durham one of the country’s most admired eateries.

“I grew up along the Neuse and Trent rivers and spent plenty of my

childhood fishing those waters,” he writes. “We’d haul our catch home for our aunts and grandmother to do the extra-messy job of scaling, gutting, and cleaning (they never trusted us kids to do it).”

Moore says he was also an “army brat.” He spent time in Germany. “There I was, a little kid with an afro and an orange Fat Albert shirt, soaking up all the German food culture.”

After high school he knew that the military could give him the kind of experience he had in Germany. So, when he turned 18 in 1987, he enlisted. After basic training and jump school came time for advanced individual training, “I picked the first option that would get me out of New Bern: military cook school in Fort Jackson, South Carolina!”

He learned that meals “had to sustain, had to be wholesome, and had to feed a lot of people.” He learned “how to scale a recipe for a crowd, how to measure, and how to cook in huge vessels and vats.”

After the Army, he enrolled at Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, N.Y., known in the cooking world as the Harvard of culinary education.

After CIA, he “hopped from one exciting kitchen to another, working with all kinds of cuisines.” He worked for free in the best restaurants in France.

“Through this work abroad, I found a shared sense of tradition, culture, behavior, and, most important, discipline when it came to food and dining. I was the only person of color in these European kitchens,

which made me even more intense about learning as much as possible. Being black automatically pigeonholed you.”

After returning to the U.S. and working in executive chef positions in Chicago and Washington, he and his wife Norma moved back to North Carolina and settled in Chapel Hill.

One day Norma asked where she could get a good fish sandwich “with local fish, lightly breaded and seasoned, fried in fresh oil until golden brown and delicious, then served on fresh slices of yeasty sweet bread and garnished with traditional cooked green pepper and spicy onion relish plus tartar sauce chock full of capers, cornichons, eggs, and herbs.”

No local seafood restaurant had what she wanted. But Moore knew he could prepare it — if

he could find a good place to work. “I wanted a little shop, to do one thing really well, and to control every aspect of it. This was ultimately the base of my business model.”

He found that right place in Durham, first downtown at the original Saltbox Seafood Joint, and then at a new location on Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard, and in the process, has become a North Carolina icon.

Watch my interview Ricky Moore at <https://www.pbs.org/video/ricky-moore-saltbox-seafood-joint-cookbook-cd3cru/>, or google “Ricky Moore Bookwatch.”

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

GUEST COLUMN | DENNIS STREETS

Resurrection of statesmanship

In final remarks to his Senate colleagues, Richard Burr called for “more statesmen and fewer politicians.” It was quite a remark as he ended nearly 30 years of Congressional service.

His profound reflection is deserving of further thought.

In 1959, a U.S. Special Senate Committee (led by then-senator, John Kennedy) fulfilled their charge by announcing five of the Senate’s “most outstanding” former members.

Included among the committee’s criteria were “acts of statesmanship transcending party and state lines.” The committee defined “statesmanship” as “leadership in national thought and constitutional interpretation as well as legislation.”

In 1999, the Senate honored two additional Senators who were found to be “outstanding legislators with a deep appreciation for the Senate, who will serve as role models for future Americans.”

I am choosing not to identify these

seven Senators as President Kennedy himself acknowledged the challenge and subjectivity of this exercise.

Instead, I would like to recall, from my youth, three Senators whom I heard my parents discuss in terms of statesmanship.

Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois won his Senate seat in 1950, after serving eight terms in the House of Representatives. He became the Republican leader in 1959 and held that influential position until he died in 1969. As a statesman willing to transcend party lines, Senator Dirksen is credited with helping end a filibuster to enable passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In his words, racial integration was “an idea whose time has come.”

Senator Michael Mansfield was a Representative for 10 years before serving in the Senate from 1953 to 1977. A Democrat from Montana, Senator Mansfield was instrumental in helping enact such Great Society programs as Medicare, Social Security, the Elemen-

tary and Secondary Education Act, and the Older Americans Act. In his own words, Mansfield noted that “The leaders of the Senate ... have no power delegated to them except on the basis of courtesy, accommodation and a sense of responsibility.”

Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was the first woman to win election to the U.S. House and Senate. She regularly demonstrated independence and character over her 30-year tenure. In Smith’s “Declaration of Conscience” speech, she called out Joseph McCarthy, her Republican colleague, for how he had “debased” Senate deliberations “through the selfish political exploitation of fear, bigotry, ignorance and intolerance.” Her bravery cost her leadership positions within the Republican party.

Similarly, in 2021, Senator Burr was censured by the North Carolina Republican Party for being one of the seven Republicans who voted to convict former President Trump for inciting

the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

Future students of history will remember and honor Senator Burr for his statesmanship. Noting that he did not come to “this decision lightly,” Senator Burr shared: “I have listened to the arguments presented by both sides and considered the facts. The facts are clear. By what he did and by what he did not do, President Trump violated his oath of office to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

As 19th-century minister and author, James Freeman Clarke, aptly cited “A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman, of the next generation.”

In sharing his farewell message to fellow Senators, Burr was optimistic about the future. The success of this forecast will depend upon future statesmen and stateswomen.

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

Little things — good and bad — mean a lot for resolutions



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

Year’s resolutions.

Most folks agree that, in a nutshell, resolutions offer us human “beans” an opportunity to take stock of ourselves, realize where we could have done or been better the past year, and then make some sort of plan to do just that in the coming year.

The challenge, of course, is twofold: to make sensible logical resolutions and then to actually keep them.

Many of the failures in maintaining the plans and dreams of the upcoming year is because we make outlandish promises no one this side of Kingdom Come could possibly keep.

For instance, if I resolved to play first base for the Cardinals this year chances are pretty good it wouldn’t happen since I’ve never played the position, except in my back yard. Couple that with the fact most Major League teams don’t have a spot on their roster, at any level, for aging, out of shape, slow running players. So I doom myself to failure before even starting.

However, if I resolve to eat fewer Twix bars, that’s a promise that shouldn’t be too hard. All

I’ve got to do is pass them by on the grocery shelf and head for the baby carrots, which I have recently learned aren’t really babies at all but the lower part of a “normal” carrot.

In the midst of taking stock lately of my young life, I’ve come to realize some things are out of my control. I can’t do anything, for instance, about the price of gas or eggs and how that might affect the ability to squirrel away a few bucks, another favorite resolution of many, as in “I resolve to save money this year.”

Good idea ... but how much and how?

I can’t control what the cook puts on my plate and how if I don’t eat three helpings of mashed

potatoes it will hurt her feelings ... wait ... well, maybe I can control some of that; cut it down to two servings.

But the even bigger picture, to me, is that most resolutions can and should center around small things. It’s sort of the principle that a snowflake by itself can do little damage but enough of them together can knock a tractor-trailer truck off the road.

It also seems to me resolutions should be like buying gifts. “Experts,” whoever they are, tell us to buy as gifts those items we would like to receive. I know that can be dangerous sometimes since not everyone in the world, as I once did, wants a new chainsaw or the complete collection of old “Amos

and Andy” TV shows. But if we subscribe to the notion it’s the thought that counts, both our gift-giving and resolutions can be miles ahead of where they usually are.

Case in point, and so far this is my only 2023 resolution ... and it’s likely to remain so. When I’m waiting to pull onto the highway from a side road or street, it has been known to upset my usual gentle and sweet nature when folks heading in my direction in the near lane don’t pull over to their left into an empty lane so I can merge into traffic.

I know, I know ... what’s the big deal, you may ask, and it’s not the end of the world. It’s not really the hogging of the lane and my delay in getting out to go where

I’m going.

It’s the principle of the thing that folks don’t look around at what’s going on upon our roadways with other drivers and the notion that only what they have to do is the center of the universe.

It has often been said “confession is good for the soul but bad for the reputation,” so let me go ahead and sully any reputation I may have and admit that at times I don’t pull over for other folks. But my resolution is to be more observant behind the wheel, for lots of reasons, and learn there are, in fact, other folks in the world.

If that happens, 2023 will be a good year ... especially when I at last remember not to put 2022 on the checks I write.

NEWS BRIEFS

Free Christmas tree recycling

Chatham County is offering free Christmas tree recycling at its main facility through Friday, Jan. 13. Trees can be accepted from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 28 County Services Rd, Pittsboro. The office will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, for the New Year's holiday.

Only real trees can be accepted. All decorations, lights, stands and pots must be removed. After Jan. 13, the center will accept trees for the normal yard debris charge of \$20 per ton, with a \$2 minimum.

Artificial trees can be placed in the scrap metal recycling bin at the collection centers or main facility, but all decorations and lights must be removed. Pre-lit trees cannot be recycled, so throw those in with the regular trash.

County seeks applicants for planning board vacancies

PITTSBORO —The Chatham County Board of Commissioners seeks applicants for multiple vacant seats on the county's planning board. Interested residents should apply by 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 9.

The planning board advises county commissioners on planning, zoning and subdivision issues. The vacant seats are assigned to County Commissioner District 1, District 3, District 4 and District 5. The vacant seats for District 3, District 4 and District 5 have terms expiring Dec. 31, 2026. The vacant seat for District 1 is for an unexpired term ending Dec. 31, 2024. Applicants from other parts of the county may apply also. Appointments shall be made in such a manner that planning board members shall represent insofar as practical, the geographical, socioeconomic,

gender and racial makeup of the county.

The duties include monitoring trends related to land use, proposing needed amendments to the county's Comprehensive Plan; establishing development principles and guidelines; proposing ordinances for orderly development in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan; determining whether proposed developments conform to the Comprehensive Plan and development principles; keeping the board of commissioners and the public informed on planning issues and reasons for board recommendations; and conducting meetings to get public input.

The planning board typically meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., usually in Pittsboro.

To submit an online application to serve and to view a map of the districts of the board of commissioners, visit www.chatham-countync.gov/CommitteeAppointments. Applicants also may

contact Lindsay Ray at 919-545-8302 to get a printed or emailed copy of the application form.

More information about the planning board can be found on the county website at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov>. Questions about the planning board's duties may be directed to the planning department at 919-542-8204.

Green Beagle Lodge opens Pittsboro location, hosts open house

The Chatham Chamber of Commerce invites the public to attend the Jan. 7 ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration of Green Beagle Lodge in Pittsboro.

The ribbon cutting is scheduled for 4 p.m., followed by refreshments and an open house that will end at 7 p.m.

Green Beagle Lodge's 12,000-square-foot Pittsboro facility offers boarding, daycare,

grooming and bathing, and training for pets of all sizes on its 14-acre campus.

Please contact the Chatham Chamber of Commerce with any questions.

919-742-3333 or 984-265-9172 and MaryB@ccucc.net

VinFast announces participation in Consumer Electrics Show in Las Vegas

The Vietnamese electric vehicle manufacturer VinFast is showing off its future EV models at the Consumer Electrics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada in early 2023.

VinFast will display four electric SUV models, the VF 6, VF 7, VF 8 and VF 9, which represent the most popular segments from small crossovers to large five and seven passenger SUVs, according to a company statement Monday. The CES show will take place Jan. 5 through 8.

HALES

Continued from page A1

eye for detail.

It came as a bit of a surprise to some, then, when Hales announced she wouldn't continue using that detailed approach in a third term on the board. She announced last December she wouldn't seek reelection for the District 3 seat, citing age and a desire for "some younger vision" on the board.

She got her wish when fellow Democrat David Delaney, 51, won the seat over Republican challenger Tom Glendinning in November.

In a conversation this week with the News + Record, Hales reflected on the legacy she leaves behind on the board and her hopes for the new wave of local government in Chatham.

The following has been edited for clarity and brevity

How would you reflect on your eight years as commissioner? How have you seen the county evolve over time?

It's been a real opportunity to serve this county. That's especially true when it feels like the county is growing on steroids. The pressures of being neighbors with the Triangle were never going to keep Chatham the quaint, rural place it was 20 years ago. With our proximity to Jordan Lake, Research Triangle Park, UNC, you name it, there was just no way to contain the inevitable growth.

