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HOOPS: Stevenson, Powell approaching 1,000 career points, PAGE B1

Chatham News + Record

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OUTLOOK 2023 | CHATHAM'S OFFICIALS SHARE VISION Leaders point to '23 as a year of transformation

CN+R Staff Report

If the year 2022 was about triumph and headline-making development projects in Chatham County, officials at the county and municipal levels here point to 2023 as a year of transformation — and of the need to set the stage properly for the growth and development that will help define the county in the near-term.

Growth brings opportunities, they said, but also brings into sharper focus issues Chatham has been working to address. Among them: affordable hous-



LaMontagne

Howard

ing, workforce development, addressing environmental challenges and preservation of the assets that make living here desirable.

The News + Record queried the man-



Hensley

agers and top elected official from Chatham County and the municipalities of Siler City, Goldston and Pittsboro. Responses to questions are provided below from Chatham County Manager

Dan LaMontagne, Chatham Commission Chairperson Karen Howard, Siler City Town Manager Hank Raper, Siler City Mayor Thomas "Chip" Price, and Goldston Mayor Jonathan Hensley. Pittsboro's town manager position is vacant and Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry was unable to respond to questions.

What one item is at the top of your priority list for 2023? How will you address it? DAN LAMONTAGNE, Chatham County Manager: My top priorities for

See VISION, page A7

Teacher charged with assault

BY BEN RAPPAPORT News + Record Staff

SILER CITY - Chatham Coun-

with a deadly weap-

which occurred



Eric Hudson

after he was hired but before his first day of work. Eric Hudson, 45, who on Friday was listed a teacher on Pittsboro Elementary School's faculty, faces a Jan. 18 court date following an incident which took place last July. According to the incident report filed by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Hudson threatened the victims with a gun. He also is charged with destruction to personal property.

Neither Hudson nor his attorney, Amos Tyndall of Carrboro, would speak on the record to the News + Record about events of July 10, in which a group of youngsters say they were chased and attacked by Hudson along a road in rural Chatham County near Siler City. Two of the victims of the alleged attack, a brother and sister, told the News + Record they, and three other friends, went to explore an area on a road near Hudson's property on River Bend Road in Siler City. The area, both the children and the children's mother said, is reportedly known by many as the site of what some have described as a "devil church." The brother and sister

Chatham's robotics team, the Neon Krakens, gears up for a new season



Staff photo by James Kiefer

A miniature robot, built last year by students at the Chatham School of Science & Engineering and Jordan-Matthews High School, sits on a table during the school's robotics team's first meeting of 2023. The Neon Krakens won an award for their 2022 design.

BY BEN RAPPAPORT News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — On a Saturday morning in a warehouse next to Chathe arm of a robot to go both vertically and horizontally without tipping the whole thing over. It's more complicated than it may seem because that arm has to pick up blocks and cones and place

full of 26 other students, all members of Chatham County's robotics team, the Neon Krakens.

Tellez-Canuto's teammate, Emmanuel Hernandez Castaneda, a junior at Jordan-Matthews, writes her ideas on the whiteboard and attempts to draw as she describes her vision. Other students shout out feedback and propose tweaks. It's a truly collaborative, student-led process that makes the robot from an idea into reality. The Neon Krakens team is a partnership between the Chatham School of Science & Engineering and Jordan-Matthews — as of now, the only robotics team in Chatham County Schools. Saturday marked the team's kickoff of the 2023 season, the ninth year of Chatham's robotics team.

See CHARGED, page A7

tham School of Science & Engineering. Jordan-Matthews High School Junior Lizbeth Tellez-Canuto is

proposing a

new idea. She's trying to configure

them in precise locations.

Tellez-Canuto proposes bolstering the base of the arm with sturdy materials to ensure the arm can reach the maximum height and length necessary to score

points.

"We know we need to make it extend faster than the previous bot," she says aloud. "What do we think about an elevator style versus a parallel style?" The question is posed to a room

See ROBOTICS, page A6

Chatham's AVID program gets national recognition

Chatham Central 1 of 3 in N.C. certified as National Demonstration Site

BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — A year ago, Chatham Central freshman Elijah Herrera's binder was always in disarray. He was disorganized, found himself not caring about school, and was strongly considering dropping out.

Today, as a sophomore, he's done a complete turnaround.

"I really want to stay in school, and I want to go to college to study psychology," Herrera said.

He attributes part of his mindset shift to being part of AVID — Advancement Via Individual Determination. At Chatham Central, Herrera's story is one of many about the power of giving students the tools to succeed.

Herrera said the community he formed in AVID gave him the necessary positive peer pressure needed to make a change in his attitude.

"In AVID I feel like I learned pressure," Herrera said. "Good pressure. Pressure to stay on task, and get everything done in a timely manner.'

Seeing the potential

AVID is a nationwide college-readiness program that has proved effec-

See AVID, page A3

Green Beagle Lodge brings 'resort for dogs'

BY BEN RAPPAPORT News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A splash pad, luxury suite and spacious yard may sound like perfect ingredients for a family vacation site, but Green Beagle Lodge — which has all that and more - wants to be like the Ritz Carlton for dogs.

The all-inclusive pet care facility officially cut the ribbon on its new Pittsboro location on Saturday. This is Green Beagle Lodge's second location and first in Chatham County, offering more space and services than its Chapel Hill location.

The 11,000 sq. ft., 13-acre facility located at 120 Lodge Lane is just off





Staff photo by Nikki Wit

Owners and staff of the new Green Beagle Lodge in Pittsboro cut the ribbon on Saturday.

IN THE **KNOW**

Siler City commissioners approve staff compensation study. PAGE B6



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA The Chatham County **Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the George Moses Horton Middle School multipurpose room in Pittsboro • The Chatham County **Board of Commission**ers will meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. The regular session of the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The Siler City Board of Commissioners will

meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the Wren Memorial Library multipurpose room.

OTHER

• 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).

 The Chapel Ridge **Classic Car Club** (CRCCC) will hold its next meeting Saturday, January 21 at 1 p.m. at the Chapel Ridge homeowners clubhouse at 1040 Chapel Ridge Drive. Those in Chatham County that have a classic car (20 years or older) that desire to meet with other owners can attend. For more detail, email sdoneill539@ gmail.com.

 Chatham Community Library is offering free online classes on Microsoft Word in January. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www. chathamcountync.gov/ ComputerClasses. Call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org for more information - Microsoft Word Basics. Part 1: January 12, Thursday, 3 p.m. Learn how to create and format documents in Microsoft Word. This class is designed for beginners. - Microsoft Word Basics, Part 2: January 19, Thursday, 3 p.m. Build on the concepts learned in Part 1. Create bulleted and numbered lists, insert charts and tables, add headers and footers, and more. Participants should have prior basic experience with Word. -Microsoft Word: Beyond Basics: January 26, Thursday, 3 p.m. Learn about more advanced tools in Microsoft Word, including mail merge, macros, and fillable forms. Participants should have prior basic experience with Word. 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, through 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-waywatch-page-chathamcommunity-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** will host the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge - Children and teens are invited to participate at all Chatham County Public Libraries branches through February 11. The Challenge, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to youth ages 2 thru18. 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

will need to contact Education Coordinator, Brandy Oldham, by January 16. - For complete details, rules, study materials, and NC 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.

 Community Meals: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Pittsboro distributes two meals each week for the benefit of the community. From 12 to 1 p.m. each Thursday, the Pittsboro Community Lunch (in its 15th year!) provides healthy, ready-to-eat meals to all who come. Just arrive hungry! Then from 4:30 to 6 p.m. each Tuesday, the Chatham Chuckwagon provides cooked/frozen entrees that are ideal for quick dinners. These meals are provided at no cost (though donations are welcomed!). Our volunteers invite you to join our efforts to preserve a caring and sharing community spirit. The church is located at 204 W. Salisbury St., Pittsboro, For more information, call 919-542-5679.

 The Chatham Historical Museum's permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history and are appropriate for adults and children. The Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.; no admission fee. The current short-term exhibit features the art of Pittsboro native Frank Marsden London, 1876-1945, Pittsboro, New York, Paris. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the Circle. More info at https://chathamhistory. org. $\boldsymbol{\cdot} \operatorname{The}$ 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 announces their winter hours 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 Anony**mous** — 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 at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www. bstroop93.org for more information. Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the

Cub Scouts. • Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See http://pack900.com for more information.

CORRECTION

The story "Jeff Nieman sworn in as new District Attorney for Orange, Chatham' (News + Record, Jan. 5-11 edition) said Nieman won the District Attorney Democratic primary race with 53.7% of the vote. That percentage was only among voters in Chatham County. The district, N.C. Judicial District 18B, also encompasses Orange County. Overall, among all voters casting ballots, Nieman won with 60% of the total vote in the primary; he did not face opposition in November's general election. The online version of the story has been updated to reflect this information. The News + Record regrets the error.



How did you LAND here?



861 CAREER SALES

- OVER \$300 MILLION IN SALES
- 4.9 STAR REVIEW (GOOGLE & ZILLOW)

\$377,000

\$400,000

\$400,000

\$450,000

\$499,000

\$625,000

\$750,000

\$1,500,000

\$1,750,000

37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) 0.996 acres

5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3.584 acres

0 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 64.720 acres

7587 Siler City Snow Cam p Rd (Siler City) 50.000 acres \$1,200,000

13120 Strickland Rd (Raleigh) 16.250 acres

499 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 15.158 acres

Tract 2 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres

Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres

1406 Jessie Bridges Rd (Siler City) 25.500 acres

147 Oldham Estate Dr (Chapel Hill) 12.591 acres

- APEX AWARD WINNER
- TRIANGLE TOP PRODUCER

CURRENTLY FOR SALE

Residential

4301 Amberwood Rd (Haw River) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$600,000 82 Williams Pond Rd (Pittsboro) 5 Bdrm, 4 Bath \$698,000 1698 NC 42 Hwy (Moncure) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$1,000.000 Land 1388 Henry Oldh3am Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000 170 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$150,000 188 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$150,000 1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000 Lot 1 T C Justice Rd (Pittsboro) 5.272 acres \$200.000 Lot 2 T C Justice Rd (Pittsboro) 5.279 acres \$200,000 800 South Wind Rd (Siler City) 10.511 acres \$225.000 889 Old Stone House Rd (Chapel Hill) 6.461 acres

00 Alston Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 176.000 acres \$2,288,000 00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33.662 acres **Commercial Improved**

visit www.chathamlibraries.org.

The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation

District invites students in grades 3 -12 to participate in the 2023 conservation contests. The categories are poster, essay, and public speaking, and the theme for this year is "Water...The Cycle of Life." - 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. Those who wish to compete in the public speaking contest

3 J C Corner Rd (Pittsboro) 7.382 acres \$295,000 5663 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 1.771 acres \$325,000 00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36.000 acres \$350,000 0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000

56 Sanford Rd (Pittsboro) Retail/Rental \$7,000

Commercial Unimproved

58 Buffalo Lake Rd (Sanford) 6.70 acres \$650,000

CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

Residential

1474 Alston Bridge Rd (Siler City) 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$150,000 261 Ridge View Rd (Pittsboro) 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$525,000

Land

\$225,000

0 Hudson Rd (Slier City) 5 acres \$40,000 Lot 2 Buckhorn Rd (Sanford) 6.636 acres \$80,000 0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000 0 Callicutt Rd (Bear Creek) 60.375 acres \$500,000

0 Hamlets Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 42.804 acres \$1,200,000

12190 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 15.158 acres \$1,894,750

0 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 6.70 acres \$9,051,600

Commercial Unimproved

10681 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 3.97 acres \$1,500,000

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



Land Buying Hack-Get 20 Acres Cheap!

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



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

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CAROLINA PROPERTIES

Siler City's Tina Stroupe leaving post for position in Raleigh

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY —Tina Stroupe, who's been Siler City's Finance Department Director for the last three years, is leaving for a position at the City of Raleigh.

"I'll be joining the finance team for the city of Raleigh, and I'm looking forward to that," she said. "[It] gives me a chance to kind of grow in my career and provide my knowledge so I'm looking forward to that."

Stroupe came to Siler City from the town of Holly Springs back in 2019, where she was the accounting and financial reporting manager. Stroupe said Siler City seemed like the right next step for her career at the time.

"I had recently, or was right in the end of, getting a finance officer certification," she said. As Siler City's finance director, where she's been tasked with handling all of the town's financial reporting, the water collection revenues, grant funding and reporting, assisting in the creation of the annual budget and more.

The finance director position was something Stroupe had prepared for through school and certification programs. What she — as well as town staff in general — never expected was the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on town operations and funding.

"That was probably the most difficult time here at the town ... because we didn't know what was going to happen," Stroupe said. "That just made it very difficult to keep operations going, but I think we did the absolute best we could and I think we did a good job." During the earlier days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Stroupe helped to ensure the town's water billing department followed the moratorium on utility disconnections due to missed payments.

After that moratorium, however, Stroupe said her department continued to try to be more understanding of residents and their situations.

"We [now] do payment agreements, and we've adjusted to try to make it easier for people to make sure that they get their utilities or it's not quite so burdensome," she said. "So we've made some procedural changes just easier on all of our residents."

Stroupe said one of the best aspects of her job was working and talking to residents of the town. She said that, and her coworkers and staff, have made her look forward to coming into work every day.

"In my previous positions, I didn't necessarily work with residents one-on-one," Stroupe said. "I'm going to miss working with the employees here and the residents of the town ... It's been a learning experience."

Stroupe said working for Siler City helped her to grow not only in her career but as a person. She said she was thankful for the opportunities the town has given her to grow professionally and interpersonally.

"I have felt like I've grown in knowledge that I've picked up and the things that I've learned more as far as the things that I needed to know in my role," she said. "So it's definitely been a good experience as far as knowledge, personal growth, and career growth." As Stroupe prepared for her departure, she said she hopes Siler City will continue to move toward preparation for the growth coming to western Chatham County, adding that she hopes she'll be able to look back at Siler City a couple of years from now to see it flourishing with new businesses and residents.

"I know that Siler City is getting ready to go through huge growth, and I hope that it ends up being a good thing for them — I know it'll be a good thing for them," Stroupe said. "I just hope that everything they just go smoothly for them and that the residents and the employees kind of reap the rewards of this."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr. com or on Twitter at @Heeden-Taylor.

AVID

Continued from page A1

tive in helping students develop study and academic skills to ensure college readiness and success. It's been implemented in more than 8,000 schools in 49 states across the U.S. The program began at Chatham Central in 2006 and has grown into a shining star of the school and the district.

In December, CCHS was recertified as a National Demonstration Site — one of about 200 in the nation. Receiving the certification required a visit to the school from national AVID officials along with hundreds of documents showing the school's ability to help students through its AVID program. CCHS was first certified in 2019 by AVID; the certification must be renewed every three years.

"We are so honored to again have Chatham Central named as an AVID National Demonstration Site," Principal Karla Eanes said. "This program has benefited our students in so many ways, helping set them on a path for future success. It is such an honor for our school to be recognized for our excellent implementation of AVID.' The honor is especially impressive for CCHS because it was the first rural school in the country to be nationally certified. Since 2019, other rural N.C. schools in Manteo and Jacksonville have followed suit, but CCHS has only continued its successes.



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Students and staff at Chatham Central High School's AVID program pose in the school's auditorium alongside the Chatham County Board of Education on Dec. 13. CCHS was recognized as an AVID National Demonstration Site for its continued success using AVID strategies.

unique challenges like lack of transportation and resources. But to Paige, that's all the more reason her school can benefit from an AVID mindset.

"A lot of these students never considered college as an option before," Paige said. "But through AVID, they see it as a real possibility and that energy is contagious."

Students in AVID were also encouraged by the honor. Spencer Oldham, a senior at CCHS in AVID said adding this to his resume on college applications helps him stand out from the pack.

"North Carolina is not a small state," Oldham said. "So to be one of only a few high schools that's an AVID National Demonstration Site, I think that says a lot about the kinds of things I learned and the skills we all have being prepared for college.' The recognition of being an AVID National Demonstration School was established in 1993 with a \$250,000 award from the Charles A. Dana Foundation of New York. As part of the AVID Demonstration Sites network, sites are expected to develop a model program

with schoolwide participation.

"Schools recognized as National Demonstration Sites have proven their ability to successfully implement the AVID Elective course and take the strategies schoolwide to impact all students," AVID Chief Executive Officer Thuan Nguyen said. "Chatham Central High School was selected as an AVID National Demonstration School because it has implemented the AVID system throughout the school and can serve as a model for new AVID sites.'

Growing community

The AVID program at CCHS has grown to include more than 100 students. Students apply in eighth grade and then move through high school with the same cohort and instructor. Paige said this helps encourage community and improve results. "When you're in a small group of 20 to 30 kids that all share one goal, it makes each individual work harder," Paige said. "Everyone is pulling for everyone else."

to sell it to families in the school community because they've seen the results firsthand. Many of the students in AVID are potential first-generation college students, so Paige said opening their eyes to the possibilities of the future is an important step in their long-term success.

"It's about giving them choices to build the future they want to see for themselves," Paige said.

Through time management and financial assistance, AVID helps students apply to eight colleges of their choice for free, and helps keep them on track to make sure they submit everything on time.

Oldham said this was especially helpful because he realized what colleges are within reach. In the beginning, he said it was a lot of work to get applications and scholarships in order well before his peers had even begun to think about the college process, but now he's excited about what the future has in store. essays and our questions to make sure we're submitting everything right." He said that level of

support has been invaluable and without it, Oldham believes he likely would have missed deadlines or submitted lower-quality applications. While the senior doesn't know where he's going to college yet because he is waiting on decisions from several schools, he said his participation in AVID allowed him to apply to universities that previously felt out of reach.

"I don't think I could've done it without the extra backbone of support I have here," Oldham said. "All my applications would've been late because it's just a lot, but now I'm trying for places I didn't think I had a real shot at even last year."

Last year's senior AVID class at CCHS saw 100% of its participating students accepted to a four-year university — a feat the school has accomplished every year since 2009. Paige said she expects to continue that record this year.

Building a successful culture

to see a more engaged and college-ready student body," Eanes said.

Teachers also move through high school with their assigned cohort of AVID students. Laura Bridges is the ninth grade AVID teacher, but next school year she'll move to 10th grade with her students.

"We really get to know the kids in our program," Bridges said. "We track them through the years and we form a tight bond with them."

Bridges said those bonds give the AVID program at CCHS a "sense of family." The students also have shared experiences that foster community like twice-weekly tutoring sessions, small group studies or visiting colleges together.

"We're surrounded by people here that support us all the time," said Aidan Johnson, a sophomore AVID student at CCHS. "We all have the same goal — teachers, our peers, everybody — we all want to get to college. And we can't do it without each other."

Above and beyond

CCHS's success in AVID is also a result of the support from local sponsors who believe in the power of the program to make a difference. Chatham **Education Foundation** has made AVID a primary focus of its grant and fundraising efforts in recent years. "Our board and staff are consistently impressed by AVID and the program's ability to show results, including 100% of Chatham Central's AVID students admitted to a four-year university," Jaime Detzi, executive director of CEF, said. "When implemented with fidelity, AVID's strength is ensuring students from all backgrounds have the skills necessary, academic rigor and support system in place to gain the opportunity to attend college." The support of sponsors like CEF and the backing of the Chatham County Board of Education have led to AVID programs being implemented in high schools across the district. CCS is also focusing efforts on expanding AVID to middle schools and possibly elementary schools in the near future. "The Chatham Education Foundation will supplement funding to support the expansion of AVID to all Chatham County Schools' middle schools," Detzi said. The growth of the program across the county is largely because of the successes seen at CCHS. Paige and her colleagues said they will continue to support the growth and prosperity of AVID at their school and across the district.

Laurie Paige, AVID coordinator at CCHS, said rural schools face Paige said faculty and staff at CCHS have bought into AVID and are able "Every week of first semester we had to send in a college application," Oldham said. "And every time before we hit submit someone would look over our To the teachers at CCHS, AVID is more than just a class to help students get to college it's a mindset and methodology for educating. All teachers are trained in AVID techniques and help students use tools like note-taking, organization and time management, even if they aren't in the AVID program.

"The use of AVID strategies schoolwide has positively impacted students and staff, and we continue

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | CHUCK FULLER The U.S. national debt is in uncharted territory

The U.S. national debt right now is \$31.5 trillion, or 121% of GDP. Never in American history has the national debt been so high, either nominally or as a proportion of GDP.

The only comparable period is the immediate aftermath of World War II, when debt reached 119% of GDP. Bill Clinton is the last president whose term saw the debt-to-GDP ratio decline from when he took office to when he left.

In 2000, the national debt stood at \$5.7 trillion. And a decade ago, the debt was \$16 trillion — just half what it is today.

A storm of complacency and short-term political calculations, abetted by historically low debt financing rates over the past 20 years, has left the national debt as an afterthought in policymaking.

Part of the problem is true debt and deficit reduction will require changes to popular entitlements. So-called "mandatory spending," which includes Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other safety net programs, consumed 73% of federal spending in 2021, and debt service accounted for another 4%.

There is simply not enough money to slash in the remain-

ing 23% – which includes the defense budget – to meaning-fully cut into the debt balance.

And the problem will only worsen in coming years. Interest rates are no longer at historic lows, so the cost of just financing the national debt will consume a much larger proportion of annual spending. The cost of paying interest on the national debt may even eclipse annual defense spending as early as 2029, according to the New York Times.

