

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | JANUARY 19 - 25, 2023 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

WHEN YOUR INTERNET'S OUT

Weeks-long outage shows need for better broadband

'Internet is now as essential to life as clean water'

BY EVEY WEISBLAT
News + Record
Correspondent

A neighborhood in the southwest part of the county spent most of October and December without internet or landline phone service, owing to back-to-back, weeks-long broadband outages.

Those outages left at least five households along Charlie Cooper Road offline for a combined 51 days within that span of time.

The neighborhood where the outages took place is located in a rural part of the county, between Siler City and Liber-

ty, and runs along the Rocky River to the west and U.S. 421 to the east. Neighbors affected were customers of Brightspeed — formerly known as CenturyLink — which serves just under half of Chatham County's population, according to the FCC's national broadband map.

The first outage was a result of strong winds from Hurricane Ian, which knocked out broadband and electricity. The second one, just a month later, came out of the blue when a tractor trailer snagged allegedly low-hanging power lines.

Since cell service is also limited in the neighborhood, residents could not rely on 5G to access the internet during the extensive outages.

"You just feel cut off from the world," Tammy Kidd, a resident affected by the outages,

INSIDE: We've got broadband issues, but there's good news. See Chatham Scene, page A7.

said. "Communication is everything nowadays, and it hit at a time where people wanted to be on the internet, that might have to order gifts for Christmas, because a lot of people like myself don't like to be out with all the COVID and flu and everything."

The neighbors told the News + Record they couldn't understand why the Wi-Fi connection hadn't been fixed sooner, but they did their best to cope without it.

"As one friend put it, internet is now as essential to life as clean water," Joanna Hedrick, another resident, said. "Of course, that's an exaggeration, but we sure do depend on it

in a way that I never would've imagined when I was younger."

Residents say the other service providers in their area are too expensive to be feasible. Some are planning to switch in the future, but others say they're stuck with Brightspeed.

"I think we just need more options," Hedrick said.

Digital divide

The outages come at a time when rural communities across the county, state and country have reckoned with a lack of internet access in an increasingly digital age that was made even more so by the pandemic. They also provide a window into the landscape of broadband infrastructure in Chatham County, where Brightspeed customers elsewhere in the county have also reported record-long internet outages in recent months.

This problem of spotty internet is not unique to Brightspeed or to Chatham County, but a long outage such as this one "seems completely unacceptable, and very rare," according to Burney Waring, president of Innovate Chatham, a non-profit group that seeks to help technology flourish in the county.

"This is a very bad, acute problem," he said about the outage.

Across the county, 16% of people said they did not have quality internet service, according to a recent county assessment.

Rep. Robert Reives II, who represents District 54 in the N.C. House of Representatives, sponsored a recent grant program to expand broadband

See **INTERNET**, page A6

COVID cases on the rise in Chatham

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — COVID-19 cases are on the rise again in Chatham County, according to a statement released by the Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD) last week.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classified Chatham as a community with high levels of COVID-19 transmission on Jan. 3, and data for the first week of the year showed Chatham reporting the highest amount of COVID-19 cases — 166, to be exact — since July 30, when 196 cases were reported.

Eric Wolak, the chief operating officer and chief nursing officer of UNC Health's Chatham Hospital, said the hospital is still experiencing strain from COVID-related issues, from admitted patients with COVID to staff absences because they have tested positive for COVID.

"Since the fall, UNC Health Chatham has had about three COVID-positive inpatients each day," he said. "That number, while

See **COVID**, page A9

489-ACRE SITE WEST OF PITTSBORO

Holmes says new development will 'complement and enhance' area

\$19.6 million land purchase could host variety of housing options

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — An investor who's acquired nearly 500 acres of land just west of downtown Pittsboro says the mixed-use development he and his partners envision "will be an extension of the fabric of downtown Pittsboro and Chatham County."

Edward Holmes Jr. said he and his partners in the project — developers O.A. "Buddy" Keller III and his son, Carter, both of whom live in Sanford, and manage Carolina Commercial Contractors — are "very keen to creating something with elements that complement and enhance" what already exists in the area.

The trio closed on 488.91 acres

owned by the Reeves family of Pittsboro, paying \$40,000 per acre — just short of \$19.6 million — in mid-December. Holmes cited Pittsboro's historic downtown area and amenities such as Central Carolina Community College's campus and the county's nearby Agriculture & Conference Center as among the features that make Chatham a desirable place to live.

The as-yet-unnamed development, Holmes says, "will include things that Pittsboro and Chatham County seem to need and want, and that will serve immediate needs as well as future ones."

The land is occupied now by a farm and sits between U.S. Hwy. 64 Business and Alston Chapel Road, a site Holmes

knows well — he visited often there as a child — and has described it as "the premier property" west of downtown.