That inevitable growth I saw coming is why I ran in 2014. I felt like the commissioners at the time weren't seriously contemplating the future problems of the county. We had no zoning, no comprehensive planning and I felt there was no real strategy for the future. Karen Howard, Jim Crawford and I all ran in 2014 with the common vision of tackling these bigger-picture issues and establishing a common zoning policy. Luckily, we all won and that's exactly what we did in the county.

Through the zoning, which was harmless to local businesses and property owners, along with the comprehensive land use plan, Plan Chatham 2017, I feel that we're moving forward well and with a strong guide.

What is one thing from your time in office you're most proud of? Why was it so important to you?

Hands down it was the removal of the Confederate monument in Pittsboro in 2019. It was essential and necessary that we removed it to make sure Chatham is a place for all residents.

I remember those public hearings so vividly — being escorted out of the

board room and checking to make sure my tires weren't slashed and the threatening phone calls to my home. But I knew in my heart it was the right thing, and so did my fellow board members. That monument was not there to honor the war dead, it was an in-your-face warning to Black people in our county — and that's not how we honor the people and community of Pittsboro.

Many of us know the big things like Wolfspeed and VinFast, but what are some of the other goals you're most proud of in your time on the board that the common person may not recognize as the work of commissioners?

Aside from county-wide zoning and Plan Chatham, there was also the third leg of land use in the county: the Unified Development Ordinance. While that's still under planning, once it all comes together we will have a great roadmap for how we want the future of Chatham to look. And these aren't highly visible, but it's governance, though. That's what this county needed to work on was simply governance.

I think I'm also proud of our establishment of a housing committee to look at improving our affordable housing stock in the county. That continues to be an elephant in the room for us though. After all this growth, where are the people in these workforce jobs going to live? We have 119 units that we've given land to developers for those units and obviously, there is still a long way to go. But we're working

on it and examining possibilities.

Of course, I am proud of the big two industries coming here in Wolfspeed and VinFast, but largely because I see what they'll mean for our tax base. Right now, 90% of Chatham's tax base is property tax. These industries are going to diversify that base to make it more commercial. The industries will also make sure we have less commuting and we can make Chatham a place to live and work instead of just one or the other.

The other thing I am proud of is Article 46 sales tax. That tax gives a 0.25% tax on sales purchases, which has helped us put more than \$1,000,000 aside for various projects since last year. That includes things like affordable housing, education, parks and recreation, etc. Personally, I'm very happy to have seen money from that tax go toward the Chatham Agricultural Preservation & Development Trust Fund, which will support agricultural preservation and development within Chatham County.

I've been a pretty staunch and vocal advocate for farmland preservation and ensuring those with farmland in the county can keep that land in their families for generations to come.

Now that you're not serving on the board of commissioners, do you have plans to stay involved in the county?

Chatham certainly won't be getting rid of me. I've already put in my application for sever-

al committees including working on farmland preservation and giving rights to young farmers in the county. I'm also very interested in Keep- ing America Beautiful, which helps to build and maintain green spaces. We voted to get involved with the national organization before the pandemic, but I will be on the board locally when that gets going again next year.

With David Delaney (Dist. 3) and Katie Kenlan (Dist. 4) joining the board for the new term, what are your hopes for this new board of commissioners?

I was very happy the election was as certain as it was. To me, it's a huge benefit that Katie is a Chatham native — she went to our schools, she grew up here. Same thing with Franklin Gomez Flores (Dist. 5) who is also a product of our region. I think it's fantastic to have the two youngest people on this board be the ones with the most experiential basis in the county.

On the other side, it's also helpful to have someone like David who is a little bit newer to the county [Delaney has lived in Chatham for five years] because he

understands the needs of future residents, which there will be many of as we grow in Chatham.


Going forward, you have to still understand what was before and have an appreciation for what Chatham was 30 years ago, or what was challenging 50 years ago. I think that appreciation can be served by someone who just moved into the county, but you need to be able to know the past to do something about it.

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


A YEAR IN REVIEW
OVER THE COURSE OF 2022, THE ROTARY CLUB OF PITTSBORO HAS:

- Welcomed 17 New Members
- Weekly Meals On Wheels Route
- Quarterly Adopt A Highway Cleanup
- Annual Haw River Cleanup
- Sent Valentine's Cards to residents of long-term care facilities
- Hosted our Valentine's Virtual Bingo Fundraiser for our Karen Heilman Scholarship Fund
- Presented 3 Chatham County Seniors each with a \$2000 scholarship
- Collected food items for CORA Donation at our Annual Banquet in June
- Volunteered at United Way's Day of Service at a Habitat for Humanity home build site
- Sent Thank You Cards to Veterans for a Rotary Honor Flight to DC
- Delivered Appreciation Boxes to 6 First Responder Groups
- Collected blankets for Council on Aging
- Donated 124 turkeys, 25 hams and over 2500 pounds of food to CORA for Thanksgiving
- Donated nearly 800 holiday wrapped books to Pittsboro elementary students
- Offered multiple noteworthy guest speakers at meetings
- Began our After-Hours Alternative Club Meeting Time
- Hosted the Pittsboro Street Fair & Rotary Trike Rodeo

We look forward to serving our community in more ways in 2023 and wish you ALL a healthy & Happy New Year!



Chatham Land Team: Rotarians
Lonnie E. West & Julie Boone Cummins



Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Cheers to a New Year!

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.

<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, CFP® 180 Providence Rd Suite 1c 984-219-6635</p>	<p>Siler City Laura Clapp, CFP®, AAMS™ 301 E Raleigh St 919-663-1051</p>

Pittsboro
Stephen Cornwell, AAMS™
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OBITUARIES

LARRY WAYNE BINKLEY



November 25, 1950 ~ December 20, 2022

Larry Wayne Binkley, 72, of Siler City, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

Mr. Binkley was born in Chatham County on November 25, 1950, the son of Robert Binkley Sr. and Loney McDaniel Binkley. Larry was a member of Sandy Branch Church. He took pride in running his restaurant, Scooters, alongside his lovely

wife for over 20 years. Larry enjoyed playing golf and poker. He loved all animals, especially his cat Gracie. In addition to his parents, Larry is preceded in death by his wife, Loretta Binkley; stepson, Tommy Meece; sisters, Agnes Gilliland, Elsie Bingham, Thelma Estes, Camilla Gilliland; and brothers, Robert Binkley Jr., Odell Binkley, Arvey Binkley and Earl Binkley.

He is survived by his daughters, Susan Meece of Siler City, and Patty Binkley of Goldston; sister, Betty Jean Lindley of Raleigh; brothers, Ashley "Possum" Binkley of Siler City, Wesley Binkley and wife Brenda of Bear Creek, Steve Binkley and wife Becky of Graham, and Donny "Joe" Binkley and wife Alice of Asheboro; grandchildren, Wyatt Tad Allred (Amanda), and Michael Jared Allred (Michaela), Christopher Collins, Korey Collins, James Collins, Makayla Banks; and great-grandchildren, Lyla Jane Allred, Kyson Curtis, Raelynn Collins, and Charlee Moshier.

The family received friends from 11 to 12 p.m. on Monday, December 26, 2022, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave, Siler City, N.C. 27344. The funeral service followed in the Smith & Buckner Chapel at 12 p.m. with Rev. Bob Wachs officiating. Burial will be at Sandy Branch Baptist Church Cemetery, 715 Sandy Branch Church Rd., Bear Creek, N.C. 27207.

Memorials may be made to the ASPCA.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Binkley family.

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

JESSICA HILL COTTEN



Jessica Hill Cotten, 34, of Graham, formerly of Pittsboro, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, December 22, 2022, at Alamance Regional Medical Center surrounded by loved ones.

She is the daughter of surviving parents, Glen and Melba (Wright) Hill of Pittsboro. She is also survived by her husband and soulmate, Tim H. Cotten and their son, Caleb H. Cotten; her sister, Kristina Southern; her loving in-laws, Jasper and Ruth

Cotton; along with a host of nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her brother, Glen Hill Jr., her grandparents, Woodrow and Ellen Wright and Robert and Annie Hill.

Jessica was employed by a UNC Medical Clinic as an Administrative Coordinator. While growing up, Jessica loved horses, dance and music. She was a graduate of Northwood High School and a 2008 graduate of Central Carolina Community College. Her favorite things to do included Friday night bowling, date nights with Tim, and taking Caleb to see monster trucks and trains. She loved to travel, having her Starbucks every day, driving her Jeep and all things Sunflowers. Jessica was kind, tender-hearted, and a giving nature. She was a caring daughter, devoted wife, and loving mother. We are grateful for the fond memories, laughs that we have shared, and joyful times we have had. Jessica was loved by many and will be missed by all who knew her.

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 30, 2022, from 5 to 6:50 p.m. A Celebration of Life Service will follow at Donaldson Funeral Home at 7 p.m.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Cotten and Hill family.

Memorial tributes can be left at www.DonaldsonFunerals.com.

CURTIS ERNEST POWERS JR.



Curtis Ernest Powers Jr., 88, of Bennett, died Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at Randolph Hospice House in Asheboro.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Friday, December 23, 2022, at Beulah Baptist Church, Bennett, with Dr. Neal Jackson and Rev. Robert Kidd officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Curtis was a native of Randolph County and a lifelong resident of Bennett. He was a retired farmer and

also worked as a custodian at Chatham Central High School. Curtis was a member of Beulah Baptist Church for 88 1/2 years.

"Papaw," as he was fondly called by all who knew him and loved him, found his greatest joy and purpose in serving others. He always found time to visit with the lonely or sick; he loved spending time in his woodshop making chairs for the newest community members, and he prayed without ceasing for the church family he dearly loved. His other hobby was hunting. He said it taught him a lot about patience, but it also gave him time to fellowship with others.

Mr. Powers loved without end. His greatest legacy is left in the ministry he had in serving others. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Kennedy Powers, daughter, Susan Powers, son, Michael Powers, and his parents, Curtis Ernest and Alta Jones Powers.

Surviving are his sons, Philip Powers, and wife, Valerie, of Bennett; Tim Powers, and wife, Patricia, of Archdale; grandchildren, Rachel Henley and husband David, Ashley Loehr and husband Josh, great-grandchildren, Brent Henley, Reagan Henley, Anna Henley, Jackson Loehr, and Emmett Loehr.

Visitation was held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23, at Beulah Baptist Church, Bennett, and other times at the home of Philip and Valerie Powers, 8611 Curtis Powers Road, Bennett, N.C. 27208.

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

Arrangements were by Loflin Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Ramseur.

Memorials may be made to the Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, N.C. 27361.

WILLIAM 'BILLY' CHAPLIN

February 11, 1991 ~ December 20, 2022

William "Billy" Benjamin Chaplin, 31, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

He was the son of Donna Stein Mojica and Scott Chaplin.

Surviving is his wife, Tyler McLamb Chaplin; children, Valerie Chaplin, Jordan McLamb, Natalie Riddle of the home; mother, Donna Stein Mojica of Broadway; father, Scott Chaplin of Orlando, Florida; sister, Kara Chaplin of Washington, D.C.; brother, Nicholas Mojica of Greenville; sister, Shelby Chaplin of Orlando; grandmothers, Nancy Stein of Inverness, Florida, Patricia Chaplin of Jensen Beach, Florida, step-grandfather, Jaime Mojica of Riverdale, N.Y.

The family is requesting memorial gifts be made to Smith Funeral Home, Broadway, P.O. Box 370, Broadway, N.C. 27505.

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

PHILLIP CHARLES KELLY

July 3, 1950 ~ December 20,

2022

Phillip Charles Kelly, 72, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, December 20, 2022

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

He was born in Lee County to the late Shelton "Shack" Kelly and Treva Freeman Kelly. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sister, Peggy Jean Kelly and brother, Shelton Dwight Kelly.