What's more, as people live longer, the cost Social Security and Medicare, which consumed 40% of total spending in 2021, will increase.

For these reasons, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office warned of potentially dire consequences if the current trajectory doesn't change.

"The likelihood of a fiscal crisis in the Unitied States would increase," the CBO wrote last year. "Specifically, the risk would rise of investors' losing confidence in the U.S. government's ability to service and repay its debt, causing interest rates to increase abruptly and inflation to spiral upward."

What the CBO describes is a sovereign debt crisis similar to what plagued southern European countries 10 years ago and what occasionally causes economic collapse in South American and African countries.

That type of concern echoes what fiscal hawks have been warning about for years. But others paint a rosier

picture.

Proponents of a radical new economics, called modern monetary theory (MMT), argue the government can simply print more money whenever it wishes — and should do so to pay off the debt and fund expansive social programs.

The only real constraint on the printing press should be inflation, according to MMT. And even then, the solution isn't necessarily to stop printing it's to stymie inflation via fiscal policy (i.e., higher taxes).

In this way, MMT flips traditional conceptions of fiscal and monetary policy on their heads. The money supply should track what's necessary to pay for goods and services, and fiscal policy — the tax rate — should respond to inflation, not revenue needs.

Not surprisingly, MMT has been roundly mocked by nearly every corner of mainstream economics. Former senior economic advisor to President Obama, Larry Summers, equated the theory to "fad diets [and] quack cancer cures." Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the theory is "just wrong." In a poll of economists conducted by the University of Chicago's Initiative on Global Markets, 0% of respondents agreed with core tenets of MMT.

Even so, MMT has gained prominence among Democratic policymakers, though they've been more muted since inflation has raged over the past year.

Still others occupy something of a middle ground. Yes, policymakers should pay attention to debt and deficits, but they should not view the federal budget as similar to state or household budgets.

In a paper posted on the St. Louis Fed's website, economist David Andolfatto writes, "To the extent that the national debt is held domestically, it constitutes domestic private sector wealth ... it seems more accurate to view the national debt less as form of debt and more as a form of money in circulation."

Andolfatto offers some fairly sophisticated economic theory to support his position, which is worth a read though we won't repeat it here. But he concludes with this: "There is presumably a limit to how much the market is willing or able to absorb in the way of Treasury securities, for a given price level (or inflation rate) and a given structure of interest rates. However, no one really knows how high the debt-to-GDP ratio can get. We can only know once we get there."

The only consensus, then, is there is no consensus. This fact underscores two realities: First, we've never been in this situation before, so nobody truly knows what might happen. And second, we're executing a real-time macroeconomic experiment, with a massive economic crisis well within the range of potential outcomes.

For much of the country's history, the risks of the unknown helped reign in deficit spending. But over the past 20 years, that fear least among policymakers, seems to have dissipated.

That should scare everybody.

Chuck Fuller is the president and CEO of The Results Company, which creates communications and outreach strategies for businesses and organizations at the local, state and federal levels.

Not all spirits are great spirits

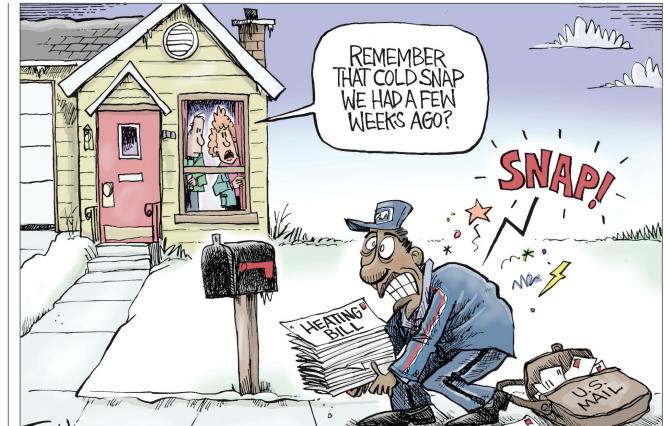


Some ancient American cultures, such as those of some of what call "native Americans" but were known as "Indians" when I was a little boy, have an interesting take on life.

BOB WACHS Movin' Around Many of them believe that people aren't the only part of creation that lives. Many of them believe that every other part of our world has life within. And

I'm not talking about trees or plants or birds or animals or fish or stuff like that. Instead, I mean such parts of creation like rocks or water or dirt or other inanimate objects.

These folks typically are very good stewards of the earth and all within it. They have to be; if they aren't, then the god of rocks will cause boulders to crush them some day as they innocently walk by the local quarry. Same with water, dirt, lightning, the wind ... well, you name it; as far as members of many cultures are concerned there are gods and



spirits — good and evil — everywhere, so you can't be too careful.

The bad news here, at least for me, is that I'm starting to believe there's some truth to all that. I'm pretty sure I've discovered two of them and both of them are living at my house.

The first one is the god of hangers not the kind where you park airplanes, which is actually hangar with an "a." Rather, I'm talking about the kind on which you drape pants that are six inches too small in the waist so they can go into permanent hiding deep within the confines of your bedroom closet because you "might wear them some day."

Same with shirts that are 15½ in the neck and suits that are 40 long and so on and on and ... well, you get the idea.

As long as there is an article of clothing on a hanger there's no problem.

It's when you actually get inspired and throw out a few articles of clothing, donating them to a thrift shop or finally throwing away the jeans that have more holes than fabric, and the hangers are empty that the fun ... er, torture ... starts.

Maybe it's because hangers don't like to be naked. Maybe they feel unfilled; I don't know. But when I do know is if you take two empty hangers, hang them on a closet rod, turn out the light and walk away that within seven minutes the two hangers will multiply into 14 and be engrossed in a knot that would make an Eagle Scout proud.

This has happened to yours truly several times lately. I don't know if that means I once had too many clothes or now have too many hangers. Either way it's getting to the point it's just easier to toss my clothes into a pile in the corner.

The other spirit is the one that waits until we're 11 miles from home, late for church or for a sale on hangers at the local store, and then crawls into my mind and plants the seed question: "Did you turn off the stove?" Nine more miles down the road and another 10 minutes later I'm still wrestling with that same thought.

It doesn't do any good to run it by Shirley: "Did we/you/I turn off the stove before we left the house?"

"Yes; I'm sure of it," she says. " ... I think."

"Didn't we?

"Did we?

"We probably did ... didn't we?"

Finally we come to the unvarnished truth: neither of us can remember if we did or didn't. So we do a turn that would make Batman proud, hurry home, unlock the door, trip over the dog, and see the stove sitting there all cool with all switches and buttons off.

Somewhere a spirit is laughing and hangers are entwining themselves ... I know.



ANDREW

TAYLOR-

TROUTMAN

Hope Matters

When I taught Introduction to World Religions to undergraduate students, I began the first class by describing a large crowd of people brought together at a certain time and place, many wearing similar clothes, to partici-

pate in common rituals that celebrated heroes conquering villains, the triumph of good over evil.

Then, I would project an image of the football stadium on game day.

Here in North Carolina, the analogy might be to a college basketball court. But you get the idea. For many, sports are religion.

The word "religion" is made of the Latin verb "bind together" the same lexical root as "ligament" — and the prefix meaning "again." Religion brings us together, again and again, for a common purpose. It creates a group identity, whether as Christians or Muslims, Tar Heels or Blue Devils. The communal aspect of religion may be visualized as a

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BILL HORNER III, Publisher & Editor Taylor Heeden, Reporter/Web Editor Ben Rappaport, Reporter/ Social Media Editor Jeremy Vernon, Sports Editor horizontal axis; that is, people beside you in the pews or stadium.

But for many, there is also a vertical axis, a connection to a Higher Power.

This brings me to Damar Hamlin. After the Buffalo Bills player collapsed to the football field, players from both teams knelt and bowed their heads. A fan scribbled a sign, "Pray for Buffalo #3 Hamlin." Soon, "Pray for Damar" had lit up social media. Twitter hashtags come and go, yet it did seem that, for a time at least, "prayer without ceasing" was offered for this young man. At this writing, this 24-year-old player has made remarkable improvement against long odds. Some might say miraculous.

By all accounts, Hamlin is family-focused, community-minded and exceedingly generous. For example, he has used his position of influence to raise donations for the underserved children in his hometown of Pittsburgh.

Yet, I know many people, though lacking Hamlin's athletic prowess, who are as loving to their families and faithful in their community service. Tragically, sometimes good people do not recover. I do not claim to know why.

One could study religion, but prayer remains a mystery. The premise is to beseech an invisible force on behalf of the tangible world; to ask the eternal and immortal to help the temporal and fragile. The vertical axis or transcendent belief is not predictable. There is much of life that is beyond our power to control.

What I know, however, is that the horizontal axis or communal aspect is also powerful. The same week that House Republicans were disgracefully at one another's throats in the halls of Congress, I saw people of different backgrounds, ethnicities and loyalties come together across our nation to pray for healing. It seemed like everyone was on the same team, rooting for the same outcome.

Amen.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church. His newly-published book is a collection of his columns for the Chatham News + Record titled "Hope Matters: Churchless Sermons."

What's on your mind?

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The power of prayer

VIEWPOINTS Liberate markets to help workers succeed

claim themselves to be cham-

pions of labor. But the policies



JOHN HOOD John Locke Foundation

political tool: self-deprecating humor. "It's true hard work never killed anybody," he quipped, "but I figure, why take the chance?"

I have

two favor-

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from Ronald

the world of

work. The

first one

Reagan about

illustrates his

mastery of an

indispensable

My other favorite Reagan quote makes a serious point: "I believe the best social program is a job." He was right, as mountains of empirical evidence have subsequently demonstrated. Government actors can boost the real incomes of low-income people with a variety of means, including cash welfare and non-cash benefits such as housing assistance and Medicaid. American governments have done this to a massive extent over the past five decades, helping to reduce the real poverty rate from 31%

in 1960 to less than 2% in 2021.

Yet many people who now live above the poverty line when the government benefits they receive are properly counted as income — certainly feel poor, appear to others to be poor, and are often bitterly disenchanted or deeply unhappy. That's because one's material condition, while obviously important, isn't as critical in determining one's sense of well-being as what Harvard University scholar Arthur Brooks calls "earned success."

Although our unemployment rates remain relatively low 3.9% here in North Carolina in November and a statistically indistinguishable 3.7% for the nation as a whole — far too many people are without the dignity and stability that comes from having a job. And many more are employed but lack the opportunity to advance in their chosen profession, enter a new and more promising profession, or start a business of their own. Elected officials often pro-

they propose, be they progressives advocating giveaways or national populists advocating trade restrictions, will do little to help average workers. You'll find a better set of policies in a new Cato Institute book entitled Empowering the New American Worker. In a section on occupational licensing, for example, Cato analyst Chris Edwards points

out that places with freer labor markets tend to have higher levels of employment, economic mobility, and entrepreneurship. Policymakers can make workers better off, while maintaining or even improving the quality of services for consumers, with such common-sense reforms as replacing mandatory licensure with voluntary certification and allowing workers licensed in other states to be automatically licensed in a new one.

One of the strongest chapters, co-written by the book's editor Scott Lincicome, explains the potential for remote

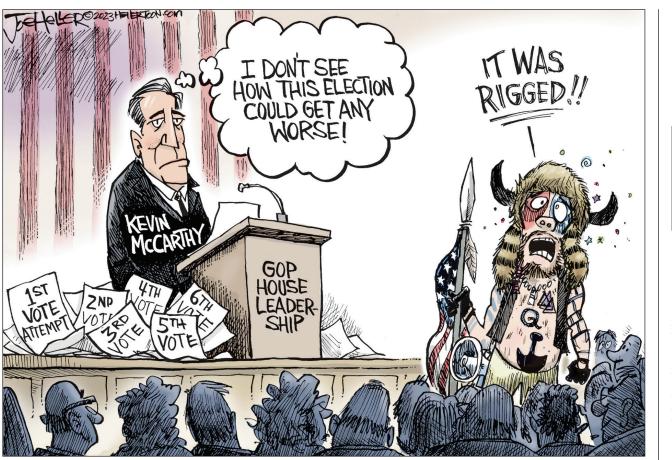
work to smash barriers to worker advancement. While some jobs clearly can't be done from home, many employers and employees learned during the pandemic that shifting to remote or hybrid models can be mutually advantageous. The broader effects on, say, traffic congestion and affordable housing are also significant. Unfortunately, public policy has yet to adapt to these new realities. Governments need to change how they tax individuals who earn income from multiple states, for instance, and how they tax businesses that employ large numbers of remote employees. They'll also need to rethink how employee benefits are regulated.

From educational services and child care to transportation, housing, and health care, the Cato team offers sensible reforms that either eliminate barriers to opportunity or make it easier for individuals to spend public dollars in the way most likely to meet their particular needs.

As Lincicome observes in the book's conclusion, our political debate is filled with supposedly "pro-worker" proposals that are based on faulty assumptions about the past, present, and future of the American workplace. Far too many politicians think of workers as "helpless and in need of government protection from cradle to grave, despite the long-term harms that such policies inflict on these very same workers and the economy more broadly," he writes. "By contrast, pro-market policies that respect the individual agency and ability of all workers would allow them to pursue their unique hopes and dreams in a more dynamic, diverse, and high-wage economy - and to adjust to whatever comes next."

Precisely.

John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, Mountain Folk and Forest Folk, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).



Election reforms

David Price's valedictory



Last Friday, while his former congressional colleagues in Washington were struggling to elect a House speaker, David Price was talking to the East Chapel Hill Rotary Club, delivering his first speech as a former congressman. Price represented North

D.G. MARTIN Carolina's Fourth District for 44 One on One

years, serving since 1987, with only a two-year break due to losing an election in 1994. Before his first election to Congress, Price studied theology at Yale University, served as a political science professor at Duke University and chaired the state Democratic Party.

He authored "The Congressional Experience: An Institution Transformed." He has all the credentials to write about Congress and who serves there, how they get things accomplished, what they have to do to get elected and then reelected, how they work with colleagues, constituents, outside groups, and their fellow representatives to get things done.

He writes about how the legendary speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Sam Rayburn distinguished the "show horses" from the "work horses" who served in Congress. According to



CAMPBELL N.C. Spin

the country.

President Biden is nibbling at the edges of a very important issue. However, his solution doesn't address larger problems. If there's anything we learned from November's election it is that our electoral process needs wide-scale reform.

Our president

wants to change

up the presiden-

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South Carolina,

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claiming the Palmetto state is

tial selection

At the very top of the reform list is candidate selection. Too many unqualified candidates slipped through primaries (and sometimes the general election) without proper vetting. The most recent and egregious example is George Santos, who lied about his credentials and whose true beliefs and intentions are unknowable. Last week, he became one of 435 in Congress making our laws. Nobody properly vetted him.

Let's begin with the presidential nomination process, a circus that has turned into a made-for-television beauty contest that is neither representative nor guarantees the best qualified nominees.

Prior to 1968 and the Chicago Democratic Convention, the nominating process started with each state's political parties selecting delegates to the national party convention. These were week-long mustsee events that contained drama, lots of nomination speeches, horse trading for votes and favorite-son candidates. There were genuine debates over the party platform, hammered out through extensive votes. Candidates had to make their case with each state delegation. It wasn't perfect but the smoke-filled rooms with pols vetting candi-

dates included extensive candidate background checks and records of service, followed by robust discussions then roll call floor votes process by moving

In most instances the process arrived at nominees who best represented their party and were electable.

Bottom line: we need a better method for nominating presidential candidates, but the same can be said for state candidates. It doesn't have to be the old way, but what we are doing isn't serving us best. The two parties have become largely irrelevant.

In North Carolina we need to do away with runoff elections. They are prohibitively expensive, turn out few voters and often end up doing the thing they were intended to prevent, namely discriminating against those who don't vote a second time. Whether we institute ranked-choice voting or some other reform, let's agree that runoffs are a failed process.

Another must-do reform is to take money out of the process. In North Carolina's November U.S. Senate race, the amount of funds raised by candidates for their campaigns was minuscule in comparison to the sums that large independent expenditure and special interest groups spent on their behalf. Supposedly those groups don't communicate or coordinate their efforts with the candidates, but you are naïve if you believe they don't. For example, The Club for Growth spent more than \$30 million to elect Ted Budd and we don't know who is giving the money to this group or what they expect in return for their support.

Yes, Democrats have similar groups boosting their candidates. The point is that our elections should not be for sale to the highest bidder. In too many instances that is just what happens. There may be several solutions, but we must fix this by stopping, or at least drastically reducing the money flow.

If states cannot provide equal

access to voter registrations and regulations that are fair and equitable, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act should be passed and enforced. I would make election day a holiday. Nobody should have to miss voting because they can't get off work. I am totally in favor of Voter ID, but not if it is discriminatory. Other states can do it without all the acrimony and lawsuits; I believe North Carolinians can do the same if our intentions are honorable, ID's are easily attainable and don't discriminate. If we can make this happen, we eliminate potential election fraud.

The greatest possibility of election fraud is absentee mail-in voting and greater regulation and oversight is needed without becoming overly restrictive. Early voting has proved extremely popular and reforms need to guarantee accessible sites and ample days and hours to vote, especially on Saturdays and Sundays.

I believe the N.C. Board of Elections should be completely bipartisan and so should our 100 county election boards. Workers should be properly trained and, while it is fine to have election observers, there should be very strict rules and penalties for anyone who tries to interfere with or intimidate voters. I believe North Carolina should settle on one election machine company and the state should pay for and maintain each county's equipment. After the election the machines should be stored in a safe state facility.

Here's my spin: We live in a hyper-partisan political environment and finding common ground is often difficult, but hopefully all people of goodwill should agree on insisting our elections are fair, efficiently administered and that all people eligible to vote can do so without fear or prejudice. Recent efforts have attempted to undermine our faith in elections. That trust needs restoring, and reforms are needed to achieve these goals.

Price, Rayburn expressed his clear preference for the latter.

Price's experience and work ethic caught the attention of Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne Jr., who wrote about him on December 28, comparing him to the prophets of old. "We think of prophets as thundering against injustice and calling us all to account. Those mighty voices are indispensable. But there is another kind of prophet who speaks to us with quiet wisdom.'

Dionne writes that Price "would bridle at the thought of anyone turning him into a prophet. His perspective on politics is infused with the humility of Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address and Augustine's commentaries on the imperfections of human nature. But that is precisely why he has long been the second kind of prophet for me."

In his Rotary Club talk, Price defended the institution of Congress and its processes for resolving individual differences of opinion and approach. Unfortunately, he said, many members have run against Congress, attacking it as the enemy.

Dionne writes, "He is a loss to the institution and our politics precisely because he thinks institutionally. He believes that Congress matters and that individual members have obligations not only to themselves, their consciences and their constituents, but also to making the first branch of government function effectively."

Dionne calls Price "an institutional patriot" and quotes him as follows:

'A member of our institution or any governing institution needs to strike a balance between their own personal convictions, personal goals, personal political axes to grind ... and what it's going to take for the institution to function.

"Of course, you're going to criticize institutions. Of course, you're going sometimes to set yourself apart and take a lonely, conscientious stand. But you also need to understand that an institution of 435 members, each marching to their own drum, is going to be totally dysfunctional."

In his talk to the Rotary Club Price explained how members could fight for their individual goals without being an absolutist about every issue.

Price asserts that it is possible to be a "full throated advocate" for what you believe and, as he told Dionne, "understand that not every battle can be won on the first try and that politics is a matter of striking a balance between ... compromising and finding common ground where you can, and fighting where you must.'

As we watched some of the mean spiritedness of the new members of Congress last week, we could be forgiven for wishing that David Price was still there to share his wisdom and example.

ROBOTICS

Continued from page A1

Thinking big

The Neon Krakens are officially registered as a For Inspiration and **Recognition of Science** and Technology (FIRST) Robotics team. The organization has thousands of teams across 32 countries. Under strict rules and with limited time and resources, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team 'brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.

FIRST also hosts annual competitions where schools across the world are all given the same challenge and must build a robot to complete that mission. Each year's challenge is different from the last. Saturday marked the international launch of the season.

At CSSE, the Neon Krakens eagerly awaited the explanation of the game as they pounded the table in a drum roll.

While it's complicated to explain in depth, this year's game involves building a robot that can pick up cones and cubes and place them on different markers on the field. Teams can also score points by balancing their robot on a "charging station." (Visit https://www. firstinspires.org/robotics/ frc/game-and-season for more information about this year's game.)

As soon as the game is announced, the team wastes no time. Team captains pull up a copy of the game manual and split the team into small groups — one team on vertical motion, one on horizontal, a third on the claw mechanism; they divide and conquer.

Prior to the FIRST launch, the Neon Krakens had no idea what they were preparing for this season. So proposals and ideas like Tellez-Canuto's were the starting point for the new bot.

"We have a lot of new people this year so we are essentially starting from scratch," said Jennifer Hawkins, one of the team's coaches.

But if you ask the Co-Captain Caden Bailey, a sophomore at CSSE, that's not necessarily a bad thing. To him, it means the members of the team think big about their ideas for the robot and aren't limited in their creativity.

"Sometimes it's good to think outside the box and I think we will certainly have that on this year's team," Bailey said.

Bailey is in his second year on the team, but his first as co-captain. And thanks to his leadership along with other veterans on the team, he also knows the team isn't completely in the dark.

Building on the past

Bailey and Luke Hawkins, the lead captain and senior at CSSE, said the bots they built last season taught them important lessons they'll use for this season, even if the challenges are different.