It's also exactly halfway between the proposed VinFast electric

vehicle manufacturing plant See **DEVELOPMENT**, page A3



Neighbors: 'devil church' rumors put us at risk

BY BEN RAPPAPORT & BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Neighbors of a Chatham County teacher who faces five charges of assault with a deadly weapon say the alleged victims in the case — five teens whom they claim trespassed on their property on River Bend Road, southeast of Siler City — are part of long line of malicious youngsters who vandalize the neighborhood on false pretenses that a neighbor is a Satan worshipper.

There's no "devil church" located there, they say — just "marauding carloads of teenagers" who encroach upon their peaceful, private road "to raise hell."

Those who live along the private road also said the victims of the case mistakenly identified sculptures in a yard in the neighborhood as "goat heads on a spike" and claim rumors about the neighborhood have persisted, unfounded, for decades.

Neighbors also told the News + Record the false descriptions in a story published in last week's edition only further endanger them — they say the rumors will draw even more of the curious teens and entice them to trespass — and that local law enforcement has done little to stop trouble caused by trespassers over the last three decades.

Meanwhile, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office says since January

See **TEACHER**, page A9

COUNCIL ON AGING, CN+R PROJECT

Nominations for '6 Over 60' ongoing

From Chatham County Council on Aging, Chatham News + Record

and are nominated by members of the public.

There is still time to nominate a deserving Chatham County citizen for the inaugural "6 Over 60" awards, culminating with a luncheon Friday, Feb. 24, at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

The project, a partnership of the Chatham County Council on Aging and Chatham News + Record, recognizes individuals 60 years of age and over who have made, or continue to make, meritorious contributions to Chatham County

The awards luncheon will be the culmination of "We Love Seniors" month in Chatham County, a month-long February celebration of older adults that is unique to Chatham. As the name suggests, six award winners will be honored.

Nominees must be 60 years of age or older — the initial age of entry into Council on Aging services — as of Jan. 1, 2023. Award winners must live in Chatham County,

See **PROJECT**, page A3



IN THE KNOW

Bland playing, thriving through pain for Northwood. **PAGE B4**

STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST CHATHAM COUNTY NEWS

facebook.com/ChathamNR

twitter.com/ChathamNR
twitter.com/ChathamNRSports

instagram.com/chathamnewsrecord



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 for its mid-year board retreat at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Chatham Mills in Pittsboro.
 • The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center for its regular meeting. A livestream will be available on the town's YouTube channel.
 • The **Town of Siler City Downtown Advisory Committee** will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 North Second Avenue.

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).
 • Join the **Siler City Lion's Club**. Come see how you can make a difference in the world and your local community. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Dry Dock Seafood. For more information, visit SilerCityLions@gmail.com or call 910-624-5784. Together we serve.
 • **Second Bloom Thrift Store** of Chatham County in collaboration with Love Chatham is collecting adult and baby, disposable diapers. Donations can be dropped off at Second Bloom between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Tuesday until Saturday for the month of January. We encourage you to stop by, donate and shop. We are located at 630 E. Street, Pittsboro, in the Food Lion shopping center. Credit cards are accepted. All proceeds from the store, provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration

with Chatham County.
 • The **Chapel Ridge Classic Car Club (CRCC)** 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 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 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 thru 18. Readers participate by picking up a reading BINGO sheet at their local library branch and completing a 5-in-a-row BINGO to earn a free book (one book per participant, while supplies last). All readers who complete at least one BINGO will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Card to McIntyre's Books. For more information about the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge, or other youth events and programs at the Public Libraries, contact youth.services@chathamlibraries.org or visit www.chathamlibraries.org.
 • The **Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District** 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. 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** perma-

nent 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>.
 • The **Chatham Arts Council** has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.
 • **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.
 • **Alcoholics Anonymous** — North Carolina

District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.
 • **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.
 • **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.
 • **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in

the lower level of Chatham Mill.
SCOUT NEWS
 • **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 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.bstroom93.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.

Now Open
DAK Income Tax Service
 (formerly Daphne King Income Tax Service)
 221 E. Raleigh St, Siler City • 919-742-5778 or 919-898-4526
 Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Saturday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
 Brenda Nall • Andrew Nall

How did you LAND here?

Eric Andrews
 Accredited Land Consultant

- 861 CAREER SALES
- OVER \$300 MILLION IN SALES
- 4.9 STAR REVIEW (GOOGLE & ZILLOW)
- APEX AWARD WINNER
- TRIANGLE TOP PRODUCER