Phil was a Vietnam Veteran. He was a volunteer with Broadway Fire Department in his early years, worked at the City of Sanford, Cascade Fibers and owned and operated Ace Laser Recycling Inc. Phil was a graduate of CCCC.

Phil is survived by his son, Barrett Kelly and daughter, Christa Kelly Mashburn, both of Sanford; brothers, Gary Freeman Kelly, Sanford, John Richard Kelly of Raleigh, Brooks Barrett Kelly of Sanford; sisters, Carolyn Cummings, Kay Kelly and Anne Kelly, all of Sanford; and four grandchildren.

WILLIAM LLOYD MCGEE

December 22, 1952 ~ December 21, 2022

William Lloyd McGee, 69, of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The family received friends on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Crossroads Ministries in Broadway. A celebration of life followed with Pastor John Sauls III presiding. Burial will follow at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Cemetery with full military honors.

He was born in Columbus County, to the late Willie Dexton McGee and Iris Hayes McGee. He was a mechanic for the National Guard and served his country in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his brother, Willie Floyd McGee of Broadway; sisters, Alice Smith of Fuquay-Varina and Tina Eckenrode of Lillington.

In lieu of flowers, please give to Military Missions in Action at 411-B North Judd Parkway, NE, Fuquay-Varina, N.C. 27526.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

JAMES WEYLON WILLIAMS

August 18, 1945 ~ December 23, 2022

James Weylon Williams, 77, of Seagrove, passed away on Friday, December 23, 2022 at his home.

A private family service is planned.

He was the son of Leonard and Rosie Williams. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sons, Joshua

and Joseph Biby.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Williams of the home; sons, James Wesley Williams of Carthage and Adam Williams of the home; step-children, Kevin Ashworth, Tina Scott, Michael Ashworth and David Ashworth, all of Asheboro; 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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

ROBERT JOSEPH RYAN

November 30, 1952 ~ December 18, 2022

Robert Joseph Ryan passed away on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at UNC Hospital.

A gathering of friends and a time to remember will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home from 2 to 4 p.m.

Bob was the son of Raymond and Josephine Ryan. Drafted to the U.S. Army, he served two years in Germany. Later, he was employed at Stonebridge Golf and Country Club, and Joseph & Feiss for 10 years; after which he was employed at Griffis Air Force Base and then transferred to Fort Bragg, where he worked in civil service for 23 years. Bob was preceded in death by his father, mother and older brother, Edward.

Bob is survived by his wife, Bozena of 49 years; three daughters, Nancy of Sanford, Kristine and Karen of Utica, N.Y.; one granddaughter; and two brothers, Don Ryan of New York, and Ken Ryan of Illinois.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

JAMES DUNCAN COLLINS

July 9, 1953 ~ December 25, 2022

James Duncan Collins, 69, of Sanford, passed away Sunday, December 25, 2022.

No services are planned at this time but a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

He was born in Jacksonville, N.C., to the late Carl W. and Juanita Baker Collins. In addition to his parents, a daughter, Wendy Bullis preceded him in death along with his two sisters, Tulula Brazil and Cathy Thomas.

James is survived by his sister, Judy Sowder of Sanford.

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

ROBERT ANDREW BARNES JR.

August 4, 2022 ~ December 17, 2022

Robert Andrew Barnes Jr., infant son of Katrina and Robert Barnes Sr., passed away on Saturday, December 17, 2022, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Friday, December 23, 2022, at the Johnsonville Church of God in Christ Jesus with burial in Lee Memory Garden.

JAMES NILS BOCKMAN

March 6, 1983 ~ December 15, 2022

James Nils Bockman, 39, of Cameron, passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2022.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 28, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home Chapel in Sanford.

THERESA (CRUMP) JACKSON

March 13, 1952 ~ December 19, 2022

Theresa Crump Jackson, 70, of Moncure passed away on Monday, December 19, 2022, at her residence.

The funeral service will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m., December 27, 2022 at Liberty Chapel Church.

JAMES DILLARD CEASAR

February 11, 1946 ~ December 19, 2022

James Dillard Ceasar, 76, of Aberdeen passed away on Monday, December 19, 2022, in Cameron.

Knotts Funeral Home of Sanford is serving the family.

Pre-Planning Check List for the New Year!

Make an Appt. to gain information

Transfer my arrangements from that other funeral home to Donaldson

Peace of Mind for me and my family

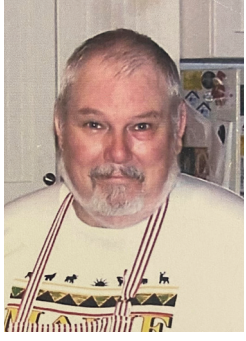


396 West St. Pittsboro, NC, 27312

www.donaldsonfunerals.com

919-542-3057

LAWRENCE (LARRY) ALAN WEBSTER



July 3, 1950 ~ December 21, 2022

Lawrence Webster, 72, of Pittsboro, passed away on December 21, 2022, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill, N.C., from multiple complications.

He was born in Woburn, Massachusetts, on July 3, 1950, to Richard and Helen (Nelson) Webster of Reading, Massachusetts. A graduate of Reading Memorial High School, Larry was a trained chef, baker extraordinaire, caterer for hundreds of special events and the co-owner of Larry's Famous Cheesecakes with his wife Karen.

Larry was a self-taught musician playing numerous instruments, beginning with the drums, and working through an amazing repertoire. Larry could take the smallest harmonica and make beautiful music. He played guitar, mandolin, and was learning banjo. He was an accomplished singer from the age of 7, singing in churches, for civic groups, and his own groups on the local stage. He managed "Mason Dixon and The Line," a popular musical rock band in the '70s.

Larry, Karen, and their son moved to Pittsboro, N.C., in 1990, where they firmly planted their feet as involved members of the community, engaging in school, church, Ruritan, Scouting, work, and organizations. Larry is a retired food service worker for the state of N.C., most recently in the Carrboro-Chapel Hill School system.

Larry Webster is survived by his wife of 38 1/2 years, Karen M. (Ballou) Webster; a son, Lawrence (Larry) A. Webster Jr.; a brother, John R. Webster of Pittsboro; a sister, Nancy A. Webster of Manchester, N.H., and four nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two brothers, David G. and Gary N. Webster, and his mother and father.

The family will be hosting a Memorial Gathering on Thursday, December 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, December 30, at 2 p.m. at the Bynum U.M.C.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Webster family. Memorial tributes can be left at www.donaldsfunerals.com.

AUBREY BELLE SUTHERLAND

December 18, 2022 ~ December 19, 2022

Little Miss Aubrey Belle Sutherland, infant daughter of Marlena and Jason Sutherland, passed away on Monday, December 19, 2022, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

DEVOLAR MCLEAN

March 24, 1947 ~ December 20, 2022

Devolar McLean, 75, of Broadway, passed away on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

FLORETTA YVONNE WOMBLE

Floretta Yvonne Womble, 84, of Siler City, passed away on Saturday, December 24, 2022, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

JAMES BRIAN GIST

James Brian Gist, 45, of Bear Creek and Knoxville, Tennessee, passed away at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice House on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2022.

Cremation arrangements entrusted to Piedmont Cremation & Funeral Service of Graham.

HATTIE MAE BROOKS

Hattie Mae Brooks, 100, of Pittsboro, passed away on Monday, December 26, 2022.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

UNITED WAY AGENCY PROFILE

SALVATION ARMY: Doing the most good

Helping families, individuals in crisis

Editor's note: this is one of a series of profiles of Chatham County nonprofits served by the United Way of Chatham County, which is in the process of finishing its annual fundraising campaign. For more on the United Way or to donate toward this year's goal, please go to <https://unitedwayofchathamcounty.org>.

Program: Emergency financial assistance; Pathway of Hope

Reach: about 3,000 people annually

What we do: The Salvation Army of Chatham County engages individuals and families in case management to assist with crises and overcome situational and generational poverty.

How we do it: The individuals and families apply for assistance and are matched with a case manager for support. The community partnerships include: financial literacy, education, childcare, vocational opportunities, public benefits assessment, emergency food and clothing, and Pastoral care.

Our impact in Chatham: Our mentorship approach helps to alleviate the stress on the community at large through providing touch-points for applicants. The Salvation Army participates in a county-wide service provider referral group and problem-solving through collaboration.

How we measure success: Our organization consistently provides financial assistance, food, clothing, school supplies and holiday gifts to many local families and individuals who express need. We work with The United Way, Chatham County, local service organizations and faith communities who continue to support our efforts.

Our biggest challenge right now: Our biggest challenge remains funding for expanding our services. Our organization plans to continue growing our service partnerships and reaching a greater number of families and individuals in the county, which requires hiring additional staff members.

A success story: A person contacted our office to ask for assistance with a room in a local hotel due to an eviction. We assisted them with a pledge to the hotel for three weeks, during which time they were able to secure employment and connection with a sponsor for recovery. The person continued to periodically live with friends for several months and struggled with relapse, but was able to maintain employment and volunteered with our office and stayed connected to our Pastoral counselors. They are now living in a stable situation in another area of the state, which they identified as needed for "a fresh start." Our office has offered to connect them with The Salvation Army in their new region for any future needs.

Year founded: 1984

Staff: 3

Director: Rebecca Sommer-Petersen; rebecca.sommer-petersen@uss.salvationarmy.org

Coordinates: 2535 Old U.S. Hwy. 421 N., Siler City; 336-763-6402

On the web: <https://www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/greensboro/chatham/>

OBITS

Continued from page A7

CARL BRYANT

April 2, 1937 ~ December 16, 2022

Carl Bryant, 85, of Moncure, passed away on Friday, December 16, 2022, at his residence.

Service for Mr. Bryant was held at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 22, 2022, at Pitts-

boro Fairground. The repast, balloon release was held there from 1 to 3 p.m.

ARLELA WRIGHT

Arlela Wright, 90, of Moncure, passed away on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, in Clayton.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL



50 ACRE SILK HOPE "PLAY FARM"

This gorgeous property has it all with mature pastures lined with tall cedars, mountain in the middle and a big creek with rocks on the back. This can be your estate or weekend getaway!

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CHATHAM'S ANIMAL RESOURCE CENTER

How the county shelter has fared since Sheriff's Office transition

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The county's Animal Resource Center — a target of critics of Sheriff Mike Roberson during his successful re-election campaign this year — has demonstrated measurable successes over the last few years.

That's according to Roberson and ARC supporters, despite what they say is a lack of funding and staffing from the county. "The Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center (ARC) is making a positive impact for animals and families across the county," Roberson told the News + Record during his campaign.

Before the Sheriff's Office annexed the ARC in 2019, euthanasia rates for the animals in the shelter were more than 50% (579 animals) in 2017 and 43% (613 animals) in 2018. Adoption rates in 2017 were also low, with fewer than 40% (447 animals) of animals entering the shelter being adopted out.

Chatham County resident and animal activist Rev. Terry Dorsey was one of the community members who advocated for the formation of the ARC. He helped found "Guardians of Angels" in 2011 — a former 501(c)3 formed to advocate for the construction of the adoption center to county commissioners.

The organization worked to mobilize and rally commissioners to set aside funding to build a state-of-the-art facility to house the ARC. Dorsey said he and the organization worked with former Chatham Commissioner Brian Bock to help gain board members' support for the adoption center proposal, which cost \$5.5 million.

"He and I, we had a lot of breakfasts together, and he was

an animal advocate," Dorsey said. "He got the Republicans (on the board) to spend that money."

While the Guardians got the adoption center they advocated for, it was hard to predict what the ARC would look like years later.

Roberson had been asked for his department to take over the ARC for several years, but it wasn't annexed into the Sheriff's Office's jurisdiction until 2019 — kicking off an internal review of how previous directors operated the shelter, according to Sheriff's Department Communications Officer Lt. Sara Pack.