For example, last year's bot, nicknamed the Space Invader, had to pick up a ball and launch it into hoops at various heights. While the task is fairly different this year, Luke said the team's last bot consistently struggled with its mobility because it didn't put enough motors on the wheels.

"We would see these other teams who were just flying around and could move side to side so much easier than us," Luke said of last year's competition. "So we asked them what they were doing and they told us they had a motor for each of the four wheels."

Essentially, the Neon Krakens were operating in two-wheel drive while their competitors had four-wheel drive.

Outside of the main challenge, the team also held a mini-competition last year where they had to pick up blocks and stack them. While their bot, nicknamed Work Bench, struggled in that competition, they learned how to devise a proper claw or grabbing mechanism to better pick up items.

"The mini-bot only had a claw with one mechanical arm," Luke said. "T'm thinking for this challenge we will need at least two moving pieces of the grabber if not more to make sure we can grab round objects like the cone and the cubes."

By the end of the Saturday brainstorm, the small groups have come back together and begin pitching their ideas for this year's bot. Initially, there are some blocks of silence fears from the new team members that their ideas aren't practical or won't make sense. But after some encouragement from Hawkins, coaches and mentors the creative juices start flowing.

"The sooner we nail down an idea, the sooner we can get building and constructing this thing," said Michael Bailey, a mentor with the team and Caden's father. "Every session counts, trust me." Jennifer Hawkins

echoed the sentiment. The team only has until the beginning of March to design, construct and test the robot before it has to enter competition, so every session counts. She recalls last year's competition preparations, where the team stayed in the CSSE warehouse until past 11 p.m. the night before competition because the bot still wasn't finished.

Rust around the edges

The team finished 12th in that competition, and they're hoping for a higher placement this year which means making the most of the limited time they have together.

Other schools make their robotics team an entire class period that meets daily, or designate the activity as an official sport so that it's given priority when scheduling conflicts arise. Designating robotics as a sport would also mean the coaches could receive a stipend for the hours they pour into their teams.

The Neon Krakens, however, don't have any of those luxuries because of the mix of schools and transport issues. Their coaches, while they are Chatham County Schools employees, are volunteers and the team only meets twice per week — from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. after school Tuesdays and again from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

The teams that perform the best are also often from wealthier school districts. All the motors Luke wants to add this year all cost money. In fact, the specific motors for this robot cost \$300 a pop. That's

not to mention all the other features required to make the bot successful like gyroscopes, sensors and batteries.

"We would walk into competition last year and see these bots that were like powdered and chrome," Luke said. "It was like they had professional equipment on this thing."

The only materials given to each team by FIRST are sheets of aluminum, metal tubing, gears and reflective tape. Everything else comes out of the team's pocket.

While the team does get sponsorships, including a grant from John Deere, they still occasionally find themselves struggling to get all the materials they need for the robot. Jennifer Hawkins said the team does not charge membership dues because they want to keep the club as accessible as possible for students of all backgrounds.

The Neon Krakens are currently in search of sponsors and have an Amazon wishlist for the 2023 season; information on both can be found on their website www.neonkrakens.wordpress.com.

More than nuts and bolts

Fundraising is just another skill learned through the robotics club. The Neon Krakens team is composed of more than just wannabe engineers and STEM students. It's also students with a talent for marketing, social media, fundraising, design and more.

All the efforts of the team are student-led, so even if programming and constructing a robot wasn't someone's forté, they can still benefit the team. Andy De La Cruz Plata, a senior at J-M, is in his first year on the team and assists with fundraising and media. He joined the Neon Krakens because a friend of his encouraged him to come. Even though he had limited interest in robotics, he obliged.

"My friend told me I'd be good for the media side of things," he said. The friend believed his outgoing personality could be used to secure sponsorships and spice up the team's social media presence.

But during the Saturday brainstorming, De La Cruz Plata wasn't doing those things. He was drawing a claw-machinelike device as a possibility for the robot to pick up the necessary items from the challenge.

Mentor Michele Bailey said each member of the team plays a role in every other aspect to build "a cohesive unit."

"They all get excited about various things and carve out a niche in that sub-team," Bailey said. "But it's really such a student-led group effort and they collaborate on everything."

The mentors on the team like Bailey also try to bring in industry professionals in the world of robotics and engineering to show members of the team that the skills they learn here have real-world applications.

From leadership like Luke Hawkins, to public speaking like Lizbeth Tellez-Canuto or fundraising like Andy De La Plata, each member of the team is an important cog in the machine of the Neon Krakens. And it's their various skills that ensure this year's robot, whatever it may look like, will be running smoothly.

RESORT

Continued from page A1

U.S. Hwy. 64, five minutes from downtown Pittsboro and offers boarding, daycare, grooming and pet training all in one space for cats and dogs.

Becoming dog people

The owners of Green Beagle — Tammy and Drew Purner and David and Margy Schmidt never thought of themselves as "dog people." They each owned a dog but never thought taking care of others' dogs could become a business. The Purners and the Schmidts were longtime friends and "serial entrepreneurs" whose children grew up together. Before their children were born, the Schmidts temporarily lived in London. Margy was part of a dog-walking society where she'd take her beagle on walks with her neighbors; she became friends with many of them. When she moved back to the U.S. she wanted to create that sense of community around pets stateside. Fast forward a to a cocktail party that the Schmidts and the Purners attended. Both were ready to move on from the corporate world and start something new. A few months prior the Schmidts had placed a bid on a pet resort business in Lake Norman, they lost that bid but kept some of the paperwork because they were fascinated by the idea, which was "recession proof," according to David. As they sorted through the business model with the Purners at the party, an idea came. "This is a really good business model," Margy Schmidt said. The margins were solid, the potential for growth was there and besides, who wouldn't want to work with a dog everyday? Soon enough Green Beagle Lodge was born. The origin of the company's name comes from

Schmidts owning beagles — Shiloh and Bing, respectively. The "Green" comes from the owners' commitment to the environment through sustainable design features.

both the Purners and

They bought land in Chapel Hill, opened their first location at 6805 Millhouse Rd. in 2014 and haven't looked back since. "We had no idea how

fast it would grow," Margy said. She said the business Schmidt said. "We also thought we'd be able to share staff between locations. So in Pittsboro, we're far enough to draw a new customer base, but close enough to share staff and operations."

Margy describes the new Pittsboro location as Green Beagle "on steroids." She said being able to take the lessons from the Chapel Hill location and improve this facility means the workflow will be much more seamless in the approximation maintain a one employee to 10 dog ratio.

Schmidt didn't provide the exact cost of the new facility, but it is a "multi-million dollar facility" that cost more than twice the amount of the Chapel Hill location, which was built eight years ago.

Community canines

Green Beagle officially opened its doors in Pittsboro on Dec. 1, but Saturday's ribbon-cutting marked the first time many in the community got to see all the new doggy daycare had to offer. As patrons walked through the facility on tours from Green Beagle staff, "oohs" and "aahs" could be heard at all the lodge had to offer. "It's a pleasure to welcome Green Beagle Lodge to Pittsboro," said Mayor Cindy Perry at the ribbon cutting Saturday. "The breadth and depth of our

business community and our residential community are such that I'm sure you'll have wonderful customers and clients at this facility."

David Schmidt said they've felt incredibly welcomed by the Pittsboro community and they look forward to getting involved throughout the town in adoption events, job hirings and working with nearby dog shelters. Green Beagle has already joined the Chatham commitment to those employees to make sure they'd have work when the facility did open. The Schmidts said

they want jobs at their facilities to be long-term careers where employees know their customers, both dog and human.

"This business is super fun when you do it right." Margy said. "Because it's such a privilege to be trust ed with somebody's prized possession: their canine or feline. It just feels special."

Green Beagle Lodge is

quartet borrowed ideas from pet resorts across the country to create an all-inclusive model — one flat rate for your pet that includes all the amenities one puppy could need.

"Dogs only recognize familiar and unfamiliar," Margy said. "We want them to make us familiar and be excited to be at our lodge."

Ahead of the pack

Green Beagle in Pittsboro is creating that excitement with a variety of amenities and plenty of outdoor playtime for the dogs under their care. The lodge is also already in the process of adding a pool and larger yard space in its second phase of construction.

David Schmidt says the second phase of construction is already underway and is expected to be completed by the summer.

The ownership group decided to open the second facility in Chatham County because they saw the potential for growth in the near future. Chatham Park coming to Pittsboro along with other major industries in the county like VinFast and Wolfspeed mean Chatham is poised to be one of the fastest-growing counties in the state. All that growth means more families — and more dogs that will need a place to stay when those families go out of town for vacations and the like.

"We wanted it to be close enough that we could still keep an eye on how things are going in Chapel Hill," David in the new location.

For example, the new location has cabins for special needs dogs who need to be near humans and indoor/outdoor stalls, meaning there are special outdoor pods for dogs who don't socialize well. The new facility currently holds 130 dogs but will hold up to 250 dogs once the second phase of construction is complete. They also and has been in discussions with Chatham Park to continue building local business connections.

The new lodge was originally set to open last summer, but supply chain issues forced Green Beagle to delay. That time caused financial hardship for the company because they had to pay employees for an extra quarter. But they also made a currently open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. Prices for boarding range from \$60 per night for a single dog to \$100 per night for a family of three to four dogs or \$25 per night for cats. For more information about Green Beagle Lodge visit www. greenbeaglelodge.com.

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 ántes 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).

La Escuela de Chatham Charter es una escuela pública, multidenominacional, y no lucrative que provide una educación de la calidad para los niños de todos las razas, los credos, una condición de discapacidad, y los origines nacionales.

Small Class Size Individual Attention Over 30 middle and high school sports teams offered

Las clases pequeñas Atención individualizada

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COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Community Baptist Church invites you to join us for our January Jubilee, Sunday, January 15, through Friday, January 20. Evangelist Dale Vance will be preaching in all Sunday services and Evangelist Brian McBride will be preaching Monday through Friday. Service times are 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

There will be special singing by the Nunn Sisters, the Rogers Family, Jimmy and Ashley Caudill and more.

The church is located at 2575 Hamp Stone Rd. For more information visit www.cbcsilercity. com or find us on Face∙ book.

CENTENNIAL CHURCH

You are invited to worship with us at

CHURCH

Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration. The speaker will be Rev. Darryl Johnson, pastor of Oliver's Chapel AME Zion Church in Staley. The church is located

at 67 Milton Marsh Road, Bear Creek. If you have any questions, contact us at 919-37-5417.

HOLY TRINITY UNITED HOLY CHURCH

The church will host a Citizens In Action program celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, at the church, located at 309 Trinity St., Siler City. The Rev. Corine Mack, president of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County NAACP branch, will be the featured speaker.

HOLLAND CHAPEL AME **ZION CHURCH**

Youth Sunday will be held January 15. Children's church and youth church (ages 13 and up) will meet during the morning worship service at Holland Chapel AME Zion Church

All are invited. Join us at 360 Burgess Rd., Apex.

HICKORY MOUNTAIN CHAPEL

Hickory Mt. Chapel. formerly Hickory Mt. U.M.C., is at the same address, 201 Hadley Mill Road., Pittsboro, with the same people, just a different name.

Worship services are Sundays at 10 a.m. with Sunday School at 11.

Everyone is welcome to attend and worship in original Methodist tradition with Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Hart, leading.

CHARGED

Continued from page A1

reported seeing goat heads on spikes and live goats in a yard nearby.

The News + Record is not naming the victims, who are minors.

A group visited the property twice on Sunday, July 10, once in the morning and again in the afternoon around 1:30 p.m. In the morning, one said they saw a man "waving and yelling, but it was unclear what he said."

When the five teens went back in the afternoon, the same man saw their car and began running toward them. Soon, they say they noticed the man was driving behind them in a silver Lexus SUV.

"He sped up, ran in front of us, and hit his brakes, and we ran into the back of him," one of the siblings in the car said. The group attempting

to drive away, but the man

in the Lexus passed them on the road, "and stopped very quickly," the other of the siblings said.

"We didn't have enough time to completely stop and rear-ended him," the sibling said. "After that we got around him then he passed us again and stopped like before. This time he got out and ran at us and had what looked like a gun, and hit the [driver's side] window with it. I immediately called 911. He was still chasing us then he stopped after we got close to the end of the road."

As they drove off onto U.S. Hwy. 64, the man followed them for several more miles until they lost him around Pleasant Hill Church Road.

After an investigation, Hudson was arrested on July 30 by Chatham Sheriff's Office Deputy Matthew Mitchell and issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 15.

His case was continued until his next scheduled appearance on Wednesday, Jan. 18.

The mother of the two siblings involved in the incident said the roads on which the teens drove was not marked "no trespassing," nor was it marked "private."

"I don't usually stir any pots," the mother said, "but he teaches children. People need to know who's teaching their children."

The News + Record made an inquiry to Chatham County Schools on Friday about Hudson's pending court case, at which time Hudson was listed as a faculty member at Pittsboro Elementary School.

"Once the district was made aware of this issue, the administration followed district policy in addressing it," CCS spokeperson Nancy Wykle told the News + Record.

Hudson was not listed on the school's website on Monday.

VISION

Continued from page A1

2023 would have to be the continued progress on the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and completion of the Small Area Plan for the Moncure area. These projects will provide direction on how to handle the expected growth and create more job opportunities and availability of affordable housing.

KAREN HOWARD, chairperson, Chatham County Board of Commissioners: One of my top priorities for 2023 is to make meaningful investment and measurable change in our stock of affordable housing throughout the county. We have done a lot of good work to bring family sustaining wages to our community, but affordable housing has been an elusive challenge. As we go through the Unified **Development Ordinance** (UDO) process and as we develop strategies and policies to mitigate the impacts of poverty and ensure access to opportunity for all Chatham County residents, the need for a variety of nousing options will become increasingly pressing. A well-paying job in a beautiful county with excellent schools and a healthy environment

mean little if you can't afford housing that meets the needs of you and your family. My goal is to bring innovative ideas to the table, to learn from the successes of others and to gather input from neighboring communities and partners in the affordable housing space to bring about a real change in the availability of affordable housing options for Chatham County.

HANK RAPER, Siler City Town Manager: As the Town of Siler City continues to grow, we are consistently evaluating the structure and functionality of each of the town departments for opportunities to operate more efficiently and effectively. In 2022, this had led to reorganizational efforts in Public Works and Public Utilities, Planning and Community Development, as well as our Finance Department. With these changes going into 2023, it is our priority to provide the highest quality customer service to our residents and customers as we strive to best utilize town resources and fill the vacancies we have in the Police Department and throughout the rest of the town

"For 2023 I'm excited about the conversations we are having across the county from our K-12 public schools, community college, businesses and industries, the Economic Development Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce, and county government about retaining local talent by building the workforce we need for Chatham County's future right here in our community."

KAREN HOWARD, Chatham Commission Chairperson

Quality on solutions [for the town's wastewater issues]. We're going back and forth with them, and town staff is meeting on a regular basis with DEQ. It seems like we've got this moving target, so we have to keep communicating with them and then follow through on what we need to get this done.

JONATHAN HENS-LEY, Goldston Mayor: The top priority for the Town of Goldston is revamping and upgrading the town park.

What are you most excited about for the coming year?

DAN LAMONTAGNE: Seeing the economic development projects that were announced in 2022 continue to progress and provide employment opportunities for our residents.

KAREN HOWARD: For 2023 I'm excited about the conversations we are having across the county from our K-12 public schools, community college, businesses and industries, the **Economic Development** Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce, and county government about retaining local talent by building the workforce we need for Chatham County's future right here in our community. We will do this through internships, job fairs, career counselors, degree and certification programs, public-private collaborations, workshops, local marketing of job opportunities and curriculum development at all educational levels. It feels like a win-win! HANK RAPER: Throughout 2023, we will be embarking on Master Planning that is truly exciting for the Town of Siler City. This will include a Comprehensive Land Use Plan and a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan will guide the Town of Siler City's land development and management for the next 8-10 years. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be a 10-year analysis of what staffing, facilities and services will be needed in Siler City. We look forward to the insight and wisdom of our residents as we go through the participatory process of formulating these critical plans.

challenge in 2023?

DAN LAMONTAGNE: I would have to sav preparing for the coming growth in the county will be a challenge. The ability to accommodate the growing population from housing to school planning to transportation planning.

KAREN HOWARD: Our biggest challenge for 2023 is going to be our biggest challenge for many years to come: How do we manage the accelerated growth of the county in a way that protects and preserves the many assets of the county and communities we love while allowing for greater opportunities for future Chatham? As I work with colleagues around the state, I hear the difficulties of many counties that are losing population, losing property value, aging without building a cohort of young future residents and simply put, losing the underpinnings required for a healthy local economy. In Chatham we are blessed to be dealing with a different challenge but a real one nonetheless, and the decisions of this and future boards of commissioners will determine how well we balance growth without stymieing the energy and vitality that come with it.

CHIP PRICE: At this point, quite frankly. it's dealing with all the things we've got going on and coming up with a budget that will allow us to do the things we know we need to do, and still keep the budget where the citizens can afford it. I think we can weather the storm, but it's probably going to be a pretty tall challenge to keep the tax rate reasonable.

JONATHAN HENS-LEY: With the new interest in the Goldston area comes new growing pains. The biggest challenge that we will face is processing and administration challenges with the new growth.

It's an unprecedented time of growth and development in Chatham County. In what ways do you think the county will be most dif-

ready put in place starting to come to fruition. And I think by that time there should be some construction going on [related to the Wolfspeed project].

JONATHAN HENS-LEY: Hopefully by the vear 2024 Goldston will have completed the first phase of the beautification and will be looking forward to the next phase of improvements for the citizens of Goldston.

What's the #1 thing on your wish list for 2023? DAN LAMONTAGNE: I wish that all our residents are proud to tell people that they are from Chatham County!

KAREN HOWARD: Number one on my wish list: clean, safe air and drinking water for everyone! If I had a magic wand. I'd fix that one first!

HANK RAPER: The Town of Siler City made the decision to create a **Budget Manager position** at the last Board of Commissioners meeting. This is a major step forward for our Town and allows us to commit to budgeting all twelve months of the year. In doing so, we will be changing our budget ing process to allow for consistent evaluation of departmental performance while tracking performance measures with benchmarks. This will also allow for long-term capital planning and forecasting so that the Town of Siler City is best prepared for major projects to improve the community.

CHIP PRICE: Wolfspeed. It has the potential to raise the yearly household income of a wide area of folks in the western part of the county. And that's going to solve a whole lot of problems

JONATHAN HENS-LEY: There has been a new found interest in the growth of the town with new annexation coming to the community.

What's going to be your government entity's biggest

government.

CHIP PRICE, Siler City Mayor: For us to keep working with the Division of Environmental

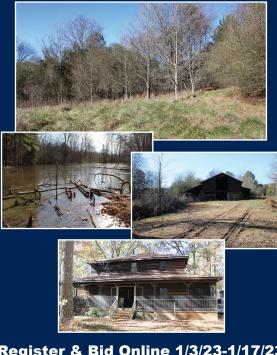
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HANK RAPER: The biggest challenge going into 2023 is continuing to address the challenges surrounding the sewer moratorium imposed by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. We currently are in negotiations regarding a Special Order by Consent (SOC) that will allow the state to grant sewer allocations in exchange for meeting agreed upon milestones. I believe we are close to an agreement based on the latest draft submitted to the Town of Siler City for review

ferent at the start of 2024 compared to today?

DAN LAMONTAGNE: I think that by the start of 2024, we will see the progression of growth in the county on the rise. The two large economic development projects have already drawn a great deal of attention to Chatham, and I believe that we will see more projects choosing our county as a great place to do business.

KAREN HOWARD: That's an interesting question! It's hard to predict beyond the inevitable like more people and more development, but I'd love to see more innovation and new shops and restaurants popping up across the county as an indication that residents are seeing the opportunities for entrepreneurship and are taking advantage of them.

HANK RAPER: The Town of Siler City is starting to experience growth at an unprecedented level in both commercial and residential development. We have seen significant interest in the CAM Site, and we will continue to build on the momentum started with the announcement of Wolfspeed coming to Siler City. We will also begin implementing the solutions proposed in Strategic Economic Development Action Plan in partnership with the firm, Sanford Holshouser.

CHIP PRICE: Well,at that point in time, I think we'll be able to see some of the things we've al-

CHIP PRICE: A lot of my agenda has been around establishing employment for folks give the young folks here a reason to stay, rather than going to Raleigh or Greensboro. And I would like to see our police department fully-staffed, for sure. One of the main functions of municipal government is to protect the safety of the individuals who live here. Just like everybody else, we're having a hard time finding people to fill these jobs. I'd like to see us get back to full staff.

JONATHAN HENS-

LEY: My biggest wish list for Goldston is a two-part answer. First and foremost I would love to see more family-owned businesses and shops in the downtown area. I think a bakery and coffee shop would be a great addition to our cozy little town. Second would be fiber internet. I have worked with Randolph Communications but unfortunately we didn't quite meet the requirements last year for fiber. Hopefully with more growth and more interest in Goldston, Randolph will bring fiber to our area for the residents.

OBITUARIES

CHARLOTTE RICHARDS HALL



January 26, 1927 ~ January 5, 2023 Charlotte Richards Hall, 95, of Bear Creek, passed away on Thursday, January 5, 2023, surrounded by her loved ones at her home. Mrs. Hall was born in Johnston

County, Rhode Island, on January 26,1927, the daughter of James Henry and Eva May Bailie Richards. Charlotte loved to paint, and crochet. She enjoyed going out to lunch with her friends. Charlotte spent many hours working in her garden, and

sitting back with a good book. In addition to her parents, Charlotte is preceded in death by her husband, William V. Hall Jr.

She is survived by her sons, William "Bill" Hall and wife Linda of Florence, S.C., and James Richards Hall and wife Cindy of Snow Camp; daughter, Melanie Leonard and husband Don of Asheboro; grandchildren, Stacy White (Chad) of Florence, S.C., Steven Blackmon (April) of Siler City, Courtney Thomas (Josh) of Norfolk, Virginia, Glenn Nicks (Dara) of Chesapeake, Virginia; and great grandchildren, Kaylie, Eli, Gabe, Sean, Sasha, Javier, Victoria, Andrea, Kate ,Tanner and Tucker; and great-great grandchild, Auggie.

The family received friends on Sunday, January 8, 2023, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City, followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m. in the Chapel with Rev. Sam Garris officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Liberty Hospice.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Hall family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

MARGARET ALLUWEE FOX STEPHENS



Margaret Alluwee Fox Stephens, 95, of Graham passed away Friday, January 6, 2023, at Mebane Ridge in Mebane. A native of Siler City, she had resided in Alamance County for 76 years. She was the widow of Thomas Jackson "Jack" Stephens and a daughter of Mr. Slocum Robert Fox and Mrs. Alma Perry Fox, both deceased.

Alluwee received her B.S. degree in Home Economics from Wom-

en's College (now UNC Greensboro) in 1949 and began her teaching career in Mebane. She taught for 30 years in the Alamance County School System, retiring in 1981 from Southern Alamance High School. She was a member of Mt. Hermon United Methodist Church.

She leaves behind to cherish her memories a loving daughter, Mrs. Sharon Stephens Griffin, who is a resident at Mebane Ridge Assisted Living in Mebane, N.C.; a sister, Patricia Fox Richardson of Orlando, Florida; six nieces, five nephews, three great-nieces and one great-nephew.

Visitation and sharing of memories will be at McClure Funeral Home in Graham at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2023. Graveside service will follow at Graham Memorial Park at 11 a.m. with Rev. Mark Jones officiating.

Online condolences may be sent at www.mcclurefuneralservice.net.



REX EUGENE BROOKS

February 9, 1936 ~ December 29, 2022

Rex Eugene Brooks was born in a rural Indiana town where he and his brothers and school friends would steal pumpkins and watermelons. He had two major loves. clogging and basketball. After high school, he joined the Marines. While stationed at Camp LeJeune, he met his soonto-be wife, Carolyn. While stationed there, he got some of the local kids off the streets by starting two clogging youth groups, high-schoolers and grade-schoolers. The Carolina Cloggers were very popular and they performed at County Western Shows and a weekly TV show. Later in his bold way he took the teenage group to Nashville and crashed the Grand Ole Opry. After their show, they were invited back. The second show was with both groups.

Not long after, Rex was stationed in Hawaii and was getting ready to go to Viet Nam. While in Viet Nam, he got his license to preach. He returned from Viet Nam and mustered out of the Marines and moved his family to Zionville, N.C., where he and his wife raised four boys and he attended Appalachian State University in Speech Pathology. His second year, he was given pastorship for Boone and Banner Elk. His last year, he and the family moved to Warrensville, N.C., where he was pastor of five churches. He graduated from Appalachian State, Summa Cum Laude. He received his Masters at Southeast Baptist Seminary

That summer, the family moved to Pittsboro and he preached at Mount Pleasant, Mann's Chapel and Cedar Grove. He started the North Chatham Baseball team and coached for five years. He served several churches. While serving in Chatham, he was also a speech pathologist at Duke University.

He finally retired after he realized dementia was adversely affecting his abilities to preach.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn and son Barry.

He is survived by his sons Michael, David, and Christopher; seven grandchildren, Leah, Lief, Jordan, Spencer, Rebekah Anne, David, Jr. and Shelby; and four great-grandchildren, Charlotte, Emily, Aurora, and Colin.

He will be missed by all.

JUDY BROWN DAVIDSON

November 9, 1945 ~ January 2,2023

Judy Brown Davidson, 77, of Siler City, passed away on Monday, January 2, 2023, at her daughter's home in Manson.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 6, 2023, at Brown's Chapel Christian Church with Rev. Joseph Glenn presiding.

Judy was the daughter of Leonard and Rachel Guill Brown. She worked at Klaussner Furniture for 15 years. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers and one sister.

She is survived by her daughters, Teresa Lee Maines of Siler City and Annette L. Glenn of Manson; brother, Richard Brown of Robbins; four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Brown's Chapel Christian Church, 608 Brown's Chapel Road, Robbins, N.C. 27325 or the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284. Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebradychapel.com.

Hospice House in Pittsboro. The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 6, 2023, at New Life Fellowship Church in Olivia, with Rev. Ronnie Whitaker officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was the daughter of Bonita Brandon Robinson and Weldon Douglas Robinson. She was preceded in death by her father.

Surviving is her mother, Bonita Brandon Robinson of Lumberton; her husband, Alton "Dan" Furmage of the home; daughter, Olivia Stone of Sanford; sons, Kristopher Furmage and Marcus Furmage, both of Sanford; a sister, Belinda Kinlaw of St. Pauls; brothers, Michael Robinson of White Oak, and Kent Robinson of St. Pauls; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com.

JACK HARRIS

Sanford, N.C. 27332. Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com

JUDY ROSE THOMAS JONES

November 8, 1942 \sim January 1,2023

Judy Rose Thomas Jones was born in Broadway, the daughter of the late Ernest B. and Evlyne K. Thomas.

A Celebration of Life was held at Juniper Springs Baptist Church on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. Entombment followed at Broadway Town Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Robert A. Jones; a daughter, Susan H. Isenhour; a son, James Robert Jones; a grandson and one great-grandson; siblings, Patty Lou Thomas Hunter, Elva Jane Thomas Mansfield, and Barry Thomas.

She was preceded in death by siblings Brady Thomas, Jesse Thomas, Gene Thomas, and Peggy Ann Campbell. A graduate of Sanford Business College, she worked as Office Manager for Broadway Dentist Office

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to support the college/continuing education fund for Judy's great-grandson Cason Isenhour. Checks should be made to Cason Isenhour (memo: Education Fund) and sent to Attn: Susie Isenhour. 839 Dalrymple Farm Road, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

WILLIAM ROY KIDD

July 15, 1932 ~ January 5, 2023

William Roy Kidd of Pittsboro passed away at his home on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

The funeral service was held Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Emmaus Baptist Church with Pastor Steve Moore presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Roy was preceded in death by his parents, Jonah, and Rachael Kidd; brothers Winifred Kidd and Cecil Kidd; sons, Darrell Kidd, and Michael Kidd; and grandson Travis Kidd.

Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Alice Mae Thrift Kidd, and children Roy Kidd Jr., Sandra Cockman Strowd, Roger Kidd, Randall Kidd, all of Pittsboro; 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; sisters, Ailene Jahn, Geneva Siler Humrickhouse, Thelma Spoon Brewer, Helen Patterson. Edna Johnson, and broth er, Harold Kidd. In 1954, Roy took a service station building and started Gum Springs Garage, where he grew a lifelong legacy. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made to Emmaus Baptist Church, 2430 Silk Hope Gum Springs Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312. Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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CATHY ELISE FURMAGE

Cathy Elise Furmage, 63, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, January 2, 2023, at the Jim and Betsy Bryan SECU

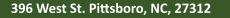


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919-542-3057

Jack Harris, 78, of Carthage, passed away at his home, on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

The family received friends on Saturday, January 7, 2023, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

He was the son of Clyde Harris and Mae Holder Harris. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Rita, Blanche and Glenda. Jack retired from Wake Stone Inc.

Jack is survived by daughters, Tonya Harris of Carthage, Donna Barnes of Broadway; brother, Bobby Harris of Moore County; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

ERLINE SNYDER KELLY

December 7, 1926 ~ January 4,2023

Erline Snyder Kelly, 96, passed away on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Graveside services were held at Jonesboro Cemetery at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 6, 2023.

Born the daughter of the late Otto King and Bertha Moser Snyder, Erline was the widow of James Nello Kelly. She was a member of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School for many years. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Jewel Baker; her brothers, Coelle Snyder, Grady Snyder, Howard Snyder, and Troy Snyder.

Survivors include sons, James Nello and Tony Steven; two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Melba Kelly.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church, 316 West Main Street,

FLORA JEAN CAMERON

Flora Jean Cameron, 94, of Olivia, passed away on Friday, January 6, 2023.

A graveside service was held on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 1 p.m. at Olivia Presbyterian Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nettie Pierce and Charles Cameron, and her brother, Lee. She graduated from Lees-McRae College, and was a member of Olivia Presbyterian Church. She worked at Womack Army Hospital as a Radiology Technician for many years, and in retirement, served as a substitute teacher in the Harnett County Schools.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to her church.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JANIE ALLENE DAVIS WELCH

December 11, 1935 ~ January 7,2023

Janie Allene Davis Welch, 87, of Robbins, passed away on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at FirstHealth Hospice in Pinehurst.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Acorn Ridge Baptist

See OBITS, page A9



OBITS

Continued from page A8

Church. The funeral was held at Acorn Ridge Baptist Church on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, with Dr. John Williamson presiding.

Janie was the daughter of Claude and Nonie Spivey Davis. She was a member of Acorn Ridge Baptist Church. She was previously employed at Ithaca.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Eli Welch; son, Jackie Welch, three brothers and three sisters.

She is survived by her children, Janice Wood of Robbins, James Ray Welch of Franklinville, Judy Martin of Star, Linda Bean of Robbins, Tonya Britt of Robbins; sisters, Betty Lucas and Claudine Greene, both of Biscoe; brother, Junior Davis of Asheboro, 12 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-greatgrandchild.

Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebradychapel.com.

KENDRA LYNETTE LAWRENCE

August 21, 1977 ~ December

31, 2022

Kendra Lawrence, 45, of Athens, Georgia (formally of Pittsboro), passed away on Saturday, December 31, 2022, at Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m., Friday, January 6, 2023, at the Pittsboro Fairground. Burial followed at Pittsboro Community Cemetery.

ANNIE RUTH (WILLIAMSON) WILLIAMS

December 3, 1946 ~ December 27, 2022

Annie Ruth Williamson Williams, 76, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at the Chatham Hospital in Siler City.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m., Friday, January 6, 2023, at Fair Promise AME Zion Church with burial following in Minter Cemetery.

GALENTO CLAY 'POND' SEYMOUR

January 5, 1945 ~ January 1, 2023

Galento Clay Seymour, 77, of Pittsboro, passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2023, at his residence.

The funeral service was held

at 1 p.m., Thursday, January 5, 2023, at Haw River Missionary Baptist Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

ARLELA (LINDSEY) WRIGHT

August 9, 1932 ~ December 21.2022

Arlela Lindsey Wright, 90, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

The funeral service was held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Ward Memorial Church.

SHIRLEY CATHERINE **HAWKINS**

January 8, 1952 ~ December 31.2022

Shirley Catherine Hawkins, 70, of Burlington, passed away on Saturday, December 31, 2022, at Liberty Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Alamance County.

The memorial service was held at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

RUFUS VASSIE HORTON JR.

June 7, 1944 ~ December 31, 2022

Rufus Vassie Horton Jr., 78,

of Pittsboro, passed awayt on Saturday, December 31, 2022, at his residence.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church.

LINDA FAYE (BALDWIN) JOHNSON

September 26, 1960 ~ January 5, 2023

Linda Faye Johnson, 62, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, January 5, 1923.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at the House of Refuge, with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

STERLING L GRIFFIN

April 29, 1982 ~ January 3, 2023

Sterling L. Griffin, 40, of Sanford, passed away at Central Carolina Hospital.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at Knotts Funeral Home.

SHIRLEY CATHERINE HAWKINS

January 8, 1952 ~ December 31, 2022

Shirley Catherine Hawkins, 70, of Burlington, passed away

at Liberty Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Alamance County. Knotts Funeral Home is assisting the family.

JALISSA DANIELLE GONZALES

Jalissa Danielle Gonzales. 31, of Vass, passed away at her residence.

Knotts Funeral Home is assisting the family.

LUKE ALBERT PYLES

Luke Albert Pyles, 57, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

POLLY A MCKENDRY

April 19, 1943 ~ January 4, 2023

Polly A. McKendry, 79, of Cary, passed away on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home-Sanford



Pittsboro Class of '57

Contributed

The Pittsboro High School Class of 1957 celebrated its 65th year Class Reunion recently. Those in attendance were, front row: Frances Clark Smith, Ava Mae Fogleman, Katie Beckwith Cooper and Frankie Moore Danek; back row, Jean Carpenter Tripp, Graham Camp Oldham, Steve Jackson, Hoyt Beard, and Ronald Copeland.

NEWS BRIEFS

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance to launch at COA

The Chatham County Council on Aging announces the opening of its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for the upcoming tax season. Appointments will be held at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays from Feb. 7 through April 18, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays from Feb. 4 through April 15 (except for Saturday, March 4, and Saturday, April 1).

The Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City will host appointments from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays

from Feb. 8 through April 12 and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, March 4 and April 1

This service is open to anyone who qualifies, regardless of age. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 919-542-4512, extension 225.

Diabetes education program set

The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle announces its new Diabetes Education for Seniors program (DES), a 12-month program that will serve adults 55 years or older living with diabetes in Johnston and Chatham counties.

WOLFSPEED IS HARNESSING THE POWER OF SILICON CARBIDE TO PROVIDE A MORE SUSTAINABLE **FUTURE FOR ALL.**

Join us at Wolfspeed's Supplier Day at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center on January 18 to learn more about the various opportunities for your business at our new Siler City Factory.

SILER CITY FACTORY For registration, please scan the QR code Wolfspeed.

The program is looking for participants that come from low-income households in these counties for their 2023 cohort. There is limited space in this cohort, but they will be accepting applicants for their 2024 cohort as well.

The program will include monthly teleconferences with a registered dietitian who will provide nutrition education specific to diabetes, individual meetings with a registered dietitian every three months, monthly food distributions, and three activity days which will include socialization, physical activities, cognitive activities and cooking demonstrations.

The activity days and food distributions will occur at community partner sites in Johnston and Chatham counties. It is recommended that participants have a source of reliable transportation in order to fully participate in the program.

Applicants will receive a final schedule upon acceptance and must be able to commit to the sequence of events before the program starts. We will operate on a three-strike policy. Strikes will only be given if the participant does not communicate their absence prior to the event. Three strikes will result in removal from the program.

Completed applications, with a handwritten signature, can be emailed to CHE@foodshuttle.org or mailed to 1001 Blair Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27603.

Interested participants can also email CHE@foodshuttle.org or call 919-390-1978 for an application.

Circle City Merchants host 'sip and stroll'

The Town of Pittsboro in collaboration with Circle City Merchants, is hosting a "Sip and Stroll" event from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Several local Pittsboro breweries will offer tastings inside of downtown stores to entice shoppers to try local brews and pick up Valentine's Day gifts for their partners. Many downtown stores will have windows decorated for the event and signage will guide shoppers to tasting locations

In addition to the store tastings, there will be vendors, breweries, a face painter, a food truck and two back-to-back bands on the SOCO deck to encourage families to join in the fun.

N.C. Youth Legislative Assembly conference set

The Youth Legislative Assembly is a three-week program that teaches high school students about the laws governing North Carolina's citizens as well as the lawmaking process. Students draft, debate and vote on mock legislative bills while developing skills in research, interviewing, group facilitation and policy writing.

The conference will be held March 17-19 in Raleigh.

Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31. The application can be found online at www.ncleg.gov/YLA.

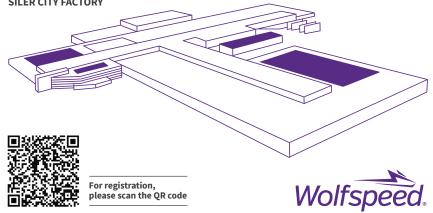
COLLEGE HONORS

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

Reagan Riddell, a Senior Business Administration major from Snow Camp, has been named to the Fall 2022 President's List at Bob Jones University. This list recognizes students who earn a 3.75 or higher grade point average for the semester.

MARIETTA COLLEGE

Cullen Zaferopolos has been named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at Marietta College, in Marietta, Ohio. Cullen, a resident of Pittsboro, is majoring in Sport Management and is a graduate of Berea-Midpark High School.



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

TWO BEDROOM, 1 BATH house for rent in Pittsboro. No pets allowed. Call 919-542-4903, J12,19,2tp

ONE BEDROOM, 1 1/2 bath furnished cottage, 3 miles north of Pittsboro. \$1600/month plus utilities. winzelerrobert@ gmail.com. J12,19,26,3tp

RENTAL APARTMENTS

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

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

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

FOR SALE

CKC REGISTERED SHIH TZU PUPPIES. Two Males, One Female. Fully vetted and raised inside with our family. Prespoiled and loved. Puppies are ready now. \$1,500. 919-742-0362. Text or Call. J12,19,2tc

1996 16-ft CREST Pontoon Raft, needs work and a new top. Trailer and new tires included, \$900. winzelerrobert@gmail. com, J12,19,26,3tp

USED GOKART, 4 horsepower engine, runs good, two-seater, disc brakes, needs work, \$600 or best offer. 919-227-6698, J5,J12,J9,26,4tc

NGEPSOL PAND Air Compres-

mates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

PART TIME HOUSE CLEANING, near Siler City. \$19/hr plus travel allowance, 910-773-0722, Prefer Senior Lady. J12,19,26,F2,4tp

TOWN OF SILER CITY - ADMIN-**ISTRATIVE SUPPORT SPECIAL-IST - PARKS AND RECREATION:** Performs intermediate administrative support in the area of Parks and Recreation; assists with program registrations and special events; answers general inquiries. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Associate degree in office management, business management, or related field; moderate ex-perience in administrative support, management support, secretarial, clerical, and office operations; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. - Extensive customer service experience dealing with both internal and external customers utilizing excellent oral and written communication skills. Experience with MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. - Possession of a valid NC driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications, Knowledge or experience in municipal Parks and Recreation. - Bilingual in both written and spoken En-glish and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirements: All required certifications and licensures must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. - An nual Hiring Salary, \$35,262.00 - Please refer to our website for a full job description. To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required and may be found on our website at www.silercity. org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability,

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

or other legally protected sta-

tus. J12,1tc

BENJAMIN SCOTT WARREN, Attorney IVEY & EGGLESTON,

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 Decem-

ber, 2022. Steven Andre Page, Adminis-

trator
 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

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 atLaw 202 Davis Grove Circle, Suite 105

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 FOXX**, 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 Foxx, Executrix 45 Crestview Rd.

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 plead 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 Lemmond c/o Paul A. Yokabitus, Attorney 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 104 Raleigh, NC 27605. D29,J5,J12,J19,4tc

Town of Siler City, Legislative Hearing Notice

The Board of Commissioners will conduct a legislative hearing on Jan. 17, 2023 at 6:30pm in the in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. Legislative hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:

1. Jacqueline Headen & Christian Lenoir request to rezone 1.270 acres from Residential-10 (R-10) to General-Commer-cial-Conditional (G-C-C). The proposed use is a restaurant (including carry out, deliver service, consumption outside enclosed structure). The subject property is located at 1111 Alston Bridge Rd. and is identified as parcel # 70152. 2. Mark Clark request to rezone 2.85 acres from Agriculture-Residential (A-R) to Highway-Commercial-Condi-tional (H-C-C). The proposed use is sale and manufacture (of goods, merchandise, equipment) and motor vehicle (sales, rental, repair, maintenance). The subject property is located at 11330 US 64 W. and is identified as parcel # 11756, 72008. 3. Mid-State Development Cen

ter LLC request to rezone 96.44 acres from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Heavy-Industrial (H-I). The subject



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CLASSIFIED INFORMATION Line ad deadline

Tuesday — Noon **Display ad deadline** Monday — 5 p.m.

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Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.

Blind ads

No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.