"A thorough evaluation of the existing facility, standards and procedures revealed cause for concern," she said. "Multiple directors had unsuccessfully requested additional staffing, funding and other resources, leading to an ongoing struggle to meet the growing demand for services. It was clear the issue would take time, dedication, and a clear vision to address going forward."

Roberson asked for nine new positions to add to his 12-person staff — for a total of 21 — in the 2020-21 fiscal year budget; commissioners gave him two.

The current budget for operating the ARC is below what Roberson requested. For 2022-23 fiscal year, the ARC was allotted about \$1.7 million, which includes capital expenses, salaries for ARC attendants and enforcement staff (AROs). The operating budget from that \$1.7 million is just more than \$480,000, making resources tight for the county animal shelter.

The county's budget process goes through various phases of design, including department presentations, workshoping sessions and more. The past couple of years' budgets have fo-

cused on incoming growth, specifically in regards to VinFast's proposed plant at the Triangle Innovation Point megasite in Moncure.

"We continue to experience rapid development, including the recent announcement that electric vehicle manufacturer VinFast will be locating its U.S. production facility at the Triangle Innovation Point (TIP) East megasite in Moncure," Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said in a previous statement in June.

The funding Roberson requested may not have been fulfilled to his liking, but there were some positive trends at the shelter. The euthanasia rate was cut in half to 29% (270 animals) in 2020 and then fell to 21% (204 animals) in 2021. In addition, the adoption rate went from just below 40% in 2017 to more than 60% (615 animals) in 2021. Roberson and his staff believes those trends are because of a combination of various factors, including the new ARC facility, which is located on 725 County Landfill Rd.

The ARC opened its new facility in Pittsboro back in October 2021, but the organization has relied heavily on other partnering organizations to help with the growing demand for animal-centric services.

"We are currently in the process of expanding our programs and services and have partnered with a number of animal experts, medical professionals, businesses, rescue groups, non-profits, educators and volunteers to take our vision for the ARC to the next level," Roberson told the News + Record during his re-election campaign. "Thanks to such partnerships, we have been able to provide unprecedented outreach to the community, including free or low-cost vaccinations, micro-

chipping/tagging services, training, and pet supply distribution to those in need."

Dorsey said he is proud of the direction Roberson and his department have taken the ARC. He said, however, he wants to see county officials be more engaged and willing to help find the solution the staffing issues at the ARC.

"When they (county commissioners) when they built the shelter, they didn't anticipate the staff needs," Dorsey said. "Commissioners need to allocate more funding for more staffing."

ARC Lieutenant Brandon Jones said as an organization, the ARC is working with other organizations, as well as local businesses, to help provide low-cost or cost-free vaccinations, spay/neuter operations and more.

"We also hold pet adoption 'Eat & Greet' events at local restaurants and promote responsible pet ownership at community events across the county," Jones said. "But we have much bigger plans we are eager to implement once our team is fully staffed. Whether it is a question or concern or call for service, every need is important."

According to ARC data provided to the News + Record, one in four of the dog-related calls the organization receives originate from low-income, densely populated areas. According to Roberson and ARC staff, this may be a result of pet owners in low-income areas struggling to keep pets adequately secured, spayed and/or neutered, as well as up-to-date on vaccinations — all of which incur sometimes unwanted costs.

To address this issue, Roberson said he wants to start an "Education and Prevention" program in his upcoming term

as sheriff, which would focus on low-income communities within Chatham to help pet owners stay up to date on their pets' medical and physical needs.

Jones said programs like the proposed Education and Prevention initiative would open a realm of possibilities for the ARC, including the addition of more staff and services. For that to happen, however, Jones said pet owners and the community need to be attentive to the needs of their pets.

"Every ARC pet must be spayed/neutered prior to adoption — this is vital to our mission ... However, the spay/neuter process consumes substantial time and resources and often requires us to hold animals for extended periods as we wait for an available veterinary doctor," he said.

"So we encourage pet owners to do their part to spay/neuter their pets as soon as medically possible to avoid overpopulation and unintentional flooding of animal care facilities down the road. Accidents happen, but we should all do our part to help prevent them."

Dorsey said educating the public about the importance of neutering or spaying animals is crucial to alleviating the load on ARC's staff. He said if commissioners were to establish a county-wide approach to educating Chathamites on these issues, the ARC would be in a much better place.

"They need to not only fund Animal Services, but both the county and towns need to start taking much more seriously. animal issues such as breeding, tethering, stray abandonment, and providing funding for spay and neuter clinic right there at the shelter," Dorsey said. "They're just going to have to get more serious at several levels."



Courtesy of Chris Tighe

The 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Station Wagon owned by Chris Tighe and Debbie Zastocki has won several awards and has been featured in HBO's 'A Crime to Remember.'

CARS

Continued from page A1

the restoration process.

"You just don't bring a collector car to your local dealer for repairs," Tighe said. "Most of the newer mechanics are not familiar with these older cars, so finding a good ol' mechanic who knows these cars is important, or you can teach yourself to do most maintenance and repairs."

When it comes to the Bel Air wagon, Zastocki says she had many joy-filled memories driving and riding in the car. Restoring it was something she and her husband wanted to see through.

"I grew up in this car with many memories of going to the New Jersey shore on weekends," Zastocki said. "I drove this car to high school and later traveled back and forth to New Jersey while attending the University of Rhode Island." The four-door wagon was in need of a full restoration, and Tighe and his wife were willing to invest the time — and more than \$100,000 — to make it happen.

Tighe began the restoration in the fall of 2011 with the help of a professional car restorer in New Jersey. Eight months later, the wagon has been restored to be as good as new. Since then, Tighe has taken the Chevrolet to classic car shows across the country, even after he moved to North Carolina.

The closest shows and classic car clubs, however, were more than an hour away, which pushed the limits of the old Chevrolet.

"There's a local car club in Raleigh — which is too far — we joined, but we weren't going to go to the monthly meetings," Tighe said.

The lack of proximity to a classic car club was a major factor in O'Neill's

decision to scope out potential interest in starting the CRCCC.

"There are car clubs that are in North Raleigh, there are car clubs that are in Sanford, but to pop over there just for the meeting is a pretty good hike," O'Neill said. "I saw a lot of cars in the neighborhood, and I decided that we could probably form our own club here."

The CRCCC plans a second meeting in January to finalize membership details — how often to meet, what time meetings will be held, organizing shows and more.

Tighe said car clubs and shows alike have allowed him and his wife to meet other classic car fanatics.

"My favorite part about doing this is meeting people; that's what it's all about," he said. "It's just helping people, help them if they have a problem with their car."

O'Neill hopes the club will bring people in his community together, and he's aiming to extend an invitation to other classic car owners in Chatham who are interested in joining the CRCCC.

"It's just a lot of fun to get together with people that have the same passion as you," he said. "It's all about sharing experiences of these very, very unique cars."

O'Neill said the club may look into hosting its own car shows in the future, but for now, he said members are still working to solidify other organizational details.

Tighe, too, hopes the club will help him connect to his neighbors and his new community.

"I just really want people to be involved and just enjoy their cars," he said. "We want to share that experience with others."

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

Chatham Charter School

Chatham Charter School is now accepting applications for openings in kindergarten and limited openings in first through eleventh grade for the 2023-2024 school year. Kindergarten applicants must be five years of age on or before August 31, 2023. The application period ends on January 27, 2023. Applications may be submitted online (www.chathamcharter.org) under the "Admissions" link, at the school (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) or by calling (919) 742-4550.

Chatham Charter School administers all education programs, employment activities, and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, or other legally-protected classification.

La Escuela de Chatham Charter

La Escuela de Chatham Charter ahora está tomando aplicaciones para espacios del kinder y algunos espacios desde el primer grado hasta el grado once para el año escolar 2023-2024. Los niños que asistan al kinder deben tener cinco años de edad antes del 31 de agosto, 2023. El periodo de aplicación termina el 27 de enero, 2023. Puede completar una aplicación al Internet (www.chathamcharter.org) al enlace Admissions, a la escuela (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) o por una llamada (919.742.4550).

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SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

DEC. 29, 2022 - JAN. 4, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

BOYS BASKETBALL

Chargers enter spotlight at John Wall Invitational

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

PITTSBORO — This week, the Northwood boys basketball team is competing alongside some of the top high school teams in the country at the John Wall Invitational in Raleigh.

The Chargers played two games, starting with a Tuesday tilt against Seventy-First (the game ended after press time). Northwood was part of the "Coby White" region of the showcase, along with Seventy-First, Camden (N.J.) and Panther Creek (N.C.).

Playing in tournaments like the John Wall Invitational, Northwood head coach Matt Brown hopes, will help prepare his team for the tough situations they'll encounter in the heart of conference play and — eventually — the state playoffs. The Chargers are coming off a 2021-22 season that saw them advance to the quarterfinals of the 3A state tournament before falling on the road to West Carteret.

"I feel like our guys, last year, going into the Elite Eight game, the pressure and the crowd really got to us," Brown said. "And now, playing in



Northwood junior Drake Powell (left) and senior Max Frazier (right) high-five during a win earlier this season.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre



Northwood freshman Cam Fowler lays the ball up in a win over Williams on Dec. 13.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

See **CHARGERS**, page B3

CROSS COUNTRY

Caroline Murrell back on track after injury-laden first semester

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

After a physically and mentally taxing first semester of college, former Northwood state champion Caroline Murrell is finally starting to feel like her old self.

Murrell — now a freshman for the N.C. State cross country and track and field teams — joined the Wolfpack over the summer after an illustrious high school career, but she was quickly sidelined by back strains and missed most of the cross country season.

N.C. State went on to win its second straight national championship in cross country back in November, while Murrell dealt with something she hadn't experienced before.

"I've never really had an injury before, so it's been kind of new to navigate," Murrell said. "But it's better that it happened earlier on than later on, so I'll know what to do and how to handle it better ... It kind of took a while to figure out what was going on, but we've got it figured out and I'm slowly starting back running."

Another factor hampering Murrell's first semester in Raleigh was the process of learning team dynamics and how to view herself as part of the team. Coming into the program, Murrell admitted she was intimidated by the success of many of her older teammates, as well as her accomplished coaches. "When I came in, it was like, 'Wow,



Staff photo by Aidan Myers

Former Northwood distance runner Caroline Murrell is a freshman at N.C. State. Murrell competes on the Wolfpack's cross country and track and field teams.

"I can't believe I get to be around these people," she said. "It was kind of to my detriment, I think, because I never really wanted to bother my coach or bother other people on the team. They're them, and I'm me. But now I'm trying to put it into a different perspective, like I'm part of them now. They're not out of my league, or anything."

Murrell said she has still been dealing with shin splints and plantar fas-

ciitis in her recovery, but she recently had been running as many as five miles a day before slowing down a touch for the holidays.

The freshman hopes that after she's fully recovered, she'll be able to compete at the high level she knows she's capable of. Her goals for the next few years are to crack the top seven of the

See **MURRELL**, page B2

The Tar Heels have found their juice



JEREMY VERNON
Sports Editor

The North Carolina men's basketball team couldn't have started this season on a worse note.

Entering the year as the No. 1 ranked team in the Associated Press poll, the Tar Heels won their first five games of the season in less-than-convincing fashion. Then, the wheels fell off.

Starting with a 70-65 loss to Iowa State in Portland on Nov. 25, UNC dropped four straight games, including a defeat at Virginia Tech in its first ACC game of the season. The Tar Heels fell all the way from No. 1 to completely outside the top 25. But now, as we prepare to enter 2023, head coach Hubert Davis and his team seems to have found its juice.

North Carolina has won four straight games since the loss to the Hokies, including back-to-back wins over Ohio State and Michigan. In the victory over the Wolverines in Charlotte last week, the Tar Heels played with an intensity that was noticeably

See **JUICE**, page B2

National champion wrestler O'Connor helping out Seaforth as assistant athletic director

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

It's not every day you have a national champion wrestler helping out with your day-to-day responsibilities, but that's been the exact situation Seaforth athletic director Jason Amy found himself this school year.