Errors

In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

property is located along the Stockyard Rd., Bish Rd. and railroad and is identified as parcel # 12876, 12716, 12726, 12722, 12885, 12720, 81045, 12878, 69027, 73262, 12880. 4. Siler City Pentecostal Holiness Church request to rezone 9.056 acres from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Highway-Commercial (H-C). The subject property is located at 17475 US 64 W. and is identified as parcel # 62747, 62772, 62749.

sor, 5 H.P. 2-Stage, 80 gal. tank, Like New, \$750.-- Craftsman Roll Away with top chest complete with mechanics tools, Asking \$1,400. Call 336-233-1361, J5,12,19,26,4tp

FIREWOOD FOR SALE - Dry, ready to burn. Call 919-742-4561, J5,12,19,26,4tx

TV ANTENNAS - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 N Third Avenue, Siler City, 919-227-6698, J5,J12,19,26,2tc

AUCTIONS

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTION-

EERS - Equipment, business, liquidation, estates, land, houses, antiques, personal property, coins, furniture, consignments, benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@ yahoo.com, J6,tfnc

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SERVICES

CASH PAID FOR JUNK cars and pickups, 336-581-3423, J12,19,26,F2,4tp

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

AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked

vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfnc

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

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estip.m., Monday – Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. Jy14,tfnc

LEGALS

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on th

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, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This the 22nd day of December 2022. W. Woods Doster, Administra-

tor 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 Admir

Having qualified as Adminis-trator 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 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. 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, Exec-

utor PO Box 1824 Pittsboro, NC 27312 D29,J5,J12,J19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **MICHAEL WAYNE LEMMOND**, 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



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arrangements may include. but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Tammy Wicker at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or twicker@silercity. org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Tammy Wicker al twicker@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. J5,J12,2tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE A public hearing will be held by the **Chatham County Board** of Commissioners on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, 1192 US 64W Business, Pittsboro NC 27312. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chathamcountync.gov by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings then Public Input/Hearing Sign

Up. The public hearing may be

continued to another date at

the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below: 1. A legislative public hearing requested by The Leads Group, PA on behalf of Aaron Horton Toothbrush LLC to rezone Parcel 18493 from R-1 Residential to General Use Light Industrial being approximately 4.04 acres, located at 27 Mt View Church Rd.. Oakland Township. 2. A legislative public hearing requested by Hardip Dhillon on Parcels 5336, 5584, 84340, and 5577 to rezone from R-1 Residential and MH-NC to General Use Neighborhood Business (NB) totaling approximately 15.25 acres, located on Old US 1, Cape Fear Township. 3. A legislative public hearing requested by Hardip Dhillon on Parcels 5333, 5517, 5521. and 5520 to rezone from R-1 Residential and B-1 Business to General Use Neighborhood Business (NB) totaling approximately 16 acres, located on Old US 1, Cape Fear Township Testimony is required to be given under oath during the evidentiary hearing for the following item: Quasi-Judicial Request:

1. A quasi-judicial evidentiary public hearing for a Special Use Permit for Fitch Creations for a new Planned Residential Development on Parcel 95264, being 51.765 acres located off Big Hole Rd., for 43 lots, Williams Township. Substantial changes may be

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made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discus-

sions. Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance. please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

J5, J12, 2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of ALFONZA CARRINGTON, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons. firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of April, 2023 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All per sons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 5th day of January, 2023. Ledora Annette Hackney Administrator of the Estate of Alfonza Carrington 35 Prestonwood Drive Pittsboro, NC 27312

J5,J12,J19,J26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against MANAL DANIEL SOLI-MAN, deceased, of Alexandria, Egypt, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before April 6th, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 5th day of January, 2023. Arja Helena Soliman, Executor, c/o Elizabeth K. Arias, Esq., Womble Bond Dickinson (US)

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J5,J12,J19,J26,4tc

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORE-CLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 SP 56

Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Dennis B. Gilmore to William R. Echols, Trustee(s), which was dated September 30, 2011 and recorded on October 3, 2011 in Book 1584 at Page 1110, Chatham County Registry, North Carolina.

Default having been made of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conducting the sale on January 18, 2023 at 01:00 PM, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described property situated in Chatham County, North Carolina, to wit: TRACT ONE: BEGINNING at an iron stake on South side of Mrs. Lillie C. Markham Drive in an old road in Robert Phillips line and running thence with Lillie C. Markham line South 89 degrees East with said Markham line 200 feet to iron stake, said Markham corner; thence with said Markham line North 2 degrees 30 minutes West 200 feet to iron stake in Billy Joe Phillips line; thence with his line North 89 degrees West 200 feet to iron stake center line old road his corner; thence with Robert Phillips line, South 2 degrees, 30 minutes East 200 feet to the beginning station, and containing ninety one hundredths (0.91) of an acre, according to survey made October, 1968, by R. H. Hancock, Surveyor TRACT TWO: ADJOINING the lands of Billy Joe Phillips, Tony Tucker and Myrtle Potts and BEGINNING at a point on the east side of SR 1006. same being Billy Joe Phillips corner; and running South 80 degrees East 229 feet to an iron stake in Tony Tucker's line; thence with Tucker's line South 2 degrees East 200 feet to an iron stake in the Northern line of Markham's drive; thence North 89 degrees West crossing to the South side of Markham's drive 234 feet to an iron stake in the East side of SR 1006: thence with the eastern line of said road North 1 degree 30 minutes East 220 feet to the **BEGINNING** containing 1.11 acres, more or less. Save and except any releases, deeds of release or prior conveyances of record. Said property is commonly known as 8853 Siler City Glen don Rd. Bear Creek, NC 27207. A certified check only (no

personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing. THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORD-ING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED. Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS WHERE IS." There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to all prior liens unpaid taxes, any unpaid land transfer taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release, and any other encumbrances or excep tions of record. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are Dennis B. Gilmore. An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1. 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termina tion [NCGS § 45-21.16A(b)(2)]. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable

for rent due under the rental

If the trustee is unable to

agreement prorated to the ef-

fective date of the termination.

convey title to this property for

any reason, the sole remedy of

the purchaser is the return of

the deposit. Reasons of such

inability to convey include, but

are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale

and reinstatement of the loan

the trustee. If the validity of

the sale is challenged by any

party, the trustee, in their sole

discretion, if they believe the

challenge to have merit, may

request the court to declare

without the knowledge of

the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC Substitute Trustee Brock & Scott, PLLC Attorneys for Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC 5431 Oleander Drive Suite 200 Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (910) 392-4988 FAX: (910) 392-8587 File No.: 22-05365-FC01

J5,J12,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** 22-E-703

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against THELMA WILHELM BAKER, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to: Deirdre Baker, Administrator. 813 Ascot Ln, Raleigh, NC 27615 on or before April 6, 2023 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 5th day of January, 2023 /s/ Diane A Wallis of Wallis

Law Firm, P.A., Attorney for Deirdre Baker, Administrator

of the Estate of Thelma Wilhelm Baker 5500 McNeely Drive, Suite 102,

Raleigh, NC 27612 919 783-8118

J5, J12, J19, J26, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 707

All persons having claims against TIMOTHY BUTCH WILSON. deceased. late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 5th day of January, 2023.

Jacqueline Spinks Wilson, Executrix 145 Seaforth Landing Dr

Pittsboro, NC 27312 J5,J12,J19,J26,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 714

All persons having claims against ANDREW LOUIS **RIPLEY, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 5th day of January, 2023.

Thomas R. Hayes, Co-Executor 2924 Reynolds Square Winston Salem, NC 27106 Leslie L. Hayes, Co-Executor 2924 Reynolds Square Winston-Salem, NC 27106 J5, J12, J19, J26, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** 22 E 691

All persons having claims against CAROL PITTMAN RIGS-**BEE AKA CAROL JEAN RIGSBEE,** deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of January, 2023. Nancy R. Brown, Executrix 239 Rocky Ridge Rd Leasburg, NC 27291 J12, J19, J26, F2, 4tp

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PUBLIC SALE 10:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 14, 2023 AT: DOWNTOWN AUTOMOTIVE 202 South Chatham Avenue Siler City, NC 27344 WRECKED VEHICLES VEHICLE #1, 2013 Ford Edge #2, 2013 Chrysler 200 #3, 1996 Acura 2.5 TL #4, 2006 Acura TL J12,J19,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 717

All persons having claims against VICTORIA LYNN DOWLING, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of January, 2023. Anthony W. Vaughan, Administrator 379 Winding Rd. Fries, Va. 24330

J12, J19, J26, F2, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 651

All persons having claims against **TERRI LITUCHY**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of January, 2023

Todd Lituchy, Executor 17640 Rhoda St Encino, CA 91316 J12, J19, J26, F2, 4tp



NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against **IDA LEE COTTEN,** deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of January,

2023. Crystal Gisele Josey Davis, Executrix 1205 Barman Ct

Summerfield, NC 273358

J12,J19,J26,F2,4tp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Chatham County Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling Division is requesting proposals for the collection and disposal services for our permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility. The scope of work will include screening and collection of waste, waste identification/ packaging, temporary storage, transportation and disposal and reporting and documentation.

Proposals must be received by Chatham County no later than 1/31/23 at 2:00 pm. A public bid opening will take place on 1/31/23 at 2:00 pm at the Solid Waste & Recycling Main Office located at 28 County Services Road in Pittsboro, NC. An optional, yet encouraged, site visit will be held at the HHW Facility on 1/18/23 at 3:00pm (located at 29 County Services Road, Pittsboro, NC). All inquiries relating to this request must be received by 1/19/23 at 12:00 pm, noon, and should be in writing, addressed to Michele Peluso, at one of the addresses noted below. Vendors must submit both an

electronic PDF version of the proposal (excluding any materials that are non-electronic) and three hard copies with all attachments, by the deadline above. If not delivering to the bid open location, the hard copies must be sent to one of the following delivery addresses: • Postal Address: Mi-

• Postal Address: Michele Peluso, Chatham County Finance Office, P. O. Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312

• Street Address: Michele Peluso, County Finance Office, Courthouse Annex, 12 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312

This solicitation and others

can be located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals website at: www. chathamcountync.gov/bidsandopportunities Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, age or disability. J12,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 22 E 681

FILE NO: 22 E 681 All persons having claims against KATHY SUE HEFNER AKA KATHY FREEMAN HEFNER, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of January, 2023. Kathy N. Tavoada , Co-Administrative 105 George Street

Siler City, NC 27344 Andrew B. Hefner, Co-Administrator 1526 Vander Oldham Rd Bear Creek, NC 27207

J12, J19, J26, F2, 4tp

Soil & Water Conservation District invites students to participate in conservation contests

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District invites 3rd- through 12th-graders to participate in its 2023 conservation contests. The categories are poster, essay and public speaking, and 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 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. Essay and public speaking contests are open to 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th through 12th grades. Entries are judged by grade level, with the exception of 9th through 12th grade, which will be judged together for each contest.

Poster and essay contest entries are due to the Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District office located at 1192 U.S. 64 W. Business, Pittsboro, N.C., 27312, by Feb. 28. Those who wish to compete in the public speaking contest will need to contact Education Coordinator Brandy Oldham by Jan. 16.

For complete details, rules, study materials and North Carolina curriculum standards correlation information, individuals may contact. Oldham at 919-545-8440 or brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov.

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

Property listing forms due 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 Ja. 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 form 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.

Chatham Entrepreneurship Program deadline is Jan. 31

From Central Carolina Community College

will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at 79°West Innovation Hub, 367 Freedom

"This program is unique in that it takes participants through a step-by-step process for validating their idea and learning how to build a business with minimal risk," she said. "Participants will have access to lessons, activities and a facilitator to guide them through the process. They will know if their idea has the potential to make money before they invest in starting the business." Kimberly Yingling, assistant director for innovation hubs at Innovate Carolina

Chatham County and other areas in central North Carolina are full of entrepreneurial energy, inventive thinkers, and a growing number of small businesses that make a huge economic and social impact in our communities. "Our Innovate Carolina team is honored to partner with Central Carolina Community College on the Next Level program because we get to collaborate with local entrepreneurs and innovators who want to work on early ideas and venture concepts that have impact potential," she said. "By working with them in a focused, step-by-step way, we can

validate and strengthen their ideas, prepare them for larger business accelerator programs, and set them up for long-term success." Classes are free, but participants must be pre-registered and approved to be guaranteed a space. Class size is limited to 10 individuals. Next Level is hosted by Central Carolina Community College's Small Business Center and UNC-Chapel Hill's Innovate Carolina with support from NC IDEA. For more information or to register for the program, visit www.chathamsbc.com/NextLevel or call 919-545-8015. The application deadline is Jan. 31.

Physicians Mutual

PITTSBORO — The Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center and UNC-Chapel Hill's Innovate Carolina have partnered on a new entrepreneurship development program that will introduce potential business owners to a proven process for starting a business.

The 10-week program, known as Next Level, will run from Feb. 21 through April 25 and will assist participants that have a new idea for a product or scalable service in developing their idea and launching their business. The classes Parkway, in Pittsboro.

During the program, each participant will discover how to validate their idea, explore its profit potential, and pitch their business concept to a team of professionals who will offer feedback and recommendations.

Terri Brown, CCCC's small business center director, says that one of the main reasons most new startups fail is that the entrepreneur invests time, energy and money into creating a business before finding out if there is a market for their product or service.

— UNC-Chapel Hill's central team for innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development — said that

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Tych Cowdin, CISCC building on the power of connection, PAGE B7

SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

JANUARY 12 - 18, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

GIRLS BASKETBALL White leading Seaforth to 11-2 start

BY JEREMY VERNON News + Record Sports Editor

As we enter the heart of conference play, the top girls basketball team in Chatham County this winter has been Seaforth, which is only in its second year as a varsity program.

The Hawks boast an 11-2 record entering this Friday's home game against Graham. Last week, Seaforth went 2-1, picking up wins over county foes Chatham Central and Jordan-Matthews by a combined score of 119-30.

Seaforth head coach Charles Byrd led his team to a 19-8 overall record and a 12-0 record against conference opponents in the Hawks' first season in 2021-22. Seaforth



Seaforth sophomore Gabby White (3) dribbles the ball up the court in a 56-10 win over Jordan-Matthews on Friday.

with a 55-39 victory over Kin-

ston in the first round of the

2A tournament before falling

to Whiteville in the second

won its first-ever playoff game round.

"The biggest thing is, I think we're a lot deeper," Byrd said. "Last year, we only had eight girls, but our rotation right now is already at eight girls. I also think we're a little bit more experienced. We're playing better as a team. There are a number of areas where we've gotten much stronger ...

Plan Moncure — and what it means

for Chatham residents, PAGE B8

"I'm very proud of them. I think we had a few kinks we had to work out, but over the last couple weeks, I can tell our chemistry is getting better. They're starting to trust each other a lot more on the floor. We're getting stronger on defense as well."

This season, Byrd has done his best to prepare the Hawks for what could be a grueling postseason stretch. This past week, Seaforth hosted Grace Christian — a non-NCHSAA private school that went 29-1 in 2021-22 and won the NCISAA 1A state championship. The Hawks ended up losing that game, 85-43.

Seaforth also has non-conference games scheduled against Chapel Hill and Chatham Charter before the end of the regular season. Byrd hopes playing these types of opponents will help the Hawks once they finally reach the postseason.

"I think some of the non-conference games we've added give us a different look that we don't see in conference," Byrd said. "I think it's important, because when you get to the playoffs, you don't know what type of style the team is going to play. Putting the girls into those challenging environments is very import-

See **SEAFORTH,** page B4

CLASSIFICATIONS Northwood preparing for drop to 2A

BY JEREMY VERNON

News + Record Sports Editor

The Chatham County high school athletic landscape will look much different at the start of the 2023-24 school year, as Northwood prepares to move from 3A to 2A after spending a number of years in the higher classification.

The Chargers appealed to the NCHSAA as part of their mid-alignment process, which occur every two years in the four-year realignment cycle. This move was necessary for Northwood, which lost a good portion of its student population with the opening of Seaforth High in the fall of 2021. The NCH-SAA approved the change at a meeting in late November.

According to the NCHSAA's most recent daily membership numbers, Northwood currently has the fourth-smallest population of any school in the 3A East region with 977 students. Athletic director Cameron Vernon said he expects that number to be closer to 800 starting next school year.

"I know from just talking to (Seaforth AD) Jason (Amy), it was very difficult to start up a new school and starting programs and getting kids to participate," Vernon said. "But I'd make the argument it's been just as difficult for us with the dropping enrollment to sustain what we already established."

Vernon said Northwood has already decreased the number of JV sports it offers because of current low numbers. He expects even more cuts could be made if things keep trending this direction. That said, he's focused on preparing those who do eventually suit up for Northwood to perform at their absolute best. "Chatham is changing a lot, especially on this side of the county," Vernon said. "I'm not trying to whine and complain about it. We are trying to embrace it and do everything we can to encourage and promote sports among our students. And we try to give as much time to the feeder programs as we can to get them excited and motivated to be a Charger on the field or the court."

BOYS BASKETBALL Stevenson, Powell approaching 1,000 points

BY JEREMY VERNON News + Record Sports Editor

Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson and Northwood junior Drake Powell have bigger aspirations than playing high school basketball, but both are quietly approaching a major milestone in their prep careers.

As things stand, both Stevenson and Powell are closing in on 1,000 career points. The Seaforth forward sits at 908 entering this week's games, while Northwood's guard is a few points back at 902. As long as they maintain their scoring averages, the expectation is that both will hit the mark by the end of the month.

The only current Chatham County boys player with over 1,000 career points is Chatham Charter senior Adam Harvey (1,081). He hit the mark earlier this season in a win over Southern Alamance. "I honestly didn't know I was getting close," Stevenson. "I might have to keep an eye on that now ... I've been trying to be more team-focused. I guess it's a cool achievement, but I'm more focused on getting the win for the team. Stevenson has led the Hawks to a 9-4 overall record and a 4-0 record in conference play so far this season. But things haven't been all roses for Seaforth over the past several months.



Starting next school year, Northwood will join the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference in all sports.

Northwood will be one of two new teams in the league, including Southeastern Alamance, a new school which is set to open ahead of the 2023-23 school year. The other members of the Mid-Carolina Conference will be Seaforth, Jordan-Matthews, Chatham Central, Bartlett Yancey, Graham, Cummings and North Moore.

See NORTHWOOD, page B2

See **CAREER,** page B4

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson (15) is averaging 21.2 points, 10.8 rebounds and 3.1 blocks per game so far this season.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Northwood senior Ronald Walker raises a plaque during Senior Night ceremonies on Friday.

Northwood dispatches Chatham Charter, Eastern Alamance on Senior Night

BY DAN E. WAY News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Northwood wrestlers scored nearly 150 team points in a Senior Night tri-match on their home mats on Friday, with the Chargers steamrolling 64-16 over outgunned 3A Central Conference foe Eastern Alamance and flattening an outnumbered Chatham Charter, 83-0.

The Chargers still have one dual match and three tournaments remaining in the regular season, but are gearing up for the post-season regional tournament to qualify for the state championships.

"We've got three or four weight classes that are really strong, and I expect them to come through at regions," said Michael Kuball, Northwood volunteer assistant coach who is filling in for head coach Joe Harris as he battles health issues.

"Are we ready? I would say we're real close. We just got through Christmas and everybody is kind of fat and happy."

Despite a 43-24 loss to conference opponent Orange two days prior to Friday's competition. Kuball said the Chargers would be pushed hard in the practice room through the rest of the season.

"By then we'll be ready to roll" at regionals, he said, with some wrestlers likely dropping down a weight class to be more competitive.

Kuball expects 170-pounder Cliff Davis, 182-pounder Ethan Kuball, his son, and 220-pounder Jake Dunning to qualify for a return to states. Davis qualified two years ago; Kuball and Dunning went to the show last season. Kuball was pleased with the way the team bounced back on Friday.

"We had a tough match Wednesday against Orange so we ... told them they had to come around tonight and show their true colors, and they did," he said.

"Plus it was Senior Night, and they came out pretty strong to support their seniors, and I'm pretty proud of the way they wrestled," he said.

The Chargers have a large graduating class that will leave some big holes in the lineup next season: Jack Casey, Hughson Crean, Davis, Dunning, Ryan Johnson, Abraham Owusu-Tyo, Austin Thomas, Ron and Dream Walker.

The match between Northwood and Eastern Alamance demonstrated a growing trend in North Carolina

See **WRESTLING,** page B4

SCORES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

Girls basketball

Northwood 65, Person 16 Seaforth 63, Chatham Central 20 Eno River 51, Woods Charter 31

Boys basketball

Northwood 77, Person 45 Seaforth 69, Chatham Central 56 Eno River 65, Woods Charter 46

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

Girls basketball

Seaforth 85, Grace Christian School 43 Chatham Central 52, Harnett Central 11

Boys basketball

Chatham Central 60, Harnett Central 35

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Girls basketball

Seaforth 56, Jordan-Matthews 10 Chatham Charter 53, Research Triangle 17 North Moore 27, Woods Charter 17 Chatham Central 55, Cummings 35

Boys basketball

Seaforth 75, Jordan-Matthews 33 Chatham Charter 68, Research Triangle 29 North Moore 62, Woods Charter 21 Cummings 76, Chatham Central 61

We're now more

than a week removed

from the traumatic

events of Week 17's

Monday Night Foot-

ball game between

the Buffalo Bills and

Cincinnati Bengals.

In the first quarter

of that game, Buffalo

safety Damar Hamlin

SCORES AND SCHEDULES

SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Girls basketball

Chatham Charter vs. Clover Garden (6 p.m.) Woods Charter vs. River Mill (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Chatham Charter vs. Clover Garden (7:30 p.m.) Woods Charter vs. River Mill (7:30 p.m.)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Girls basketball

Chatham Charter vs. Roxboro Community (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Chatham Charter vs. Roxboro Community (7:30 p.m.)

Swimming

Northwood vs. Orange at Orange County Sportsplex (8 p.m.)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Girls basketball

Northwood vs. Eastern Alamance (6 p.m.) Chatham Central at Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Graham (6 p.m.)

Northwood vs. Eastern Alamance (7:30 p.m.) Chatham Central at Bartlett Yancey (7:30 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Graham (7:30 p.m.)

Wrestling

Seaforth at Chapel Hill High (TBA)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Girls basketball

Northwood vs. Jordan-Matthews (5 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Northwood vs. Jordan-Matthews (6:30 p.m.) Seafoth vs. First Flight at Farmville High (5:30 p.m.)

Wrestling

Charger Cup at Northwood (10 a.m.) Chatham Central at East Gaston (9 a.m.) Jordan-Matthews at Cummings (8 a.m.)

Indoor Track

Seaforth at Chapel Hill High (TBA)

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Girls basketball

Chatham Charter vs. Eastern Alamance (1 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Chatham Charter vs. Eastern Alamance (3 p.m.)

Hamlin situation has restored faith in



JEREMY VERNON Sports Editor

collided with Cincinnati receiver Tee Higgins on a tackle attempt. But when Hamlin tried getting back to his feet, he quickly fell back to the ground. The following few minutes were some of the most harrowing I've seen on live television, as trainers used CPR and an AED for several minutes to resuscitate Hamlin and shock his heart back into a normal rhythm. With a week of perspective on the event, I have gained a new appreciation for the will of the human spirit, the strength of community and the empathy of the general football fan. But I'd be lying if I said my concerns for the future of the sport far outweigh any benefits that came from this event. Shortly after last Monday's events, floods of donations poured into a Go-FundMe page set up by Hamlin during his time in college at the University of Pittsburgh. The toy drive fundraiser initially had a goal of just \$2,500, but at the time of publication, over \$8.5 million has been donated, with most of that money coming in the past week from current and former football players, as well as many other business leaders throughout the country. The NFL also made the right call by fully guaranteeing Hamlin's current fouryear contract, something that is not normally a guarantee when a player suffers a catastrophic injury. The show of goodwill has coupled perfectly with Hamlin's recovery. On Tuesday last week, we weren't sure if Hamlin would make it out of the situation alive. In the days since, he has made remarkable improvements. He FaceTimed his teammates ahead of their Week 18 game against New England to wish them good luck. On Monday, he was released from the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and transferred to a hospital in Buffalo, where he's expected to go home any day now.

but never at the NFL level.

The threat of something like this happening again is entirely possibly, however statistically improbable. If I was in the shoes of these players, it would be hard for me to justify continuing to play this season, as the trauma and fear created by the event will undoubtedly hang over the rest of the season.

The past several months have offered a microscope into how the NFL deals with serious injuries, namely concussions. The issue wound up in the spotlight yet again this season after the debacle with Miami quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, who has suffered three concussions since Sep. 25, including one against Cincinnati on Sep. 29 that could

NORTHWOOD

Continued from page B1

The hope is bringing Northwood down a classification will help increase the competitiveness of all sports in Chatham County. The Chargers have competed against some schools the past several seasons that have twice their enrollment. Now, Northwood expects to be even more competitive across the board, especially in football.

Northwood had the best record of any county football team this past fall with a 4-6 record while playing in the Central 3A Conference. The top Chatham County school in the Mid-Carolina Conference, however, was Seaforth, which only had a record of 3-8. Jordan-Matthews boys soccer coach Paul Cuadros is excited by the prospect of adding Northwood into the mix. The Jets were the top team in their conference this past season with an overall record of 18-5-1, and their lone tie came against the Chargers, 3-3, on Sept. 8. "This completely transforms the conference, which is great, because the conference (we're in now) is a little bit weak. There were some schools who were not filling out teams in

all sports. That was leaving holes in some of the competition. But that's not going to happen now. This will make the conference extremely strong and competitive in a variety of different sports, which is going to be awesome for Chatham County."

Both Cuadros and Vernon are also excited about the prospect of having all four Chatham County traditional schools in the same conference for the first time in decades.

"Back in the day it used to be this way," Vernon said. "Our kids have grown up playing against each other in rec ball and middle school. It kind of just makes it



easier to keep that tra-

level. I think it's going

to bring an increase in

attendance, and I think

that will benefit all the

schools in terms of gate

other inter-conference,

but we're not playing for

the same kind of stakes

that we would under one single conference," Cuad-

ros added. "I think for

Chatham County high

school athletics and the

parents and student-ath-

letes, I think it's going to

be fantastic for them.'

Sports Editor Jeremy

Vernon can be reached

"Usually we play each

revenue."

dition at the high school

*** 17 0-

Boys basketball

humanity, not the NFL

Despite all the good that the Damar Hamlin situation has brought out of the football community, it also shows that this sport has dangers that far outweigh the benefits.

Hamlin had no pre-existing condition that caused him to go into cardiac arrest. That happened because he happened to be hit in the exact right place at the exact right time, stopping his heart right there on the spot. These type of extreme injuries have occurred in lower levels of the sport, and in other sports that include high-velocity projectiles like lacrosse, baseball and softball,

have been entirely avoided.

Tagovailoa's experience this season has caused the NFL to adjust its concussion protocols. But things still fall through the cracks. A few weeks ago, New England receiver DeVante Parker suffered a concussion that initially went unnoticed by the team's spotters. Before the next play started, fellow receiver Nelson Agholor held up by play by jumping up and down and waving to officials. Thankfully, play was stopped and Parker was attended to before the snap.

While we tend to sweep the shortterm effects of concussions under the rug, the long-term problems brought on by these traumatic head injuries is too big to avoid. Every year, it seems the death of a former pro player reveals a brain rattled by Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), a brain condition linked to repeated blows to the head. CTE has shown up in autopsies of several former players, including Phillip Adams — the former player who shot six people to death in South Carolina in 2021 — and Aaron Hernandez, who was serving a life sentence for murder before hanging himself in his prison cell in 2017.

The consequences of head injuries is enough for me to already rule out allowing any future kids I might have to play the sport. I imagine that sentiment is shared by more and more parents or soon-to-be parents now.

Will begin to see the effects of this movement over the coming decades. It won't be a shock to see football participation numbers drop even more than they have over the next few years.

The NFL has been a commercial and ratings powerhouse for decades now, but that reign could come to an end as more and more people wake up to the realities of the league and the danger its players put themselves in.

It's going to be hard to be a consumer of this type of violence.

We've gotten pretty good at ignoring it, but something just feels different now.

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



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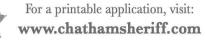
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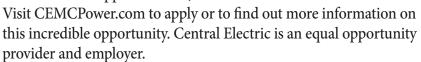




Students, get your applications in for the **2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!**

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The 2023 trip is June 17-23 and the deadline for all applications is Jan. 23.



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CLIPBOARD Q&A | GRAEME STEWART Stewart: Woods Charter girls soccer looking ahead after last year's 1A state final loss

BY JEREMY VERNON News + Record Sports

Editor

The top girls soccer team in Chatham County last season was Woods Charter, which went 19-1-2 overall and advanced to the 1A state final before falling, 3-0, to Christ the King. The Wolves have boasted a .500 record of better in eight of the past nine seasons under head coach Graeme Stewart,

who is 115-48-5 since the start of 2014.

> Last year's squad was an offensive and defensive powerhouse, averaging 5.5 goals scored per game while allowing just 13 to their opponents all season. The Wolves cruised through conference play, going 8-0 against league opponents, before shutting out each of their first four playoff opponents en route to the state final.

Over the offseason, Woods Charter lost two seniors to graduation defender Analise Villanueva and keeper Jana Matthews. That said, the Wolves bring back every midfielder and forward on the roster from last year, including seniors Lucy Muller and Chloe Richard, as well as junior Leyla Noronha. The trio combined for 95 goals and 38 assists last season. Earlier this week,

Stewart spoke with the News + Record about his expectations for his team this spring, their experience playing in the state final and much more.

How do you feel about where your team is heading into the season?

GRAEME STEWART: I think this year is going to be a great opportunity for us. Obviously, one of the things we're going to have to do — as much as last year was a lot of fun and we were fortunate to be successful, we do have to forget about yet, because we haven't done anything yet this (upcoming) season. We have to learn from last year, and we have to prepare for people wanting to beat us, if they didn't already didn't before. The target is even bigger now. We've got to prepare ourselves mentally and physically for what we want to achieve. And what we did before doesn't count for anything at the start of this season.

I'm really excited about the quality of the team we've got. We've obviously lost two big players from last year in Analise Villanueva and Jana Matthews, but where there's loss, there's opportunity. That's what we'll do. We'll rebuild that piece (of our team), but two is a pretty low number for us to lose from year to year. We're fortunate that we have a really strong squad coming back. They're all a year older. You've got some good players coming up from the middle school as well. We're really looking forward to kind of blending the team and seeing where we can go.

You mention wanting to put last year behind you, but how much will playing at the stage your team did last year — the 1A state final - benefit the girls going forward?

I think it's going to help us. What I mean by 'putting it behind us,' is just with the assumption that



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Woods Charter girls soccer coach Graeme Stewart has a 115-48-5 record with the Wolves since the start of the 2014 season.

and that moment. It's the biggest game the girls can play in. That's got to be an experience we develop from. Now we know what it looks like and what it takes, and we're aware of all the noise around the event. The cliche is, you play the game, not the occasion, and I think you have to be there to develop that knowledge. We have a group coming back with that experience, and they're hungry. We were disappointed with the way things finished last year, but I will say, the depth and talent on Christ the King is highly unusual. They're extremely strong, but so are we, so it's our job to catch them. That's our challenge. They're not going to come to us. We're going to have to go to them.

Two important players for you this season will be senior midfielders Chloe **Richard and Lucy Miller.** What has it been like to watch them grow over the past couple of years, and how have they developed as leaders in that time?

I think the thing for both of them is, they just love playing the game, playing with this team and just working as hard as they can for this group. They're both extremely coachable, they want to learn, they listen. They're a big part of the chemistry and the drive of this team. During the season, one of the real positives we were doing is that when we were losing the ball, we were pretty quick at hunting it down and getting it back. They were two of our main proponents of doing that. They just didn't want to lose. They wanted to drive (the team). And they're great kids. They're great

students. They work hard. And I'm just very fortunate to have both on the team.

You have a strong junior class as well. led by Levia Noronha. What was is like to watch her do her thing last year? Just how special can she be?

I think she already is at this level. For every player, there's always room for improvement, and like Chloe and Lucy, she is absolutely coachable. She wants to improve, she's hungry to improve and we're going to push her. We're going to push the whole group. She also hates losing. She was very emotional after the state final, and that's a positive. She doesn't want a repeat, so let's go change that.

You start your season Feb. 28 against Raleigh Charter. How do you think this matchup sets the tone for the rest of the season?

They're our old rivals. It should be a bit of a humdinger. We've had many a good game with Raleigh on both the girls and boys side. They're always good. They always have a lot of talent. It's a really tough opening game for us. We have to be ready.

We also had a really tough start last year at Franklin Academy. Raleigh is in that same category. We have a tough schedule overall, and that's by design. We've got strong opponents at the beginning of the season, because we need to push the girls, and we need to develop them. If we want to get where we potentially can get to, you have to earn it, and you have to play the top teams to get there.

Council on Aging Activities Calendar

January 16th through January 20th

Monday, January 16 Council on Aging Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday) Tuesday, January 17 Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. Body Conditioning w/Jackie
- 9 a.m. 3G's Men's Group
- 10 a.m. Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joe & Coffee
- 11 a.m. Chatham Striders Walk & Learn
- 1 p.m. <u>Rummikub</u>
- 3 p.m. Zumba Gold (RSVP w/Jackie Green)
- Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9:45 a.m. Chair Exercises w/Olivia for Beginners (in-person and Zoom)
- 10:30 a.m. Volunteer Opportunities Discussion; Ping Pong
- 1 p.m. Rook/Phase 10/Rummikub; Book Club; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering Wednesday, January 18
 - **Eastern Chatham Senior Center**
- 10 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom); Coffee & Games w/Pittsboro Police Department
- 11 a.m. Bingocize; Mind Games w/Alan
- 1 p.m. Open Art Studio
- 2 p.m. Open House Event
- 3 p.m. Caregiver Support Group

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. Veterans Benefit Assistance (Appointment required to Michael Daniels at 919-545-8334)
- 9 a.m. Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 10 a.m. Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Senior Advocacy w/Robin Leto
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 2 p.m. Crafting w/Kathryn (Air Dry Clay Bowls)

Thursday, January 19 **Eastern Chatham Senior Center**

- 8:15 a.m. Body Conditioning w/Jackie
- 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening
- 10 a.m. Crafts and Conversation
- 1 p.m. Board Games/Cards
- 1:30 p.m. Line Dancing
- 3 p.m. <u>Gentle Yoga w/Liz</u>

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee & Conversations
- 10 a.m. Music Jam Session
- 2 p.m. <u>Tai Chi</u>
 - Friday, January 20 **Eastern Chatham Senior Center**

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

- 8:15 a.m. Body Conditioning w/Jackie
- 10 a.m. Geri-Fit Part 2 w/Jackie
- 11:15 a.m. Cornhole & Shuffleboard
- 1 p.m. Card Games/Euchre
- 3 p.m. Jukebox Live! ("Music To Get You Movin'") Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 7 p.m. Friday Night Dance (fee required to attend)

Eastern Chatham Senior Center 919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center 919-742-3975

Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org

we've done something so far. We haven't. What (last year) does give us — we knew what Christ the King were going to look like, but now we really know. It's different to say, 'Oh, it would be nice to go to a state final.' But when you have, you've already handled that pressure



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CAREER

Continued from page B1

Competing at the Chick-fil-A Classic in Lexington, S.C., over the holiday break, Seaforth lost both of its games to Richland Northeast and Cardinal Newman by nearly 29 points per game.

The Hawks left the holiday showcase with a bad taste in their mouths, but they looked like a new team this week in matchups against county foes Chatham Central and Jordan-Matthews. Stevenson, the 6-foot-11 junior, averaged 22.5 points, 11.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 3.5 blocks per game in the victories.

"I'm proud of the guys and proud of the whole team," Stevenson said. "Those were two hard losses at the tournament, but we bounced back with two nice wins. We have to keep our heads up and keep going forward."

Powell, for his part, had led

all record and a 4-0 mark in conference play this season. The Chargers' only two losses this winter have come against Cannon Academy — ranked as the No. 5 current team in N.C by MaxPreps — and Camden High (N.J.), which ranks No. 5 in the entire country.

Northwood to an 11-2 over-

The 6-foot-6 wing is averaging 20.5 points, 7.8 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game for the Chargers this season. Northwood — which is ranked No. 8 in N.C. by MaxPreps — figures to be among the top 3A teams left in the state by season's end.

Last year, Northwood made it to the fourth round of the state tournament before losing to West Carteret, 51-44.

Regardless of how this season, or the next, turns out for Powell and Stevenson, their basketball careers won't be finished. The duo are among the top recruits nationally in the Class of 2024, with Stevenson coming in at No. 13 and Powell at No. 50 in 247Sports, composite rankings. Powell is committed to UNC, while Stevenson is still undecided.

Stevenson has reported six Division-I scholarship offers, including ones from UNC, Virginia, Missouri and Georgetown. Wherever he winds up, he figures to create some NBA draft buzz, as his unique blend of size and skill could make him among the more appealing frontcourt options when he becomes draft eligible in 2024.

But for now, Stevenson is focused on what's right in front of him.

"I'm trying to keep my dreams big, but I'm going to keep working and keep my head down," he said. "I can't think too far ahead, though. I'm trying to take it step by step. I have the bigger picture in mind, but I still have to take it one step at a time. I think that's what's going to get me to the next level and then the next level after that."



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Drake Powell has 902 points, 98 away from reaching the 1,000-point mark for his high school career.

WRESTLING

Continued from page B1

wrestling. Both had female starters.

"It's so exciting to see the interest from girls in wrestling," Kuball said. "North Carolina will be joining other states next year in launching a sanctioned women's wrestling division with their own teams."

Kuball applauded the development as a matter of fair competition.

"They have the moves, they have the technique, they just don't have the upper body strength (to match up with the boys)," he said. "I take nothing away from those girls. They come out strong and they work just as hard as the boys do in the wrestling room, and they deserve every bit of accolade they get when they win."

Eastern Alamance coach Bruce Watson agreed with his counterpart that women's wrestling teams are a positive move. The coaches also agreed that a lack of a middle school wrestling program has been a detriment for their high school teams.

"That's a definite disadvantage for our program because we have kids coming in freshman year ... and it's a steep learning curve. You grow up playing basketball, but wrestling, you don't learn moves until you come into the wrestling room," Kuball said. But their impediments pale in comparison to Toby Holland's challenges in relaunching a wrestling program from scratch at Chatham Charter after a three-year hiatus. "We're super small," Holland said in understatement about his twoman team. "The strength isn't in the numbers. The strength is in the heart of the wrestlers that we have. They fight hard every second of the match. From whistle to whistle our kids go hard."

That spills over into the mat room, he said. His two grapplers have a contagious work effort that keeps them enthused despite being outmanned every match. That attitude, in turn, keeps Holland stoked as a coach.

Chatham Charter has a strong basketball pedigree, and wrestling is in the shadows. Holland is working hard to recruit wrestlers by informing them there is a second winter sport available, one that offers the allure of personal goals and growth — you get the credit when you win, and there's nobody to blame when you lose.

"I just love wrestling. It's a warrior sport," said the 30-year Army veteran who did his high school wrestling in Goldsboro. "That whole mentality is a lifelong mentality. We won't always have two wrestlers. There's going to come a time when we have a big, strong program, and when we do the state's going to need to look out for us."

The Knights duo was game, but mathematically beaten before stepping on the mats against Northwood and a 54-6 loss to Eastern Alamance.

Chatham Charter's Julian Todero lost by second period fall to Eastern Alamance's Chinchilla in what had been a close match to that point, and by 16-0 technical fall to the Chargers' Coltrane Northington. The Knights' Seth Lindley split his matches at 152 pounds. He decked Aiden Clark of Eastern Alamance with a first period half nelson/underhook combination, but was clamped by Northwood's Owusu-Tyo. Elijah Farrow got Northwood off to a brisk start against Eastern Alamance at 160 pounds. He turned Evan Harbold for a 3-point near fall and 7-1 lead with a second period underhook/overhook, finishing up with a half nelson fall. Davis needed just 1:03

in the first period to slap on a half nelson, post the far arm and slip in a leg for a pin. With Kuball and Cash Hoffman gathering forfeits at 182 and 195, respectively, Northwood built its lead to 24-0.

Dunning, wrestling up at 285 pounds and giving up 26 pounds to Jeff Giovani, was leading 7-0 in the second period when he flipped the larger Eastern Alamance opponent and wrapped up a half nelson for the fall and a 30-4 team lead.

The Chargers' Sunday Oo was awarded a forfeit for a 36-10 lead at 113 pounds, then Isaac Gilligan wasted little time dispatching Kaitlyn Watson, transitioning from a reverse half to a near side cradle for the first period fall and a 42-10 Northwood lead.

At 145 pounds Northwood's Ron Walker put on a crowd-pleasing show in dropping Chasen Phillips with a 16-4 major decision. Walker picked up a pair of first period takedowns off of a shrug and a balance check. He earned a third takedown when he defied conventional wrestling protocol when Phillips misfired on a takedown attempt. Walker leapt forward and twisted backward in midair to pop up on top of his opponent. He ended with three near falls in the final frame to clinch the



Seaforth sophomore Gabby White is averaging 15.3 points, 10.0 rebounds and 3.6 steals per game this season.

SEAFORTH

"It's very rare for someone to have to step up like that in your second year, because normally you have those juniors and seniors that you come in playing behind," Byrd said. "You can come in and hear what they have to say and kind of follow their lead. For her to have to mature so early, it's tough. It's a rare thing to see." Seaforth is 4-0 in conference play. The only other teams in the Mid-Carolina Conference with a winning record currently are Chatham Central (8-4) and Bartlett Yancey (6-3). The Hawks have already defeated both this season.

major decision.

"Ron's a unicorn. Every team has one of those. Probably not quite as eccentric as Ron. Ron is a good wrestler, but he's a classic entertainer," Coach Kuball said. "He's got 35 different moves, and not one of them is one that we teach. Only a few people in the county could throw themselves over the top of another wrestler in some sort of an acrobatic cartwheel and come out on top."

Owusu-Tyo finished the night for Northwood at 152 pounds with a bar/ chancery takedown and 30-second fall against Aiden Clark.

Continued from page B1

ant, because we're going to see those types of teams later on this season."

How far Seaforth makes it in this year's state playoffs will likely be dependent on the performance of sophomore Gabby White, the team's star player who leads the Hawks in points (15.3), rebounds (10.0), assists (3.3) and steals (3.6) per game. She also led the team in all four statistical categories as a freshman in 2021-22.

Over the offseason, White approached Byrd about how she could step up more as a leader for the team. That drive to accept more responsibility is one of the many special traits the sophomore brings to the table.

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



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Devin Nabounpaeng attempts to flip an Eastern Alamance opponents during Northwood's win on Friday night.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: *Meet* Courtney Cabe

An employee of SECU for 24 years, Courtney serves the Vice President of the North Chatham Park branch. Previously working in Raleigh and Siler City, she landed in Chatham County 13 years ago.

Twenty-two years ago, at SECU, she met her husband & together they have a 14-year-old son who will be attending Northwood next year. Two sweet dogs & a new kitten round out their family.

Her family enjoys playing games, hiking, & traveling together.

She is a triathlete, a cancer survivor, & book lover. Overcoming obstacles earlier in life has helped her appreciate friends, family & service to others.

Courtney, who has been involved with the Rotary Club of Pittsboro since August 2022, is excited to take part in service projects making a positive impact in our community & plans to bring Rotary Youth Services to local schools. Rotary's motto of service above self is a guiding principle she believes would greatly benefit youth.





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

Workshop scheduled for nonprofits interested in United Way funding

From United Way of Chatham County

A virtual workshop for nonprofits interested in applying for a grant from the United Way of Chatham County will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20.

The hour-long webinar will detail the 2023/2024 allocations process, components of the

funding application, criteria used to evaluate proposals and the online application software.