At the start of the fall semester, Amy heard from UNC graduate wrestler Austin O'Connor about possibly interning at Seaforth as an

assistant athletic director. In need of an internship to fulfill the requirements of his grad school program — Masters of Education, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (MEITE) — O'Connor connected with Amy with some help from UNC wrestling coach Coleman Scott and professor Todd Cherner.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

"All I'm thinking was, 'All of these years, why have I not had this?'" Amy said of bringing in

O'Connor. "I wish I could have had one every year ... Austin is trying to shoot for eight hours a week. He's shown up to several sporting events so far just to see what it is an athletic director does. Everyone sees you at the game, but they don't see all the behind-the-scenes stuff."

Since starting his internship at Seaforth, O'Connor has had many responsibilities, from putting out a monthly news-

See **WRESTLER**, page B2



Courtesy of Seaforth High School

Seaforth Athletic Director Jason Amy (left) poses with UNC wrestler Austin O'Connor, who's interning with him as an assistant.

CLIPBOARD Q&A | AMANDA PEELE

Peele has Seaforth swimming holding its own against tough competition

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

The Seaforth swimming and diving teams are currently in their second season as a program, and their first under head coach Amanda Peele.

Under Peele's leadership, the Hawks have had a fairly successful 2022-23 season so far. At their last meet against Carrboro, Cary Academy and Durham Academy on Dec. 15, Seaforth's boys placed first, while the girls came in fourth against some very strong competition.

The Hawks had several swimmers post times that were good enough to qualify for regionals. On the girls' side, freshman Sydney Burleigh qualified for regionals in the 100-yard breaststroke and 100-yard backstroke. Meanwhile, junior Charley Howard qualified for regionals in the 200 free with a time of 2:17.25.

On the boys side, four swimmers — sophomore Ethan Hepburn (100 breast and 50 free), freshman Colton Roberts (100 and 500 free, sophomore Ben Lajoie (200 free) and sophomore Jackson

Vaughn (100 back) — qualified in their respective events.

Earlier this week, Peele spoke with the News + Record about her team's early success and how she feels about the year so far with only a few months until the postseason.

How are things going, in your opinion, in your first year so far? How do you feel about the way the team has performed recently?

AMANDA PEELE: I have been really, really proud of not just the swimmers' performance, which has been impressive, but I'm also seeing a lot of growth on an individual level from all of my swimmers. Achieving qualifying standards for swimming is a huge deal for the regional and championship level, which is coming up at the end of our season in February. While I'm really proud of those kids, I'm also proud of everyone across the board. We've seen a lot of what we call "dropping time," which is a huge emphasis in swimming across the board. That essentially means everyone tries to swim a personal best every time they swim.

It's a great metric for personal growth, and pretty much everybody across the board has been doing really well in that aspect. I'm really proud of them for that.

Our last swim meet, it's funny. We go to these competitions and our opponents are sometimes schools at the 3A or 4A level, and Seaforth is currently 2A. Beyond that, we don't have anyone older than a junior right now, because the school only opened last year. A lot of our swimmers are really young, and they're going up against these teams. I think we had 14 swimmers at our last event, and I think one of the other schools had up to 75. It can sometimes feel a little bit daunting. But the kids have represented their school well, not only with their performance, but I've also been really proud of their sportsmanship and the support of their teammates. These swim meets can move really, really fast. Some of them can do a lot of racing with not a lot of rest. But when they're not racing, I see them cheering for their teammates and supporting their teammates

who are about to race. It's really gratifying to see.

You only have two juniors, with the rest of your swimmers being sophomores or freshman. How nice is it knowing you don't have to worry about any of these kids graduating soon?

It's amazing to see how engaged these kids already are and how excited they were to be part of this team and help grow this team. I only have two juniors, and the rest are sophomores, but all of them have expressed interest in leading their teammates and trying to establish traditions.

I noticed at one of our swim meets, a lot of the other teams had specific cheers and rituals that they do before the start of the swim meet. That's something we hadn't really built yet. But a couple of my swimmers saw that, and within like 60 seconds, they had made a really quick cheer and led their teammates in it. It was nice to see.

I think of our 18 swimmers, about 10 are freshmen, so our first meet was the first time swimming at the high school level, and their first time swimming at a

venue as established and big and technically-impressive as the Triangle Aquatic Center. On top of being dwarfed by some of the other teams, I'm sure that was pretty intimidating. They showed up, they got it done and they were excited to go back and try again.

Sophomore Evan Hepburn qualified for regionals in two events at your most recent meet. What has it been like to see him progress from last year and have the type of success he's having?

Evan's a great kid. I wasn't his coach last year, but just based on the results, he's definitely improved in the pool. He has qualified for regionals, along with several of his teammates. But beyond his impressive showing in the pool, he's a real leader outside of the pool. That's something I'm really grateful for. He's always checking in with his teammates to see if they're doing well, and he's trying to keep them focused. He cheers for his teammates and encourages his other teammates to cheer for anyone who's racing. I'm really proud of him and his effort, as well as the leadership he's displayed

this season.

What do you want to see from your team these next few weeks as you come back from the holiday break?

We actually have our next competition before we have our next practice. Our swim meet on Jan. 6 is at the Asheboro YMCA. Our last swim practice was on Dec. 19, so it will be interesting to see how everyone manages with that. That's a combination of the break as well as, it's been hard for us to find a venue to host us for swim practices. That will be interesting. But beyond that, we only have about four more weeks of practice, and then we're on into championship season. During that time, I'm hopeful to get them back working on their conditioning. We'll also have a lot of meets during this time. They've already displayed their dedication in the past. I'm just looking for effort, attendance and for them to just go out there and do their best.

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

JUICE

Continued from page B1

lacking from their early-season bouts.

UNC might have to thank Michigan for giving them the shot in the arm they so desperately needed.

Well, maybe you could call it an elbow to the chin.

In the first half of the win over the Wolverines, North Carolina forward Armando Bacot caught an elbow to the face from center Hunter Dickinson. A short time later, Dickinson picked up a hard foul while try-

ing to stop UNC guard Caleb Love from scoring an open layup. Love took exception to the contact, quickly getting in Dickinson's face. A few moments later, players from both sides were involved in the scuffle, and four players were assessed technical fouls for their involvement in the skirmish.

The shot of adrenaline did wonders for the Tar Heels, who were down by four points, 26-22, when tempers started to flare. From there, UNC controlled the flow of the game and went on to claim an 80-76 victory.

Playing with this level of passion and fire will be key for the Tar Heels as they progress through conference play and, eventually, into the postseason. UNC hopes this energy and level of intensity will take them on a similar path to last season, when it entered the NCAA Tournament as the No. 8 seed in the East region before rallying to make the national championship game.

If the Tar Heels have plans of playing in the Final Four in Houston, they'll need to channel the flow of juice. They'll also have to rely on their big four of

Bacot, Love, R.J. Davis and Leaky Black to step up in big situations.

Bacot has been UNC's top player this season, averaging 18.2 points and 11.1 rebounds per game while shooting 56.6% from the field. Love is averaging 18.3 points and 3.7 assists per game, while Davis is averaging 15.9 points and 5.5 rebounds.

North Carolina still has plenty of things to clean up before tournament time, especially on the offensive end. As things stand, UNC is tied for 216th nationally with 13.0 assists per game. Last year, UNC averaged

14.8 assists per game.

The Tar Heels are also struggling to shoot the ball. Through 13 games, UNC is shooting 30.7% as a team from beyond 3-point range and 45.9% from the field. Those numbers rank 302nd and 129th in the country, respectively.

North Carolina will have its hand full the next few weeks as it continues ACC play. The Tar Heels play two of their next three games at home before hitting the road to take on No. 13 Virginia on Dec. 10.

One thing working in North Carolina's favor is

the strength of the rest of the ACC. Normally seen as the top conference in all of college basketball, this year's Atlantic Coast Conference seemingly features no powerhouses. Duke is currently ranked No. 17 and is coming off a shocking loss to Wake Forest. Outside of the Blue Devils and Cavaliers, the only other ranked teams in the league is Miami (No. 14).

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

WRESTLER

Continued from page B1

letter for the Hawks' coaches to compiling the school's athletic schedule.

O'Connor has also been tasked with leading the charge in setting up Seaforth UNIFIED events, which are put on for students with learning disabilities. Over the past few months, O'Connor said he has created both fliers and a website for the UNIFIED events. Seaforth hosted its first-ever Unified Basketball game against Jordan-Matthews High on Dec. 7.

"Being an athletic director is something I could potentially see doing in the future," O'Connor told the N+R. "Working under Jason has been a great experience. It's kind of exactly what I was looking for. He's been a great mentor,

and seeing him interact with the kids and setting up all the events has been nice to see. He's given me a lot of tips about how being an athletic director works and everything that goes into it. You can tell how much he loves his job and the kids, helping them out and helping the sports teams."

Of course, O'Connor still has plenty else on his plate. On top of the internship and a full class load, the grad student is still a member of the North Carolina wrestling team.

In fact, O'Connor is the most accomplished member of the Tar Heels team. As a redshirt junior in 2020-21, he went 13-0 in the 149-pound weight class en route to being named ACC Wrestler of the Year honors. At the NCAA Championships that year, O'Connor defeated No. 1 seed Sammy Sasso of Ohio State to

give UNC its first NCAA wrestling gold medal since 1995.

The 2021-22 season was a challenging one for O'Connor. After starting the year strong, the wrestler suffered a serious knee injury that resulted in several torn ligaments right before conference championships. He still competed through the pain, ultimately taking eighth at the NCAA Championships to claim his fourth All-America honor.

So far this winter, O'Connor is 2-0, with wins in matches against Appalachian State and Central Michigan. Knowing this will be his final season with the Tar Heels, O'Connor hopes the next few months will deliver him another shot securing a national championship.

"This year I want to go out there and redeem myself, get a little revenge

and be back there on top of the podium," he said. "Everything's going in that direction. I just have to stay healthy and keep training."

O'Connor said despite the added responsibilities on his plate, he has been pleased with his ability to juggle several tasks at once.

"It's been tough, but I think I've handled it to the best of my ability," he said. "They are both two things I love doing, so it doesn't make it too hard for me. It's enjoyable, but it's a new challenge I've had to take on."



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MURRELL

Continued from page B1

cross country lineup and compete at a conference and regional level in her track events — the 1,600- and 3,200-meter races.

As a senior at Northwood in 2021-22, Murrell had one of the best years by any Chatham County athlete in recent memory. After finishing third in the 3A state cross country championships in November 2021, she added an individual state title at the indoor track and field championships in February, winning the 3,200-meter race in a time of 10:46.69.

In the spring, Murrell wrapped up her high school career by winning a pair of state titles at the 3A outdoor

championships, winning the 1,600- and 3,200-meter races in times of 5:07.44 and 11:07.69, respectively.

Speaking with the News + Record, Murrell said that while her senior year didn't live up to all her expectations, she was grateful for the time she got to spend at Northwood competing alongside her teammates.

"I was very happy with the season, but I wasn't completely satisfied," Murrell said. "I think of my time at Northwood and most of it was special. It meant a lot to me, and it taught me a lot. But I also know that (my senior year) wasn't my peak. It kind of just gave me more fuel for college."

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

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Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A group of Northwood players celebrate on the sidelines during the team's 53-34 win over Williams on Dec. 13.

CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

the environment we're playing in the John Wall Invitational, and some really good teams we're playing, I think it's just going to prepare us more heading into the playoffs and getting where we want to get to ... I tell our guys, we don't duck around competition. We want to play the best to be the best, and that's what we're trying to do this year. We want those challenges, and we have to challenge ourselves."