All nonprofits providing human services to Chatham residents are invited to attend. The workshop will cover the components of the application process, timeline, funding application and the criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals. A complete list of eligibility requirements is available on the United Way of Chatham County website at www.unitedwayofchathamcounty.org by selecting "Funding Process" at the top right of the homepage.

Attendance at the live meeting is encouraged. A recording of the meeting will also be made available to all registrants and should be viewed by an agency representative prior

to submitting the application. To register yourself or other members of your agency, visit www.UnitedWayofChatham-County.org/Allocations. Please regisger no later than Jan. 19. Once registered, you will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link.

To register, please visit www. unitedwayofchathamcounty. org/Allocations. Once you have

submitted your registration, an email will follow with a Zoom link

The 2023/2024 application will be accessible beginning Friday, Jan. 20. Applications must be submitted online by Tuesday, Feb. 28. Contact the United Way office with any questions at 919-542-1110 or katie@unitedwayofchathamcounty.org.

Are You Ready to **'Unretire'?**

Have you recently retired but are now thinking of going back to work? If so, you aren't alone, as many people are choosing to "unretire." But if you do reenter the workforce in some capacity, what opportunities might be available to you? And how will your renewed employment affect your financial outlook?

For starters, though, what reasons might motivate you to go back to work? For many people, the primary cause has been inflation, which has presented a huge challenge to retirees living on a fixed income. In addition, the volatile financial market of 2022 caused many people's investment portfolios to decline in value — a real problem for retirees who needed to start selling investments to supplement their income.

But non-financial factors could also be driving you to unretire. Like other retirees, you may miss the chance to use your work experience to engage with the world, and you may miss the social interactions as well.

In any case, if you do decide to rejoin the working world in some fashion, you may have several options. For example, if you enjoyed the work you did for your former employer, you might want to see if you could go back on a part-time basis. Or you could use your skills to join the "gig" economy by doing some consulting or freelance work in your former industry. You might also consider going to work for a nonprofit organization, as many of these groups lost employees during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and are now facing labor shortages.

Going back to work, even part time, can improve your cash flow, which helps cover the cost of regular expenses. Furthermore, the added income can possibly

Pittsboro

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help you delay or reduce withdrawals from your investment accounts. And it's important to increase the longevity of these accounts considering you may spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. (Once you turn 72, however, you will have to start withdrawing certain amounts from your 401(k) and traditional IRA.) But your earnings can affect another source of your retirement income - your Social Security benefits.

If you return to work before your "full" retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67, the Social Security earnings limit in 2023 is \$21,240. For each \$2 earned over that amount, Social Security will deduct \$1 from benefits. If you reach your full retirement age in 2023, the earnings limit is \$56,520; Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for each \$3 earned over this amount until the month you turn your full retirement age. But in all future years after you've reached your full retirement age, you can earn as much as you want without losing any benefits. Social Security will then recalculate your payments to give you credit for the months your benefits were reduced or withheld due to your excess earnings. Be aware, though, that your earned income can potentially result in higher taxes on your Social Security benefits at any age.

Returning to work can be rewarding, both financially and emotionally. And you may get more out of the experience when you're aware of the issues involved.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Pittsboro Lee Shanklin, AAMS®

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Chapel Hill

Jessica L Villagrana, CFP® 180 Providence Rd

UNITED WAY AGENCY PROFILE **Chatham Trades: Providing** skill development for adults with disabilities

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: Adult Developmental Vocational Program

Reach: about 35 adults annually

What we do: Chatham Trades provides employment, vocational training and personal skill development to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

How we do it: The Adult Developmental Vocational Program (ADVP) offers organized developmental activities for adults with I/ DD to prepare them to live and work as independently as possible in the community. Program participants (consumers) receive opportunities for the development of community living skills, work activity training and personal skill development.

We provide employment and training in an industry setting. Jobs performed include assembly, packaging, order fulfillment and mailings for other companies, for which the consumer is paid. Our impact in Chatham: The consumers served by Chatham Trades are a vulnerable, overlooked, under-employed population. Chatham Trades focuses on comprehensive support services to help these individuals achieve their employment and personal development goals. Providing vocational training and paid employment in an industry setting with real work contracts

results in increased skills, abilities and income. The majority of our consumers would not have an earned income if they weren't employed by Chatham Trades. In addition, we work with consumers to enhance their personal development skills, which increases confidence and productivity, and as a result, increases income and self-sufficiency.

How we measure success: Chatham Trades' Adult Developmental Vocational Program is evaluated through several internal and external methods. Some are conducted annually, and others are conducted at longer intervals. The frequency of most of the external evaluations depends upon the outcomes of the previous evaluation. If deficiencies are found, the next assessment will be done sooner than normal.

We evaluate the program outcomes using the following methods:

· Chatham Trades' ADVP program is evaluated every one to three years by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). All recommendations for improvement are implemented. The last CARF evaluation was in November of 2019. The next one will be this year. This is the longest duration of time possible between assessments and was the result of an exceptional

nal Innovations in September 2021 and there were no deficiencies.

• Every consumer has 8-12 individual goals. Progress towards these goals is recorded daily, reported quarterly and reviewed annually with the consumer, their care coordinator and their guardian. Goals are adjusted as needed. When goals are achieved, new ones are added. These goals promote the development of vocational, personal and social skills.

• All Habilitation Technicians receive at least 30 minutes of clinical supervision every month, which includes a review of their own professional development goals and outcomes. Input for program improvement is encouraged during these meetings.

In addition, Chatham Trades' annual survey is sent to all stakeholders to evaluate our programs and identify any unmet needs in service delivery or training. Stakeholders include consumers, guardians, staff members, businesses that contract with us for assembly/packaging work, collaborating nonprofits and local government representatives. From the annual survey, a quality improvement plan is designed and implemented to address any areas that were identified as needing improvement.

Our biggest challenge right

919-542-3020

Siler City

301 E Raleigh St

919-663-1051

919-444-2961

Pittsboro

Kevin C Maley, AAMS®

984 Thompson St Suite E2

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Edward **Jones**

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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Fearrington Kathy Brommage, CFP® 190 Chatham Downs Drive Suite 103 919-960-6119

evaluation in 2019.

 The Department of Health and Human Services, along with Vaya Health (formerly Cardinal Innovations), Alliance Health and the Sandhills Center, audits the program, reports any deficiencies and makes recommendations on an annual basis. A quality improvement plan is required for any concerns. Chatham Trades just completed an assessment conducted by Vaya/Cardi-

now: Chatham Trades' big gest current challenge is securing funding to expand programs.

A success story: Ben began working at Chatham Trades after graduating from high school. In the beginning, he was very self-conscious. Ben is nonverbal and demonstrated significant behavioral problems. With the professionalism and patience of his Habilitation Tech, he adapted to a workday schedule, learned how to take direction from his supervisor and tried different techniques for staving on task. He gradually became more productive and independent. He began doing things for himself. He also started trying new things, like working on the assembly line to pack weekend food for children. He is now more confident and enjoys the satisfaction of a job well done.

When Randy first came to Chatham Trades, he had few self-help skills. With the support of his Habilitation Tech, Randy has learned to write his name. He's learned to count money. He earns a paycheck working on the assembly line. He has become an exceptional worker and role model for others. Randy has increased his self-confidence and self-sufficiency through his increased productivity and job success. Year founded: 1980 Staff: 25

Director: Shawn Poe; 919-663-3481

Coordinates: 2535 Old U.S. Hwy. 421 North, Siler City; 919-663-3481

On the web: www.chathamtrades.org



POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Dec. 12, Hunter Brandon Edwards, 23, of 3476 Old 421 U.S. North, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for simple assault. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 4.

On Dec. 12, Roger Murray Jr., 45, of 1605 Fowler Place, High Point, was arrested by Deputy Alberto Estrada for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in **Guilford County District Court** on Jan. 11.

On Dec. 12, Steven Robert Allen, 28, of 7323 Pecan Ave., Sunset Beach, was arrested by Deputy Estrada for break or enter a motor vehicle, misdemeanor larceny, larceny from construction site, breaking or entering a motor vehicle and felony larceny. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

Allen was also arrested by Deputy Estrada for felony larceny and possessing stolen goods/property. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 12, Olyvia Hunter Burke, 26, of 175 Meronies Church Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for misdemeanor larceny. She was issued a written promise to appear in Alamance County District Court on Jan. 11.

On Dec. 13, Anthony Jerome Peoples, 27, of 1205 W. 3rd St., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for second-degree forcible rape. He was issued a \$75,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 13, Royce Morgan Jr., 43, of 77 E. Goldbar Ave., Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for failure to appear related to a release order. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled

to appear in Randolph County District Court on Dec. 19.

Morgan was also arrested by Deputy Roberts for injuring property to obtain nonferrous metals. He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court on Dec. 15.

On Dec. 13, Milton Hamilton Kareem Patillo, 23, of 101 Rock Haven Road E500, Carrboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for felony larceny by employee. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 15, Danielle Jacklyn Kriegh, 31, of 905 Pea Ridge Road, New Hill, was arrested by Deputy Mary Sachs for possession of controlled substance on jail premises and simple possession of a Schedule III controlled substance. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 18, Steve Ross Allen Jr., 54, of 414 Fellowship Church Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Roberts for possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, no operator's license and fictitious/altered title/registration card/tag. He was issued a written promise to appear in **Chatham County District Court** on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 18, Nathan Adam Creel, 31, of 131 Pyrant Road, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Estrada for assault on a female. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 11.

On Dec. 19, Amber Marie Stacey, 28, of 17297 U.S. Hwy. 64 W., Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Michael Cox for breaking and/or entering, attempted larceny and injury to personal property. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 19, Aaron Steven Coble, 22, of 17297 U.S. Hwy. 64 W., Siler City, was arrested by

Deputy Chris Scales for burglary/breaking and entering, attempted larceny and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 19, Elvis Junior Moser, 53, of 191 Graham Moore Road, Staley, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 18.

On Dec. 20, Arleen Carol McPherson, 60, of 1951 Ed Clapp Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Roberts for failure to appear. She was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 25.

On Dec. 20, Kristi Dianna Gilmore, 38, of 270 Kelly Lane, Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Harrington for failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County District Court on June 1.

On Dec. 20, Tara Michelle Barth, 40, of 1151 Dorsett Road, Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Harrington for failure to appear. She was issued \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

Barth was also arrested by Cpl. Harrington for failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 18.

On Dec. 21, Adam Cobie Holmes, 37, of 84 Pear Drive, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Roberts for misdemeanor larceny. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 3.

On Dec. 21, Corey Ray Mote, 27, of 1237 Langley Road, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Estrada for misdemeanor stalking, communicating threats and Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 11.

On Dec. 25, Tomas Hernandez Cesareo, 42, of 413 Dogwood Avenue, Apt. A, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for failing to register as a sex offender. He was issued a \$15,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 27, Frank Wilson May, 31, of 601 Thrift Road, Goldston, was arrested by Cpl. Harrington for sexual battery. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 31.

On Dec. 28, Cierra Ashley Johnson, 37, of 866 Clarence McKeithen Road, Sanford, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on Jan. 31.

On Dec. 29, Amanda Lee Jett, 41, of 2091 N.C. 42 Hwy. Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Alberto Estrada for second degree trespassing. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 11.

On Dec. 29, T.J. Snipes, 58, of 1221 W. 11th St., Apt. 5, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for failing to register as a sex offender following change of address. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 29, Justin Jordan Haizelip, 40, of 550 Smith Level Road, Carrboro, was arrested by Deputy Allshouse for larceny of merchant product code fraud. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 30.

On Dec. 29, Willie Douglas Johnson, 60, of 375 W. Greenhill Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for simple possession of Schedule II controlled substances, possession of drug paraphernalia, reckless driving to endanger, fictious/altered title/ registration card/tag. driving while license revoked. He was issued a \$2.500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 18.

On Dec. 29, Johnson was also arrested by Deputy Amer for assault by strangulation. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold.

On Dec. 30, Darius Rashad Davis, 24, of 800 Pritchard Ave. Ext, Apt. 115, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray for failure to appear. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Durham District Court on Jan. 4.

Davis was also arrested by Deputy Gray for failure to appear. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court on Jan. 9.

On Jan. 1, Conrad Craig Currin, 50, of 20080 Long, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for Domestic Violence Protective Order Violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 11.

On Jan. 1, Patrick Lawrence Mortimer, 74, of 20017 Bragg, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Moises Carvajal for magistrate's order for fugitive arrest. He was issued a \$18,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 4.

On Jan. 1, John Robert Stanley, 46, of 2704 Old Coleridge Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Carvajal for resisting public officer. He was issued a \$100 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 1.

On Jan. 3, Lysandore Moye, 47, of 2123 Wythe Street, Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for 2nd degree trespassing and resisting public officer. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 31.

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS **Board** approves staff compensation

Staff positions reclassified to prepare for growth

TAYLOR HEEDE

One of the most important things as the town grows is to fully separate the budget process from the finance department itself," Raper said. "Finance is very reactive by nature — it's designed to do accounting work in response to something that's already happened. ... Budget is very focused on being proactive.' Raper said the reason separation hadn't occurred yet in Siler City was because the town wasn't quite large enough to justify that split. With chip manufacturer Wolfspeed's imminent arrival, though, Raper said now's the time to start preparing for growth. "I think we're at the point now where it's in our best interest to pull that out and have the budget be a 12-month process," Raper said. "We're quickly approaching the \$20 million budget mark, and when you're at that level, not only does it make more sense as a best practice by monitoring and managing that as a full-time responsibility, 365 days a year ... You will find things that will make your organization operate more efficiently and effectively throughout the year. Raper said the change would allow "for better evaluation and monitoring of the money in the town throughout the entire year ... It puts us in a position to do a better job long-term forecasting and long-term financial planning.' The reclassification of the financial analyst position won't cost the town additional money; rather, it will actually save money, according to Raper. He said he plans to move an existing employee to the new budget manager position, and then he will seek to hire a replacement at a lower compensation level Raper said the end goal of these various changes he's proposed to the board is simple: Prepare the town for rapid growth in a way that keeps the town moving forward, all while working in the best interests of the residents. "We want to make sure we are doing the right job for the public," Raper said. "We want to make sure we're meeting service demands and making sure we have the appropriate level of service we're supposed to be providing.'

study, creates budget manager position

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town's board of commissioners has voted to accept a recently completed compensation study which suggested the town needs to increase the wages of most of its employees.

Town Manager Hank Raper and Human Resources Director Nancy Darden examined what surrounding municipalities were paying their staff after a previous study revealed Siler City staff felt they were underpaid in comparison to surrounding areas.

The results of the study revealed that in comparison to other municipalities, Siler City's staff is underpaid.

At the board's meeting last Tuesday, Raper said the starting pay for several positions in town makes Siler City less competitive than surrounding municipalities such as Pittsboro, Hillsborough and Apex.

"Compared to Apex and Pittsboro, you're not competitive," he said. "I'd say you're still probably one step behind Pittsboro ... Some people apply for jobs for an increase in pay, maybe family coverage or health care, so that may affect whether we're competitive on an individual basis.

Commissioners wanted to ensure town employees felt satisfied with compensation levels, but some were concerned about the costs of increasing rates of pay.

"We've added four positions so far since the budget came out, and we know we've got all this other stuff going on," Mayor Chip Price said. "We couldn't buy things like vehicles because we didn't have enough money, but yet, I'll keep hearing that we have money, so I'm confused."

Commissioners wanted to ensure town employees felt satisfied with compensation levels, but some were concerned about the costs of increasing rates of pay.

Raper said what commissioners were deciding on was whether to approve the compensation study – which he emphasized was a response to what staff said was a top concern.

Commissioner Lewis Fadely, while concerned about future revenues not meeting levels that would allow Siler City to afford raises, said he wanted to the board to address gaps between what employees of the town earned compared to staff in similar positions in similar-sized muncipalities. He cited a recent presentation at a previous board meeting which showed the results of a survey where town employees were asked what could be improved on, stating that compensation, benefits and morale were lacking among staff.

"If we do this, which I understand that we need to, and we can't fund this because we realize don't have the money, what's that gonna do to morale?" he asked. "So I want to make sure we have enough (money) to address this issue."

In other business, commissioners approved a request to reclassify the town's financial analyst position to budget manager. No additional funds are needed to reclassify the position. (See story about the change in this week's edition.)

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com and on Twitter at @HeedenTaylor.

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — With growth and change imminent in Siler City, Town Manager Hank Raper said he and other administrative staff are working to make various changes to the town's departments and positions to accommodate an influx of new residents and businesses.

"Sometimes things happen that necessitate change," Raper told the News + Record. "So when that happens, you do try to make the changes as adaptable for the town as possible and make sure that any changes that you make are the best practices to move the town forward.

Raper, who became town manager last May, has overseen the split of the town's Public Works and Utilities and the Planning and Community Development departments.

In addition, Raper has also been able to fill various administrative posts by hiring staff from larger municipalities. Two of the most recent include Jennifer Baptiste from the city of Fayetteville in the planning director role, and Cal Pettiford — who also worked for Fayetteville as public works director.

A new challenge, however, lay on the horizon: Siler City's Finance Director, Tina Stroupe, is leaving her position for a similar job with the city of Raleigh. Raper said her departure creates an opportunity to, once again, make arrangements within town administration that he believes will help the town prepare for incoming growth.

"We want to make sure that we structure the staff within the town in a way that's conducive to a town that's growing, and looks at the way ... and that matches the way town's going to look like in the next few years," Raper said.

Raper proposed a change to the finance department that would have the assistant finance director become the finance director, and the finance analyst become the assistant director. This left the finance analyst position open, but Raper said he wants to reclassify that position to be a full-time budget manager who would work on developing the annual budget, and do budget analysis, on a year-round basis.

Cowdin, CISCC building on the power of connection to help under-served youths

Tych Cowdin's passion for teaching, coaching and mentoring exemplifies the mission of **Communities In Schools** of Chatham County: to provide students a network of support empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Cowdin enters his third year leading the agency after being hired as executive director in April 2020. With intentions set on sustaining and growing CISCC's longstanding school and community-based programs, he says he looks at 2023 with an eye toward new opportunities to build connection across the county with partner agencies, resource providers, volunteers and donors in an effort to meet the growing needs of Chatham County's under resourced and under-served youth and families.

Cowdin arrived in North Carolina from Topeka, Kansas, after completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas in 2008 and his Masters of Business Administration at Washburn University in 2011. He's held a variety of roles throughout his professional career, and joined the CISCC team in 2014 after two years as an Operations Assistant with the University of North Carolina football team. Over his eight years with CISCC, Cowdin has filled roles of student support specialist, program director, and now executive director. In his free time, you can find him firing up the grill, cheering on the Kansas Jayhawks, playing with his 1-year-old pit bulls Boogie and Otis, and enjoying the outdoors with his wife Courtney.

Looking back on 2022, what are some of your reflections?

As we reflect back on 2022, there is so much to celebrate and be thankful for. From assisting families with food and basic needs, advocating for racial equity in our support systems, providing students a one-onone relationship with a caring adult, helping families navigate mental and physical health crises, connecting students with volunteer tutors and mentors, partnering with providers to facilitate yoga, hiking and reading groups, leading family skill building courses for parents, providing and advocating for translation and interpretation resources, and building social emotional resiliency in students, just to name a few, CISCC has answered our communities call for support. We are grateful to be in the space of leading students forward through transformative relationships. so all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential, and believe we can accomplish so much more in 2023 through effective collaboration across our network of partner agencies and dedicated volunteers. One example that comes to mind when thinking of the power of partnerships occurred just a couple weeks ago as students prepared for the holiday break. With the combined efforts of partners from Chatham Community Church (67 warm coats), a generous community member (34 warm coats), Mountaire Farms (154 donated Thanksgiving and Christmas chicken boxes), and a group of Governor's Club volunteers (150

basic needs/toiletries packages and over \$3,300 in gift cards), CISCC was able to coordinate the collection and distribution of the gifts directly to families before the break. It was amazing to see the gratitude in the smiling faces of the recipients, and a special example of what can be accomplished when we all work toward a common goal utilizing our own unique strengths and abilities!

Our team has been privileged with the opportunity to build bridges, break down barriers, and provide critical and timely resources throughout 2022, and we do not take this responsibility lightly. I am so proud and honored to work alongside the awesome CISCC team. Our outcomes depend on our ability to generate meaningful connections with volunteers, partners agencies and resource providers all doing excellent and important work throughout the county to meet our true potential. Together, through these connections, we can multiply our work to further meet the growing needs of those we serve

As one Chatham County Schools administrator noted, "I look forward to working with you all this year and just appreciate what CIS brings to the table! Our students will reap the benefits."

What were your programs able to accomplish in 2022?

As each year presents new and unprecedented challenges, we continue to lean in to the North Star of our organization: developing programs founded in transformative relationships. These one-on-one relationships with caring adults (both staff and community volunteers) are a key to student success in school and in life. CISCC helps every student see his or her potential so they can fearlessly unlock it, creating access to resources and opportunities that help them see, confront and overcome the barriers that stand between them and their future. 2022 was a year of re-engagement and recovery for many. Our school and community-based teams did a remarkable job of deepening their relationships throughout our community through their re-engagement efforts with our key partners at Chatham County Schools and Chatham County's Department of Juvenile Justice. In total, CISCC programs directly served 222 youths and their families with individualized case managed support. As we continue to be data informed and outcome driven, we annually measure success by reviewing student outcomes based on their individual goal achievement data. Goal areas include attendance, behavior, coursework and social emotional learning. Over the course of the past year, CISCC program participants and our network of support achieved a great deal!