The Chargers entered the John Wall Invitational with a 9-1 record, with their only loss coming against Cannon Academy, the No. 3-ranked team in North Carolina, according to MaxPreps' rankings. Northwood has several impressive wins already on its resume, including a 71-64 victory over Carmel Christian — the No. 2 team in N.C. — on Dec. 10 and an 81-64 win over Millbrook on Dec. 17.

Northwood is led statistically by junior Drake Powell, a UNC commit, who is averaging 20.9

points, 7.5 rebounds and 3.8 assists so far this winter. All told, five Chargers — Powell, senior Kenan Parrish (10.4), junior Jack Leighton (9.9), junior Fred Whitaker Jr. (8.6) and senior Max Frazier (8.6) — are averaging at least eight points per game.

As far as room for improvement, Brown believes his team's defense still has strides to make before the start of the postseason. Through 10 games this year, the Chargers are allowing 53.5 points per game to their opponents, up from 41.9 points a year ago.

"I think we're better all-around right now than we were at this point last year," Brown said. "I feel like last year we were still trying to find our identity offensively and defensively. I think we've kind of found out who we are as a team. Now we're just honing in on those things that we're really good at, and we're trying to get better at those things."

Wherever the Chargers head this season, they'll be led by Powell, who is slowly approaching his 1,000th career point with the team (844). The junior has taken his game to

another level this season, and seems to thrive in big games against big opponents. Brown has been mesmerized by 6-foot-6 guard/forward during his time at Northwood, saying, "I've never been part of someone or something like this ever in my coaching career."

Powell is ranked as the No. 50 player nationally and the No. 6 player in North Carolina in 247Sports' Class of 2024 composite rankings.

"He turns it up when it needs to be turned up. It's pretty phenomenal," Brown said. "It's phenomenal to watch him play. It's kind of a blessing; he always makes the coach look really good. He does everything for you, and he's so dang coachable. Seeing his knowledge of the game is pretty cool to see."

After the holiday break, Northwood returns to Central 3A Conference action on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at home against Person.

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



Council on Aging Activities Calendar

December 26th through December 30th

Monday, December 26
Council on Aging Closed
Tuesday, December 27
Council on Aging Closed
Wednesday, December 28
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom)**
- 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. - **Bible Study**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Great Apps for Senior Safety w/Kathryn**
- 1 p.m. - **Cornhole**
- 2 p.m. - **Crafting w/Kathryn (Washi Tape Earrings)**

Thursday, December 29
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Crafts and Conversation**
- 11 a.m. - **Science w/Alan**
- 1 p.m. - **Board Games/Cards**
- 3 p.m. - **Gentle Yoga w/Liz**
Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. - **Men's Coffee & Conversations**
- 10 a.m. - **Music Jam Session**
- 2 p.m. - **Tai Chi**
- 3 p.m. - **Bingo**

Friday, December 30
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 11:15 a.m. - **Chair Volleyball**
- 1 p.m. - **Card Games/Euchre**
- 3 p.m. - **Jukebox Live! "90s Country"**
Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Blood Pressure Checks**
- 10:30 a.m. - **New Year, New You - Talk With Kathryn**
- 7 p.m. - **Friday Night Dance (fee required to attend)**



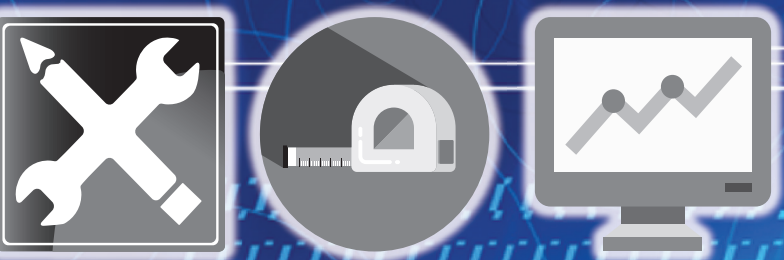
For more information on these and other programs, call our centers Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center
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POLICE REPORTS

ARREST BLOTTER

On Dec. 6, William Dennis Riker Jr., 46, of 310 W. Philadelphia Avenue, Pine Bluff, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for injury to personal property. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14.

On Dec. 7, Tiffany Leigh Kearns, 31, of 181 Alex Watson Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Reid Kirkman for magistrate's order for fugitive. She was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 8, Dwayne Lenard Bland, 44, of 434 Dow Hill Drive, Siler City, was arrested

by Deputy Andrew Gray for failure to appear regarding child support. He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Hillsborough District Court on Dec. 9.

On Dec. 10, Trent Alexander Phillips, 36, of 207 Delphus Stinson Road, Goldston, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for probation violation. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14.

Phillips was also arrested by Cpl. Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14.

On Dec. 10, Fernando Exau

Hernandez, 32, of 3212 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Harrington for child support. He was issued a \$1,200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Durham County District Court on Jan. 13.

Group arrested in connection with armed robbery

A series of arrests have been made in connection with an armed robbery that occurred in Chatham County in early November. The victim in the case reported being threatened, robbed and held against

her will in the home of Peter John Mein, 62, of 311 Piney Grove Church Rd., Siler City. Mein, an acquaintance of the victim, was subsequently charged with felony robbery with a dangerous weapon, felony financial card theft, two counts of felony obtaining property by false pretense, felony identity theft, felony conspiracy and larceny. Mein was arrested on Nov. 27 and held under a \$15,000 secured bond.

In addition to Mein, investigators have charged Teddy Martin, 34, and Tiffany Kearns, 31, with felony robbery with a dangerous weapon, felony financial card theft, felony identity theft, felony conspiracy and larceny. Kearns was

also individually charged with communicating threats. Both were arrested and assigned \$25,000 secured bonds for their roles in the crime.

Juan Beiza Rebollar, 30, Codie Nicole Johnson, 27, and Missy Jo Riddle, 46, were also charged with felony robbery with a dangerous weapon and false imprisonment in connection with the incident. Rebollar and Riddle were taken into custody and assigned \$10,000 secured bonds while Johnson was held under an \$11,000 secured bond. Riddle, Mein, Johnson, Kearns and Rebollar are all due to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 30, 2023. Martin was scheduled to appear on Dec. 14, 2022.

Property listing forms due in January

Personal and business property as of Jan. 1 must be listed with the Chatham County Tax Office no later than Jan. 31

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Tax Office reminds those owning real estate that personal and business property as of Jan. 1, 2023, must ensure that the property is listed with the Tax Office no later than Jan. 31, 2023.

Listings received after this date will be subject to a late listing penalty equal to 10% of taxes owed.

Forms will be mailed out, but property owners also can pick up forms at the county tax office in Pittsboro or download a 2023 listing form at www.chathamcountync.gov/taxlisting. Property owners who do not receive their listing form by Jan. 20, 2023, should call 919-542-8250 to make arrangements

to list property by the deadline.

Individuals can mail their completed listing forms, and they must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than Jan. 31, 2023, to avoid penalties. Property also may be listed in person at the county's tax office, located at 12 East St. in Pittsboro. Owners must bring all detailed information necessary to identify their property and its value, including forms that were mailed.

Note that personal property listing forms are not used to list real estate property and any registered motor vehicles with tags. Registered motor vehicles are handled by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles.

Individuals who made any

non-permit changes valued at \$100 or more to real estate property during 2022 or those who need to change the registration status of a vehicle should contact the Tax Office. Examples of changes to real property impacting the value include destruction, acquisition, erection, and damage.

Owners must list such property as unlicensed vehicles, trailers with multi-year registrations, mobile homes not designated as real property, all types of watercraft, aircraft, and items used in a business. Business property also includes items used for farming, a trade or profession, or furnishings or appliances provided to a tenant.

For businesses wanting an extension, owners should contact the Tax Office at 919-545-8475 to request a business listing extension form that extends the deadline to April 15, 2023. However, the business extension form must be completed and submitted no later

than Jan. 31, 2023.

Unpaid 2022 Property Taxes: Tax bills mailed in 2022 for real and personal property are due by 5 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2023. Interest will accrue on all unpaid balances starting Jan. 6.

Once tax bills become delinquent, the Tax Office can begin collection procedures for late bills through such methods as garnishing wages (removing taxes from paychecks), attaching bank funds from bank accounts and income tax refunds, attaching rental income, placing levies on personal property, and foreclosing on property.

Also, unpaid real estate property taxes will be advertised in the newspaper at an additional cost to the taxpayer. The taxes owed will be advertised in the current owner's name.

Tax Relief Options for Specific Property Owners: North Carolina law provides a few property tax relief options for the elderly and permanently disabled, disabled veterans,

and certain low-income property owners. Information about these options and how to qualify can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/taxrelief. Those who no longer meet the requirements of these programs must notify the Tax Office. Persons receiving the tax relief options are by North Carolina law required to have a periodic compliance review conducted by the Tax Department. Those responsible for listing the property of someone who is deceased and who had qualified for the program last year, must notify the Tax Office.

Taxpayers are encouraged to review their personal property information online at ustaxdata.com/nc/chatham/ or visit the Tax Office to verify information on file.

For more information about any of the items listed above, or payment of taxes in general, individuals may contact the Chatham County Tax Office at 919-542-8250 or 919-542-8260.

Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Pets of the Week: Lonnie & Clyde

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Lonnie and Clyde, 3-month-old neutered males looking for their fur-ever home(s). These sweet boys came into the Sheriff's Animal Resource Center (ARC) with their two sisters who have since been adopted. Lonnie and Clyde are both current on all vaccines, microchipped, and ready to relocate! Clyde is shy, quiet, and enjoys birdwatching. He is incredibly sweet and a peaceful presence in the ARC's feline enrichment room. Lonnie is a bit more outgoing and curious; he is affectionate and playful, often nudging Clyde into a game of tag or hide-and-seek. These two are frequently found napping together or keeping each other company on a perch with a view. Relaxation is high on their priority lists, so they will do best in a home which allows lounging around on lazy afternoons or taking naps after breakfast. Lonnie and Clyde are available for adoption separately or as a pair. For more information on how to meet or adopt these adorable boys or another deserving pet, please contact the staff of the Sheriff's ARC at 919-542-7203 to schedule an appointment for a visit at 725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro.



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PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

YULE GET THIS

ACROSS

1 "The Good Body" playwright
10 "Gorky Park" actress Joanna
16 Close to
20 It has flights around French Polynesia
21 Related to the backbone
22 Actress Fanning
23 Reverberated deeply
24 Supposed supernatural mentor
26 Anti votes
27 Turnstile, e.g.
29 Very delicate and light
30 Missions, in brief
33 One stashing
36 "I solved it!"
38 Tic-tac-toe winning row
39 Insect traps
41 Flying expert
42 Portrayer of Miss Hannigan in "Annie"
48 Thin, white mushroom
50 Mornings, for short

52 Pug, for one
53 Sheepskin boot brand
54 Maui wreath
55 Fiji, Haiti or Kiribati
58 Eschewing convention
60 Lose power
61 Legume seed container or leech
62 Tyke amuser
63 Poetic Pound
64 Earthworm
66 Washes suds off of
69 Track races
71 Travel agency's getaway deal
74 Steak variety
77 Rip again
78 Spying aid
82 Actor Peters of "Dark Phoenix"
83 Many boxing wins, in brief
84 Go in circles
86 Corrida call
87 Exposés
90 Verb form of "am," "is" or "are"
93 Suffix with opal
94 Camera type, for short
95 Male sib

96 Split — (1980s new wave band)
97 Makeup flaw
98 Full-fledged, as a club member
102 Tow-offering org.
104 Whale type
105 Scoundrel
106 Ending for ball or bass
107 Electric resistance
110 TV unit
111 Oversee jointly
115 Novelist Morrison
117 Entirely
119 One shoring up branches, perhaps
121 Permeates the internet
127 Dixie soldiers
128 Hawaiian dress
129 Equine
130 Disoriented
131 — fours (little cakes)
132 Word that can precede the starts of eight key words in this puzzle

DOWN

2 Complete
3 Hosp. triage areas
4 Noted British prep school
5 Small iPods
6 California volcano
7 Illuminated
8 Summer, in Metz
9 Bump on a potato chip
10 "Hey, you"
11 Act in, as a TV show
12 Roman
13 Make-believe
14 Milk, in Metz
15 Despite the fact that
16 Cell that fires on impulse
17 "Night" author Wiesel
18 "The Aviator" actor Alan
19 Film segment
25 Writer Orwell
28 Ellipse part
30 New York lake
31 Corrals
32 Taken illicitly
34 Anthem north of the United States
35 Plot out anew
37 Sty creature
40 Precursor of reggae
43 Fuss

44 Bobbing sea marker
45 Doolittle of fiction
46 Weepee
47 Fey and Brown
49 Live, as a ball
51 Narratives
56 Unfreeze
57 — box (TV)
58 Winter pear
59 Chaotic brawl
62 Chinese flower named for its scent
65 Makes level
67 Opposite of SSW
68 Extra tire, say
69 Rocker Bonnie
70 Some herons
72 1982 sci-fi film
73 Holiday festival that starts the day after 132-Across
74 Museum item
75 Trump's first wife
76 Aspirin brand
79 Copier inks
80 France's — -Lorraine
81 View closely
83 NBA coach Steve
85 Two hours before noon

88 Academy Awards
89 Baseball official at home, in brief
90 Hard copy
91 Presidential son Reagan
92 Punk subgenre
95 Party abbr.
99 Least wet
100 Cheap booze
101 Suffix of shape names
103 Tennis' Andre
108 Top of many a tenor's range
109 North Pole pixies
111 — -All-Del
112 Bicolor cookie
113 Coming-out girls
114 Rock's Mötley —
116 Difficult task
118 Jaunty tune
120 Former U.K. record co.
122 — and aah
123 Be off base
124 Cager's hoop
125 Alias abbr.
126 French "the"

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

Please Note; R.F.D will retire on 1/30/23

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

GRIN and BEAR IT by John

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: USED TO FLAVOR BEER

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|--------|
| Catnip | Ferula | Lavender | Sage |
| Chives | Garlic | Mint | Thyme |
| Curry plant | Ginger | Oregano | Yarrow |
| Fennel | Horseradish | Rosemary | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



John Cheesborough, MD	Dawn E. Kleinman, MD	Mary Candace Seagle, PA-C
Brittany Atkinson, PA-C	Candace L. Marin, APRN	

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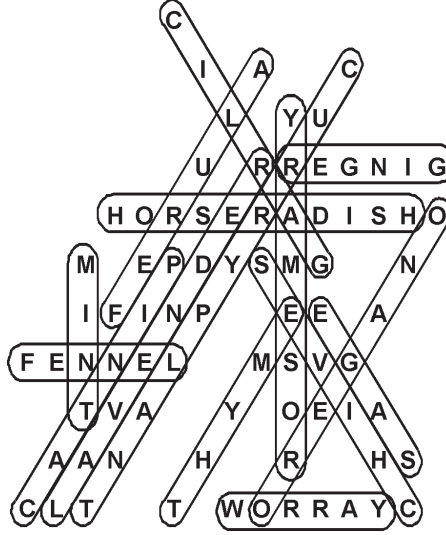
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William Harvey Knotts Sr.
and Nettie Mae Knotts

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PERENNIAL HERBS



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Peasant medicine

Garlic Soup

Garlic confit (recipe follows)
1/4 to 1/3 cup garlic oil (from the confit process)
1 loaf country bread, something rustic and crusty, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes, crust and all

1 cup white wine
2 quarts chicken stock
3-4 cups water
6 bay leaves
3/4 cup heavy cream
salt & pepper

Garlic confit:

35 (yes, 35) cloves garlic, peeled
4-5 cups oil (I used combo of olive and canola)
Salt & pepper

In a very heavy large pot, put in garlic and cover with oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, and set on very low, just above warm. Cook slowly in oil until cloves are a light caramel color, approximately four hours. Cool, and remove garlic from your new garlic oil. You will have more than you need for this recipe, so put the excess oil into a container and refrigerate; it can be used for a gazillion things.

In the same pot, toast the bread cubes in the garlic oil, a couple of handfuls of bread with a couple of tablespoons of oil at a time. This brown crusty goodness on the bread translates into tons of flavor.

When all the bread is toasted, put it all back into the pan, along with the garlic confit. Toss together a bit, and then deglaze with the wine.

When the wine is cooked off, pour in all the stock, stir, cover, and cook very low for about 20 minutes.

Uncover, stir, and add more water, because the bread will absorb it like crazy. Keep cooking slowly, and adding water until it is the consistency of a cream soup.

Season with salt and pepper. Add and taste until the amount is correct, and an extra dimension of flavor is revealed, that will literally make you sigh. This soup is simple, so please don't neglect this.

Cook for two or three more hours, and then either use a hand blender or a regular blender for it until it's completely smooth. Stir in cream, check for final seasoning, and keep warm (don't let boil) until service.

Yield: one humongous pot of seriously yummy soup. Garnish with onion straws.

Onion Straws

1 large yellow onion
Buttermilk
Hot sauce (optional)
Flour

Salt & Pepper
Cayenne pepper (optional)
Vegetable oil for frying

Cut onion in half, peel and slice into very thin half moons. Pour 2-3 cups of buttermilk into bowl and season with hot sauce if desired. Drop in sliced onions and let soak for 10-15 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat 2-3 inches of oil in large heavy pot to 350°.

Drain onions and set a sieve over a large bowl. Place onions in sieve and heavily sprinkle with seasoned flour. Toss to coat. Fry in batches until golden (3-4 minutes). Place on paper towels in low oven, sprinkle with salt as soon as they come out of the oil.

Makes enough for 6 bowls of soup plus more for snacking. Also terrific on burgers.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

At one point in time, the Queen banned garlic from the kitchens of Buckingham Palace and Balmorrel Castle. But multiple

studies have concluded that it can prevent colds and flu, or shorten the duration of ones you do get. It can also improve circulation, lower blood pressure, and reduce the risk of heart attacks through better cholesterol levels.

As a proud member of the peasant class, I'm a big advocate of Bronx vanilla (an actual slang term for

garlic).

This week's recipe is most definitely peasant food. The ingredients are cheap, but require time to coax out the very best of each one. It's garlic soup, and a bowl of this feels like a fragrant hug from that Italian grandmother you never had.

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



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Garlic soup, a tasty delight that feels like a fragrant hug from that Italian grandmother you never had.



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



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HELP WANTED

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 664
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ETTA B. THOMAS**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 229 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 8th day of March, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 1st day of December, 2022.
Joseph Edward Thomas
229 Hillsboro Street

Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
D8,D15,D22,D29,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **TERRY L. PEGRAM**, deceased of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 8th, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. This 8th day of December, 2022.
Larry W. Pegram, Executor
c/o Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A.
P.O. Box 20389
Raleigh, NC 27619-0389
D8,D15,D22,D29,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 548
All persons having claims against **LINDA SUE ROBERTSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 8th day of December, 2022.
Casey P. Clark, Administrator
110 Audubon Lane
Goldston, NC 27252
D8,D15,D22,D29,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 647
All persons having claims against **RAYMOND CHARLES CROTTTS, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 8th day of December, 2022.
Dana N. Daniel, Executrix
726 MEG-WAG LANE
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
D8,D15,D22,D29,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 673
All persons having claims against **ANDREW ANTHONY AMARANTE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of December, 2022.
John Phillip Amarante, Executor
110 Swiss Lake Drive
Cary, NC 27513
D15,D22,D29,J5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of December, 2022, as Executor of the **ESTATE OF PATRICIA B. LEARNED A/K/A PATRICIA LOU LEARNED**, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of March, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This, the 15th day of December, 2022.
TONI G. CONSTANT, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF PATRICIA B. LEARNED
A/K/A PATRICIA LOU LEARNED
C/O Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549Durham, North Carolina 27717
D15,D22,D29,J5,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified on the 31st day of October, 2022, as Administrator of the Estate of **MADELEINE HAMMILL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims

against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of December 2022.
W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Madeleine Hammill
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, N.C. 27330
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, N.C. 27330
D22,D29,J5,J12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **IRENE GRANTHAM SMITH aka IRENE LAURA GRANTHAM SMITH**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of the decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of Ivey & Eggleston, Attorneys at Law, 111 Worth Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203, on or before March 24, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate should make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 22nd day of December, 2022.
Kathy Ellen Smith, Administrator of the Estate of Irene Grantham Smith
aka Irene Laura Grantham Smith
BENJAMIN SCOTT WARREN, Attorney
IVEY & EGGLESTON, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
111 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203
(336) 625-3043
D22,D29,J5,J12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 000679
All persons having claims against **CYNTHIA GALE THOMPSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of December, 2022.
Steven Andre Page, Administrator
205 Springdale Drive
Pittsboro, NC 27312
D22,D29,J5,J12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 662
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **VIVIAN F. ROVER**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 196 Johnny Burke Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 22nd day of March, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 15th day of December, 2022.
Rodney T. Rover, Executor
196 Johnny Burke Road
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
D22,D29,J5,J12,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK File No. 19 SP 83 State of North Carolina County of Chatham BOOKER T. FRANKS, Petitioner, vs.
SHEMIKA SKILLINGS, Respondent.
NOTICE OF SALE
Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made in this Special Proceeding, the undersigned Commissioner

will on **January 6, 2023 at 2:00 o'clock P.M.** at the Chatham County Judicial Center, Pittsboro, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real estate located in Hadley Township, Chatham County, North Carolina: BEING all of Lot #90, containing 4.505 acres, more or less, as shown on a plat entitled "Survey for Bobcat Point Subdivision - Phase IV; Lots 89, 90, 102 and 103," prepared by Van R. Finch - Land Surveys, PA, dated November 14, 2003, revised November 2, 2003 and revised December 1, 2003, and recorded in Plat Slide 2003-438, Chatham County Registry, reference to which is hereby made for a more particular description. The street address of the property is **120 Elsa Jane Lane, Pittsboro, North Carolina**. The highest bidder will be required to deposit \$750.00 or ten percent (10%) of the bid price, whichever is greater, with the undersigned Commissioner on the day of sale. The bid will remain open for ten (10) days for an upset bid as by law provided. Said property is being offered for sale in its "as is" condition. The undersigned Commissioner makes no representation or warranty as to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety condition existing in, on, or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to such conditions are expressly disclaimed. The purchaser shall pay the costs of \$0.30 per \$100.00 of the purchase price (up to maximum of \$200.00) required by NCGS §7A-306(a)(2). The purchaser shall also pay, in addition to the price bid, the tax imposed by NCGS §105-228.30 and any other transfer tax. This 22nd day of December, 2022.
/s/ Paul S. Messick, Jr., Commissioner
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
Telephone: (919) 542-3253
N.C. State Bar No. 2979
Post Office Box 880
Facsimile: (919) 542-0257
Email: pm@gunnmessick.com
D22,D29,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-698
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Frederick W. Miller, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **BRIAN PHILLIP MOORE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the day of March 29th, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 29th of December, 2022.
Frederick W. Miller, Administrator
c/o Marie H. Hopper, Attorney for the Estate
Hopper Cummings, PLLC
Post Office Box 1455
Pittsboro, NC 27312
D29,J5,J12,J19,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-680
All persons having claims against **JOHN COOPER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 27th day of December, 2022.
David Samuel Cooper, Executor
PO Box 1824
Pittsboro, NC 27312
D29,J5,J12,J19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM NEWS
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **CYNTHIA JOAN LYMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of December 2023.
Ethan Lyman Haynes, Administrator
620 Silver Spring Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
c/o John M. Perna, Attorney at Law
202 Davis Grove Circle, Suite 105
Cary, N.C. 27519
D22,D29,J5,J12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PAMELA ANN LOPEZ**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before April 3, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 29th day of December, 2022.
Joseph Lopez, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group
PO BOX 2207
Chapel Hill, NC 27515
D29,J5,J12,J19,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE # 22 E 636
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix for the Estate of **RYNOLD CONWAY FOXF**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to present such claims to the undersigned Executrix c/o Ralph A. Evans, Attorney At Law, at P.O. Box 1145, Liberty, North Carolina 27298 on or before March 29, 2023 or this Notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This the 21st day of December, 2022.
Joe Ann Foxf, Executrix
45 Crestview Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344
c/o Ralph A. Evans
Attorney At Law