Communities In Schools staff members include, from left: Tych Cowdin, Perla Ayala, Jazmin Mendoza Sosa (in front of Ayala), Maria Soto (in front, next to Mendoza Sosa), Jennifer Melos (behind Soto), Shirille Lee, Ilsen Lopez, Bieisy Sevilla, Eva Depaz, Veronica Nunez and Travis Patterson.



CN+R staff photo

Tych Cowdin

cations after starting the program

What's ahead for 2023?

As we kick off the new year and the start of the second semester we are excited to build on the successes and learn from the challenges of our work. The CISCC team, currently consisting of 13 staff members, will look to deepen support service and resource offerings by continuing to build transformative relationships that lead to student success. At the heart of our partnership model are experienced practitioners (also known as student support specialists) that work full-time within schools to support and enhance their ability to meet the needs of at-risk students. Student support specialists are employed, trained and managed by a **Communities In Schools** of Chatham County which works in close partnership with school leadership to ensure their effectiveness. Within a school building, student support specialists help to identify and manage community partners, while also coordinating the delivery of schoolwide resources and programs. Most importantly, student support specialists are focused on providing individualized support for a case load of students identified as at risk of dropping out. We aim to strengthen internal leadership to further our work in Chatham County for years to come. As our staff continues to grow, we will invest and emphasize the importance of professional development, and making sure each team member has what they need to be successful in this demanding line of work. This includes ongoing training toward youth mental health first aid, race equity advocacy, student resiliency, and trauma informed care. We must increase our understanding of what

students need to be successful, and implement these resources relentlessly with the support of our partners.

We will also be furthering our work around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). At the end of 2022, CISCC developed our DEI belief statement, with the support of CIS North Carolina, committing to the work driving our mission:

"Communities In Schools of Chatham County believes transformative relationships can change the world — one student at a time. We believe that all children, no matter their starting point, deserve safe and equitable opportunities to learn and grow in order to define their individual success in life. We will succeed by cultivating a community of support — grounded in the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion — to ensure all students have the resources, skills and experiences necessary to reach their full potential.' Additionally, we will build capacity by growing the visibility of our work and raising awareness of opportunities to join our network of support across the County. We plan to hire a communications specialist in early January to address gaps in marketing, communications and resource development.

ALL students have the opportunity to reach their full potential. It will take a community wide approach with investment and commitment in delivering equitable resources through integrated supports to provide every single student what they need and deserve to be successful — a foundation of the Five Basics.

• I. A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult.

• II. A safe place to learn and grow.

• III. A healthy start for a healthy future.

• IV. A marketable skill to use upon graduation.

• V. A chance to give back to peers and community.

In addition to the Five Basics, learning depends on the social, emotional, physical and mental health of students. There are many systems that come together to support young people's learning and development, including: schools, community organizations, health care providers and municipal and state agencies. Integrated student supports promote students' academic success by securing and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement through partnership, collaboration and facilitation of evidence-based programs that support what we call the Whole Child. By utilizing our data, adopting a Whole Child approach, and building on existing systems of care we will set our children up to succeed both inside and outside of the classroom. Let's continue to invest in our youth's social capital through the understanding of the Five Basics, consideration of the Whole Child, and by utilizing existing resources to develop strong and strategic integrated student supports.

to deepen our impact and improve historically disparate outcomes for those we serve. If you are interested in joining our efforts, here are a few ways you can tap

in to our movement of

Courtesy of Communities In Schools

change. 1. Become a volunteer mentor: Interested in sharing your gifts and talents with a Chatham County youth? Call us today to find out more on how you can become a one-on-one mentor.

2. Become a partner agency or resource provider: Does your church, nonprofit agency or friend group want to help support our efforts? Reach out to tcowdin@ cischatham.org to share your thoughts on partnership and collaboration. Together, our potential is limitless!

3. Make a financial contribution: Our work depends on generous community members and grant makers to keep our work flowing. Consider making a financial contribution to expand our capacity to serve. a. Online: Go to cischatham.org and click the 'Donate' button. b. Check: Mail checks to CIS Chatham County, 208 N. Chatham Ave. Siler City, NC 27344 c. Call us — contact Perla Ayala or me at the CIS Chatham office: 919-663-0116 d. Donor Advised Fund Account: Consider a gift to "CISCC" EIN Tax ID#: 58-1849144

For School-Based programs:

• 89% of students with an attendance goal met or made progress toward their goal

• 86% of students with an academic goal met or made progress toward their goal

For Restorative Justice programs:

• 92% of families experienced enhanced family functioning

• 90% of youth participants had no new adjudi-

What do students need to be successful?

While academic achievement is clearly an important variable in the equation of student success, we must gain a clearer understanding of the full picture that impacts the "whole child" when it comes to outcomes in the classroom. It's not just great teaching or attending a grade "A" school. Not everyone starts from the same spot, and understanding the importance and value of seeing situations through a lens of equity will go a long way in ensuring

How can those interested in the work learn more and get involved?

At home, at school, and beyond — kids need you! At Communities In Schools of Chatham County, we are ALL IN! As we look to expand our network through intentional connection to meet the needs of more youth and families across the County in the year ahead, we need your support now more than ever. Our work relies heavily on our ability to effectively connect with volunteers, partners, and resource providers

e. Become a Sustainer: Consider contributing monthly by becoming a CISCC sustainer

4. Join our board of directors or advisory committees: Do you have a passion for leadership? Join our board, or a working committee to share your talents with our team.

5. Start spreading the news: Are you inspired by our mission to surround students with a network of support? Help spread the word across the community by sharing and advocating for our efforts! Follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn) or sign up to join our newsletter.

Are you ALL IN for kids? Reach out today to learn more about how you can make a positive impact on the lives of Chatham County youth and families in 2023 and beyond!

Cowdin can be reached at tcowdin@cischatham.org or by calling 919-663-0116. For more information, go to www.cischatham.org.

CHATHAM'S SMALL AREA PLAN Digging into Plan Moncure — and what it means for Chatham residents

BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

To balance the needs of future industry and population boom with the desires of current residents, Chatham officials are using outside consultants to create Plan Moncure - a Small Area Plan to project and plan for what the southeastern portion of the county will look like in the wake of the huge investment by VinFast and its ripple effects.

The process for devising that Small Area Plan began as soon as VinFast made its announcement in March to invest \$4 billion in an electric vehicle plant – and create 7,500 jobs — in Moncure. Due to the scope and scale of the VinFast project and requirements in Chatham's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), the process for the Small Area Plan was triggered. The first phase of planning meetings by consulting groups began in June.

Last month, the Chatham Board of Commissioners and the public got a first glimpse of the Small Area Plan, of which White & Smith LLC, a Kansas City-based planning and law consulting group, was the lead project consultant.

Phase one of the plan included preliminary findings of the report, adding additional consulting groups to the process and laying out a timeline for final rollout. After hearing phase one, commissioners voted unanimously to renew the contract of White & Smith, which means work on phase two will begin later this month.

The SAP calls for focused planning in areas of economic development in and around

Triangle Innovation Point, the megasite that will house VinFast.

Following the roadmap

The boundaries of the study area addressed in the plan include the Chatham County limits from the south and east sides: the U.S. Hwy. 15-501 corridor defines the western edge; and the town of Pittsboro's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), Jordan Lake, and the Study Area of the Chatham-Cary Joint Land Use Plan, in combination, demarcate the northern boundary.

According to the plan, key goals of SAP stakeholders include:

1. Reflect the feedback and input of residents, businesses, and other members of the historic Moncure community; 2. Generate a concrete vision for how the community should develop over the coming years, in light of Plan Chatham's goals and the significant economic growth now anticipated for the area; 3. Reflect independent expertise and generate data in key areas such as demographics, growth trends, infrastructure and public services, market analysis, and culture and environment; 4. Be completed as efficiently as possible while also achieving these other critical goals.

In addition to these overarching goals for the SAP, the plan must also abide by the objectives of the county's Land Use Plan — Plan Chatham and its future Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), which is also managed by White & Smith. The UDO, also called Recode Chatham, maps a plan for the future by simplifying

and amending existing ordinances dealing with zoning, subdivisions, stormwater and other land use issues. The UDO is expected to be presented to the public toward the end of 2023, after the issues of the initial drafts are addressed. The process began in 2021 and was anticipated to take two years to complete.

Through the looking glass

Plan Moncure hopes to ease fears in the community around that growth and ensure the county is prepared for what is to come.

Many landowners in the area have already looked to the future and see opportunities. According to the SAP, since the March 2022 VinFast announcement, Chatham has rezoned more than 620 acres of land through 11 rezoning requests. Most of the requests move properties from commercial to industrial zoning. Typically, commercial zones include firms like offices, restaurants and plazas while industrial zones include manufacturing centers, warehouses or loading centers.

The final plan is expected to be presented before the board of commissioners in August. Until then, commissioners have exercised their legislative discretion to pause taking legislative action on new rezoning requests for the Moncure area as outlined in the plan. This means rezoning requests previously heard by the board will continue through the county's planning board, but no new rezoning requests in this area will receive final approval by commissioners until the final plan is presented.

If seen all the way through, the SAP will cost the county \$418,500 with more than 2,100 total hours of work between seven project managing firms, according to the budget sheet released by White & Smith. The project is split into five total phases: Initiation (already completed), Analysis, Plan Development, Recommendations, and Documentation & Adoption. Each phase has different cost estimates and hour expectations for each firm involved and the potential for amendments depending on the progress of the report.

The first phase had an estimated cost of \$78,475. Phases two and three have estimated costs of more than \$120,000 each. The final two phases are expected to cost more than \$30,000 each.

While White & Smith is the lead project manager; the other firms involved include Nealon Planning, Green Heron, Economic Leader, Freese & Nichols, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) and CEI Engineering.

Easing growth fears

The first phase of Plan Moncure and timelines for future phases are laid out in a 110-page report from White & Smith. The document lays out the necessity of the SAP: managing growth from VinFast. The new manufacturer is one of several large economic investments in the region driving the predicted population boom of more than 20,000 residents to Chatham over that same span.

The exponential growth has been foreseen since before VinFast put pen to paper in March, and existing Chatham

residents have expressed concern that new development may harm the character of the town. In the 2017 Land Use Plan, the top four responses of residents for their vision about the future of the county include ed preserving rural character; managing growth and focusing on quality growth near towns and centers; creating jobs and economic opportunity through out the county; and preserving the natural environment and agriculture.

White & Smith aims to abide by the voices of Chathamites as they proceed in the development of the SAP. Public engagement strategies for the SAP include stakeholder interviews, small group meetings, online forums and community open houses throughout the vear.

Over the next seven months the planning consultants will continue to provide updates to the Chatham Board of Commissioners and the public. The next presentation is expected to occur at the February BOC meeting where key findings are expected to be shared. Another update of the preferred land use map will occur around April and the zoning strategy will be shared in June. The process will conclude with the creation and adoption of Plan Moncure, the completion of which is anticipated in the third quarter of 2023.

For more information and to view a full draft of phase one of Plan Moncure visit www. recodechathamnc.org.

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

PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Sanford provides update on water plant expansion project

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town's board of commissioners heard a presentation from Sanford officials regarding the joint water treatment facility project Monday.

The presentation served as an update for the board; Pittsboro is a part of the interlocal agreement for the expansion project. "Pre-2018, the city of Sanford knew that they needed to consider a water plant expansion," Sanford Public Works Director Victor Czar told Pittsboro commissioners. "Growth is coming for us, growth is coming for you — it's recognized

it's not going to stop." The regional water plant expansion is a part of an interlocal agreement, created by Sanford in 2021, involving multiple local government agencies, including Chatham County. Fuquay-Varina, Holly

Springs and Pittsboro.

Updated cost estimates were also presented to commissioners, which showed the entire project would cost \$237.3 million. Czar said Pittsboro would be expected to pay around \$37 million for its share of the project.

tial human carcinogens, ect is on schedule so far, such as PFAS, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane, following discharges of such slugs from an unknown source in Greensboro. Czar said the project has four parts: expanding the conventional treatment facility, adding a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) facility, improving the raw water infrastructure and increasing the treatment of residual

tested positive for poten- contaminants. The projne said, with 90% of the design of the expansion completed. The design is expected to be completed by February, and Czar said Sanford would hope to have bids for the construction project by April. "We are about to enter the part of the schedule that we have no control of," he said. "We have to submit to the state for their approval ... we hope that we'll get it back in time to bid it in April, maybe we will,

maybe we won't, but we've met our part of the schedule.

Updated cost estimates were also presented to commissioners, which showed the entire project would cost \$237.3 million, Czar said Pittsboro would be expected to pay around \$37 million for its

thing we need to meet," he said. "We need water, so we're going to move as quickly as we can."

In other business: Commissioners approved a special events funding request for \$700 from the Downtown Advisory Committee for an event in February. The event, called Sip n' Stroll, is set to take place on Feb. 4 and is intended to bring people to downtown Pittsboro's shopping district. Commissioners also heard a presentation from Karyl Fuller of the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) regarding project funding proposals for various road projects for Chatham Park. More information is expected to be shared with the board throughout the year.

The expansion would allow the entities in the interlocal agreement to utilize millions of gallons of treated water for their own residents. which former Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy previously said would address "the lesser known evil" of water capacity issues.

Pittsboro draws its water from the Haw River, which has repeatedly

snare of the project.

"We have an engineer's estimate at 60% design [completion],' Czar told commissioners. "We should be getting an updated estimate on that at 90% [design completion] within the next month."

If everything goes according to schedule, Czar said construction could start in June with completion projected for September 2026.

"This schedule may be optimistic, but it's some-



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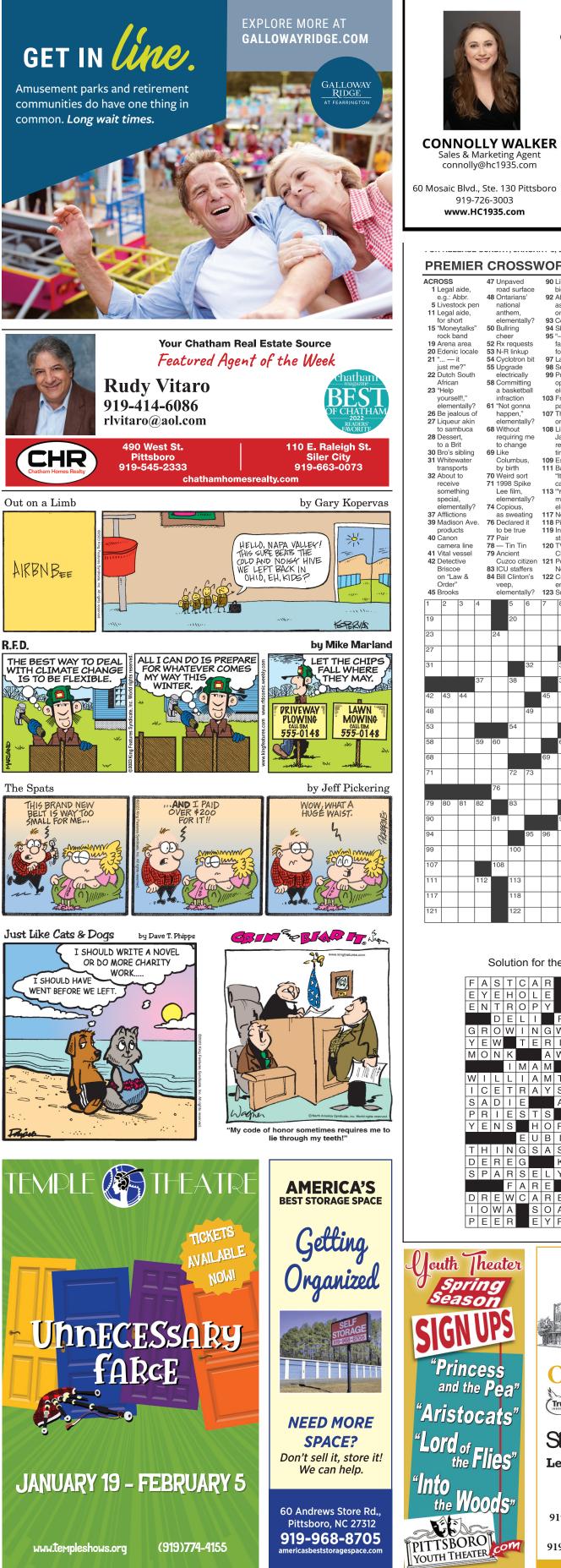
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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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AYXELDDIWTIKWVT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: FARTHEST FROM THE THUMB

Crossed	Knuckle	Point	Thumb
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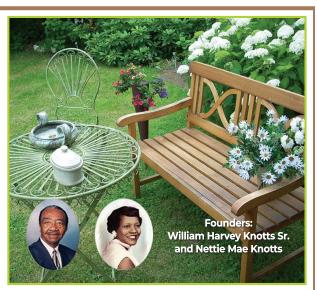
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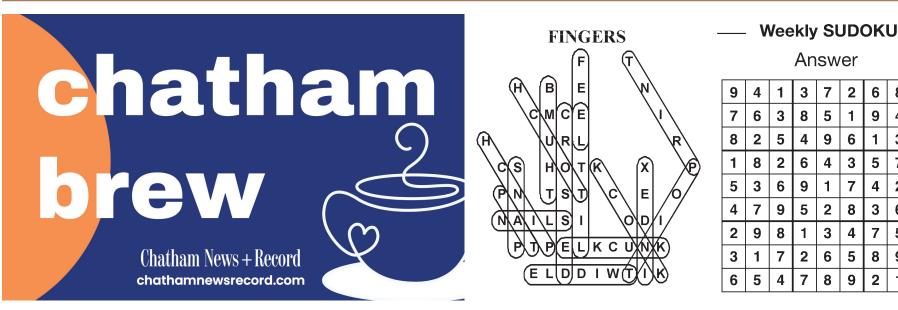
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Another Debbie, and her incredible cake



DEBBIE MATTHEWS The Curious Cook

"Deborah," 'Debra" or "Debbie." By the numbers, it was sec-

ond only to Lisa. With all those Debbies coming into the world, you can imagine that role call in school was liberally peppered with the "D" word. In some of my classes, there were four or five of us. Kind of like Emma's and Lily's in elementary schools these days.

But. There are two different kinds of these girls once all grown up.

The year I was born (Oh, so long ago; in junior high,

I babysat

Mary and

Joseph had

date night)

42,872 girls

were born

and named

Jesus when

Butter Pecan Cake

- 1/4 cup powdered sugar 1 box Betty Crocker Butter Pecan cake mix ³/₄ cup oil
- 1 can Betty Crocker pecan coconut frosting
- 1/4 cup pecans
- 4 eggs 1 cup water
- Grease pan and sprinkle with powdered sugar, then put pecans on top.
- Combine cake mix, eggs, oil, and water. Mix for two minutes or until smooth.
- Add icing to the batter and mix well. Pour into pan on top of pecans.
- Bake at 350° for 55 minutes or until brown. Use tube or sheet pan.

Combine cake mix, eggs, oil + weter. Mix for 2 minutes or until smooth. Add icing to batter + nix well. Pour into pan on top of pecans.



The 'other' Debbie's moist butter pecan pound cake.

Recipe Name Butter Peran Pound Cake

The Deborans. And the Debbies.

The name "Deborah" comes from the Old Testament. Deborah was a judge who shamed soldiers into fighting by threatening to go in their place.

That's Deborah: stern, dignified and Biblical.

Debbie also comes from the Hebrew and means "little bee." With all the sunshine, flowers, and flightiness that implies. Deborah is the queen, Debbie is the court jester.

It may come as no surprise that I have always been a Debbie, unless of course I was in trouble as a child, then I was "Deborah Ann".

In the rare and terrifying times when I became "Deborah Ann Ross," I contemplated fleeing the country, having plastic surgery, and burning off my fingerprints.

But I digress. In school, Debbies were

Balle @ 350° for 55 minutes or until brown. Tube pan or sheet cake ! Deliciou

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A portion of the recipe card for the cake.

chockablock. You couldn't swing a ladle without hitting two or three.

But now, for some reason, not as much.

Back in the summer, I met a Debbie. She came into the dealership.

She was a true Debbie. She was funny, sweet, and effervescent. We got along like two puppies. We enjoyed each other's personalities.

She came to buy a car, and we had fun looking for one for her. I thought it would be a quick transaction, but her husband

got COVID-19, which pushed back the project. Then Debbie caught it. And finally, I did.

Then, about five months from our initial meeting, the stars lined up and she and her husband Reid came in and Debbie finally got her car.

That day, she made friends with just about every single person she encountered. A week later, she showed up with a cake.

But not just a Sara Lee, or a grocery store bakery offering. This was a handmade confection, her butter pecan cake. Her

- Succitority	

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Then put pecans on top.	-
OV4R-7	Sec.
	A COLOR OF A COLOR

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A portion of the recipe card for the cake.

trademark cake.

Everyone who tried it loved it. It was the moistest cake I or anyone else that tried it had ever placed upon our tongues. There is a clear difference between under-baked and moist. And hers was the platonic ideal of moist.

One of my young co-workers said it was the best thing she'd

ever eaten and begged me to ask Debbie to make one for her, saying, "I'll pay anything!"

I asked Debbie for the recipe, and like any true Debbie, she was delighted to share.

Turns out it couldn't be easier — give it a whirl.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullcity. mom.



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



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