P.O. Box 1145
Liberty, NC 27298
(336) 622-5320
D29,J5,J12,J19,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-698 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Frederick W. Miller, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **BRIAN PHILLIP MOORE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the day of March 29th, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 29th of December, 2022.
Frederick W. Miller, Administrator
c/o Marie H. Hopper, Attorney for the Estate
Hopper Cummings, PLLC
Post Office Box 1455
Pittsboro, NC 27312
D29,J5,J12,J19,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-680
All persons having claims against **JOHN COOPER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 27th day of December, 2022.
David Samuel Cooper, Executor
PO Box 1824
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D29,J5,J12,J19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and

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corporations having claims against **MICHAEL WAYNE LEMMON**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 29, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th of December, 2022.
Monica Elizabeth Lemmon, Executor of the Estate of Michael Wayne Lemmond
c/o Paul A. Yokabitus, Attorney
1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 104
Raleigh, NC 27605.
D29,J5,J12,J19,4tc

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Chatham leaders share New Year's wishes for the county

The News + Record asked leaders and community members across the county to share their 2023 Chatham resolutions

CN+R Staff Report

My 2023 wish for Chatham County is for every person in this community who wants one of the great jobs on the way to be able to acquire the skills they need to get hired. I also hope that everyone will be able to have plentiful access to clean, good water.

Rep. Robert Reives II, N.C. House Minority Leader Dist. 54

That our community would know Joy, Peace, and Truth and that from that we would love our neighbors and shine like a city on a hill to all who would see!

Ben Suggs, Pastor at Freedom Family Church in Siler City

Very careful planning of future development to respect Chatham's rural, small-town character and attention to the needs and interests of marginalized people.

Dennis Streets, Former Director of Chatham Council on Aging

UNC Health Chatham wishes all Chatham County residents and businesses a healthy 2023. While we continue to experience COVID, RSV, and Flu surges, we are hopeful for a much healthier 2023 and hope everyone has an opportunity to connect / re-connect with family and friends.

Eric Wolak, Chief Nursing Officer for UNC Chatham Hospital

My 2023 wish for Chatham County is that our elected leaders pay attention and try to get ahead of the major industries that are coming to Chatham. There are already wastewater issues in Siler City, and affordable housing is lacking.

Larry Hicks

That all Chathamites experience peace, pros-

perity, good health, and abundant love in 2023.

Lexie Wolf, owner of Yoga Garden PBO

My wish for Chatham is that we find common purpose in keeping the best of the county in the midst of all the change and opportunity that is coming to us. I hope we find ways to preserve our natural environment, make affordable housing a reality, and insure that those most in need of economic opportunity get it.

Vickie Atkinson, member of CRC-C

My 2023 wish for Chatham County is that everyone who needs it finds good and helpful substance abuse and mental health treatment, and that no one succumbs to overdose.

Judge Allen Baddour, Superior Court Judge for Orange and Chatham Counties

Two wishes for Chatham County for 2023:

1. Farsighted scientific solutions to water use and waste water recycle that protects our underground water table.
2. Cooperative Spirit that enables each of us to see beyond our own horizons.

Dr. John R. Dykers Jr., M.D.

One of my greatest desires for the county in 2023 is seeing a mural on the George Moses Horton Middle School campus displaying African-American trailblazers from the county. The CRC-C Mural Committee is making great strides towards the mural becoming a reality. It is important for Chatham County to know and acknowledge its full history.

Mary Nettles, President CRC-C and Chatham Community NAACP

For Chatham County to keep on finding that place where shared values, even with other differences, make room for building a better community.

Bob Pearson, CRC-C

It is my wish that every child in the Chatham County Schools feels special and seen and valued as part of our school

community so that all of 2023 is filled with excitement for learning

Jane Allen Wilson, Chatham County Schools Board of Education

I hope Chatham develops a strong plan for its future growth. That means preparing for the future through things like the Small Area Plan in Moncure, but also preserving the generational land of those across the county. We need to prepare for the future and listen to the voices of those who are currently here in the new year.

Diana Hales, former Chatham County Commissioner

After an amazing 2022, my wish for Chatham County is that 2023 is a year for all our residents to be excited for the future and be proud that they are part of this great place to live.

Dan LaMontagne, Chatham County Manager

I hope for continued success on and off the field by all of our student-athletes across the county.

Cameron Vernon, Northwood High Athletic Director

I want to empower student athletes with values to become lifelong learners who will make positive contributions to our society. We need to encourage more intentional compassion, gratitude and positivity as coaches and our team members and use kindness as an antidote to the stress we are feeling. Receiving a compliment, words of recognition, and praise can help us feel more fulfilled, boost our self-esteem, and trigger positive emotions.

Jason Amy, Seaforth High Athletic Director

My wish for Chatham County in the new year is that we continue to build on the amazing momentum we have in creating new jobs, investment and opportunities for all citizens. Our team is grateful for the support of our board, our investors, and our elected officials.

Michael Smith, President of Chatham Economic Development Corporation

Comprehensive Transportation Plan updates will begin in 2023

BY ANA LUCIA CIRO
News + Record Correspondent

Chatham County and the N.C. Dept. of Transportation are preparing to update the county's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) in 2023.

"For Chatham County, specifically, one of the big things that has led to the recent discussion of a new update is the introduction of VinFast and Wolfspeed in the county," said Brandon Dawson, Chatham County's transportation and conservation planner.

The CTP is a multi-modal transportation plan covering pedestrians, cars, busses and bikes. The CTP seeks to identify transportation needs for the next 25-30 years.

"These are long range plans for the region, that kind of look at what the region's going to look like and need as it relates to all things transportation," Dawson said.

According to Census Bureau Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics data from 2019, Chatham County has about 6,000 commuters who stay in the county and about 24,000 commuters who leave the county for work. Chatham Chamber of Commerce reports in its State of Chatham Databook 2022 that the majority of commuters drive alone in the car. Certain factors limit residents' access to non-car

See PLAN, page B10

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Randolph Communications donates to Seven Local Food Banks

CN+R Staff Report

ASHEBORO — Randolph Communications held its 6th annual Food Harvest Drive during the months of October and November, collecting non-perishable food items at their two office locations located in Asheboro and Liberty. All donations that were received for the Food Harvest Drive were matched by Randolph Communications, which totaled 3,172 non-perishable

items. All items were donated to seven local food banks in the areas they serve.

- Bennett School, located in Bennett
- Christians United Incorporated of Southern Randolph County, located in Seagrove
- CUOC of Randolph County, located in Asheboro
- High Falls Area Food Pantry, located in Robbins
- Liberty Association of Churches, located in Liberty
- Lydia's Place, located in

Randolph Communications is proud of its more than 68 years of serving our neighbors.

Asheboro

- Robbins Area Christian Ministries Food Pantry located in Robbins

Randolph Communications partnered with Lowes Foods for two weeks in October, which then set up a donation

box at its Asheboro location so that customers could donate at checkout. Companies such as Pinnacle Financial Partners, Movement Bank, First Bank of Asheboro and Walmart donated to the Food Drive.

“Our company’s mission is to improve the lives of our customers and communities, so giving back to the areas we serve means so much to our company,” said Stephanie Gee, Marketing Director. “We look forward to our Food Harvest

Drive each year and are grateful for the support we receive from the community. Randolph Communications is dedicated to improving the lives of its customers and communities they serve.”

Randolph Communications is proud of its more than 68 years of serving our neighbors and communities in, Alamance, Chatham, Davidson, Guilford, Lee, Moore, Montgomery and Randolph counties.

PLAN

Continued from page B9

transportation. For example, Chatham County currently does not have a bike shop within county limits. Chatham Transit is the only bus provider working largely by reservation and with two routes.

“Having multimodal options for transportation is a documented strategy and goal for the county,” Dawson said.

Chatham’s updated CTP will need to accommodate the effects of developments such as VinFast and Wolfspeed’s new facilities. The CTP is updated every five to 10 years with the last update in 2016-2017.

In 2021, the Chatham County Community Assessment was conducted by the Chatham Health Alliance, Chatham Hospital and Chatham County Department of Public Health. The

Assessment found that Black and Hispanic/Latinx adults were more likely to use public transport than white, non-Hispanic adults. Additionally, they found that more than 25% of Hispanic/Latinx adults reported that there were no sidewalks where they needed to walk. This reflects a need for varied transportation options in the county.

The CTP is only the first step in the approval process for a transportation project. Chatham County falls largely in the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization. However, the northeast corner of Durham falls under the Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization. Once a project is added to the CTP that covers its respective area, the Rural Planning Organization or Metropolitan Planning Organization can submit the project to NCDOT.

“And then from there starts the process of getting it into what is called the STIP, which is the State Transportation Improvement Plan,” Dawson said. “The STIP is a 10-year fiscally constrained plan. So that is managed by the state.”

The STIP is a data-driven plan including all NCDOT funded transportation projects. “We can use a travel demand model to predict where the traffic is going to go,” Scott Walston, a transportation engineering supervisor at NCDOT said. “It’s a projection, and it’s an estimate based on what we have now, what the conditions may be like [in] the year 2050.”

After evaluation, projects added to the STIP receive a cost estimate and timeline for completion.

CTP updates are decided at a series of meetings, all of which are open to the public.

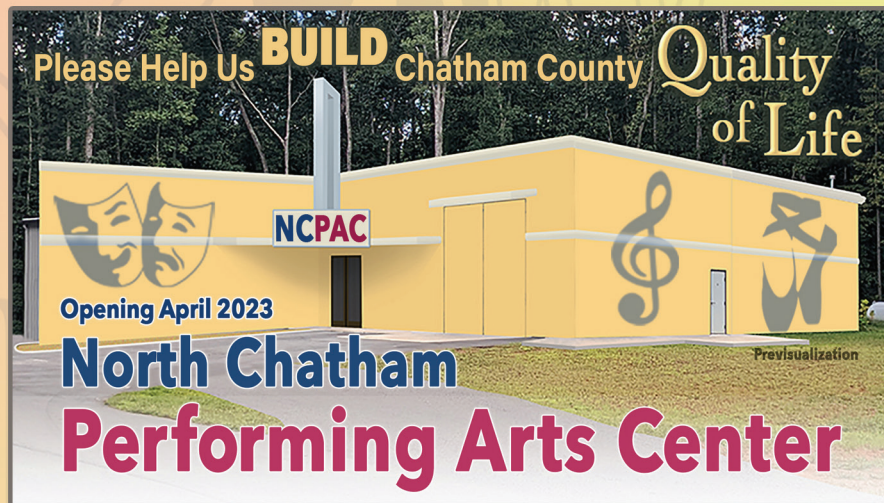
“I encourage anybody in the public that is interested to participate

because the locals know the future,” Walston said. “We want to develop a

plan that everybody’s happy with as much as possible.”

“It’s the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting.”

– *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho



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Chatham Chamber’s board, staff

Chatham Chamber’s leadership includes, front row, from left: Nkosi Campbell, Administrative Assistant Mary Bowman, President Cindy Poindexter, Kathy Simmers, James Vose, Sharon Dickens, Phillip Pappas and Travis Patterson. Second row, from left: Debbie Andleton, Chris Elkins, Stephanie Terry, Dr. Karen Barbee, Nancy Wykle and Jason Hoyle.

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