CURRENTLY FOR SALE

Residential	37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) 0.996 acres \$377,000
4301 Amberwood Rd (Haw River) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$600,000	Tract 2 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000
82 Williams Pond Rd (Pittsboro) 5 Bdrm, 4 Bath \$698,000	Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000
1698 NC 42 Hwy (Moncure) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$1,000,000	1406 Jessie Bridges Rd (Siler City) 25.500 acres \$450,000
Land	147 Oldham Estate Dr (Chapel Hill) 12.591 acres \$499,000
1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000	5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3.584 acres \$625,000
170 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$150,000	0 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 64.720 acres \$750,000
188 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$150,000	7587 Siler City Snow Cam p Rd (Siler City) 50.000 acres \$1,200,000
1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000	13120 Strickland Rd (Raleigh) 16.250 acres \$1,500,000
Lot 1 T C Justice Rd (Pittsboro) 5.272 acres \$200,000	499 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 15.158 acres \$1,750,000
Lot 2 T C Justice Rd (Pittsboro) 5.279 acres \$200,000	00 Alston Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 176.000 acres \$2,288,000
800 South Wind Rd (Siler City) 10.511 acres \$225,000	00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33.662 acres \$3,366,200
889 Old Stone House Rd (Chapel Hill) 6.461 acres \$225,000	Commercial Improved
373 J C Corner Rd (Pittsboro) 7.382 acres \$295,000	56 Sanford Rd (Pittsboro) Retail/Rental \$7,000
5663 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 1.771 acres \$325,000	Commercial Unimproved
00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36.000 acres \$350,000	58 Buffalo Lake Rd (Sanford) 6.70 acres \$650,000
0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000	

CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

Residential	0 Callicutt Rd (Bear Creek) 60.375 acres \$500,000
1474 Alston Bridge Rd (Siler City) 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$150,000	0 Hamlets Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 42.804 acres \$1,200,000
261 Ridge View Rd (Pittsboro) 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$525,000	12190 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 15.158 acres \$1,894,750
Land	0 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 6.70 acres \$9,051,600
0 Hudson Rd (Siler City) 5 acres \$40,000	Commercial Unimproved
Lot 2 Buckhorn Rd (Sanford) 6.636 acres \$80,000	10681 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 3.97 acres \$1,500,000
0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000	

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

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

REALESTATE WORLD
 CAROLINA PROPERTIES
 919-542-0523

Is Pittsboro Land Worthless in 2023 w/ No Sewer Capacity?

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**

CHURCH NEWS

GUM SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Danny Braswell will speak and sing at Gum Springs Baptist Church at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 22. Join us for a time of worship. The church is located at 227 Gum Springs Church Rd., Moncure.

HICKORY MOUNTAIN CHAPEL

Hickory Mountain Chapel, formerly Hickory Mt. UMC, is at the same address, 201 Hadley Mill

Road., Pittsboro, with the same people but 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.

We'll keep you **connected** in Chatham. Content **online** daily and in **print** weekly.
chathamnewsrecord.com

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com
Chatham Media Group LLC
 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, North Carolina 27344
 COPYRIGHT 2023 CHATHAM MEDIA GROUP LLC

CONTACT US

For a vacation hold or to report a delivery problem:
 919-663-3232

To place a classified or display ad:
 919-663-3232; Fax: 919-663-4042

To submit a news tip or correction:
 919-663-3232; email: news@chathamnr.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscription rates begin at \$6.58/month (1 year print + digital, paid annually) or \$4.92/month (digital only, paid annually). Pick your plan at www.chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe.
Auto-renew; cancel anytime

NEWSROOM

Taylor Heeden, *Reporter/Web Editor*
theeden@chathamnr.com
 Ben Rappaport, *Reporter/ Social Media Editor*
brappaport@chathamnr.com
 Jeremy Vernon, *Sports Editor*
jeremy@chathamnr.com

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

ADVERTISING

JASON JUSTICE
jjustice@chathamnr.com
Advertising Specialist
advertising@chathamnr.com

OFFICE

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

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

The Chatham News + Record (USPS #101-160) is published weekly, 52 weeks a year, by Chatham Media Group LLC, 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

N.C. POSTMASTER:
 Send address changes to The Chatham News + Record, PO Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344

DEVELOPMENT

Continued from page A1

being developed at Moncure's Triangle Innovation Point and Wolfspeed's semiconductor manufacturing facility planned for Siler City's Chatham Advanced Manufacturing site.

Holmes said potential housing options for the site include single-family homes, multi-family units and more, based on demand that will be driven in part by new development within Chatham County.

The land is also just a few miles from Chatham Park, the 7,068-acre planned community projected to add 22,000 homes and as many as 70,000 new residents to the county in the next few decades.

There's no timeline yet for the development on the former Reeves property, Holmes said, in part because of the unknowns related to Pittsboro's water and wastewater capacity. A proposed systems merger in the works with the city of Sanford would address that, but it's still a few years from being a reality.

Holmes, who formerly managed Holmes Oil Inc. before it was sold in 2021, spoke to the News + Record about the project.

Talk about the process of making this 488.91-acre purchase. You had a relationship with the Reeves family, but how did the vision and the opportunity for this coalesce?

Our families have been friends since before I was born. I spent many hours going to family cookouts and dinners at their house, enjoyed visits to visit their dairy in operation as a child, and got to occasionally fish in their pond.

I had a call to meet with the three Reeves sisters for lunch back in June of 2021. I'd been involved in numerous real estate transactions over the years and they wanted to know how I came about value and how to sell property like this.

I had no idea that lunch meeting would leave to purchasing their property.

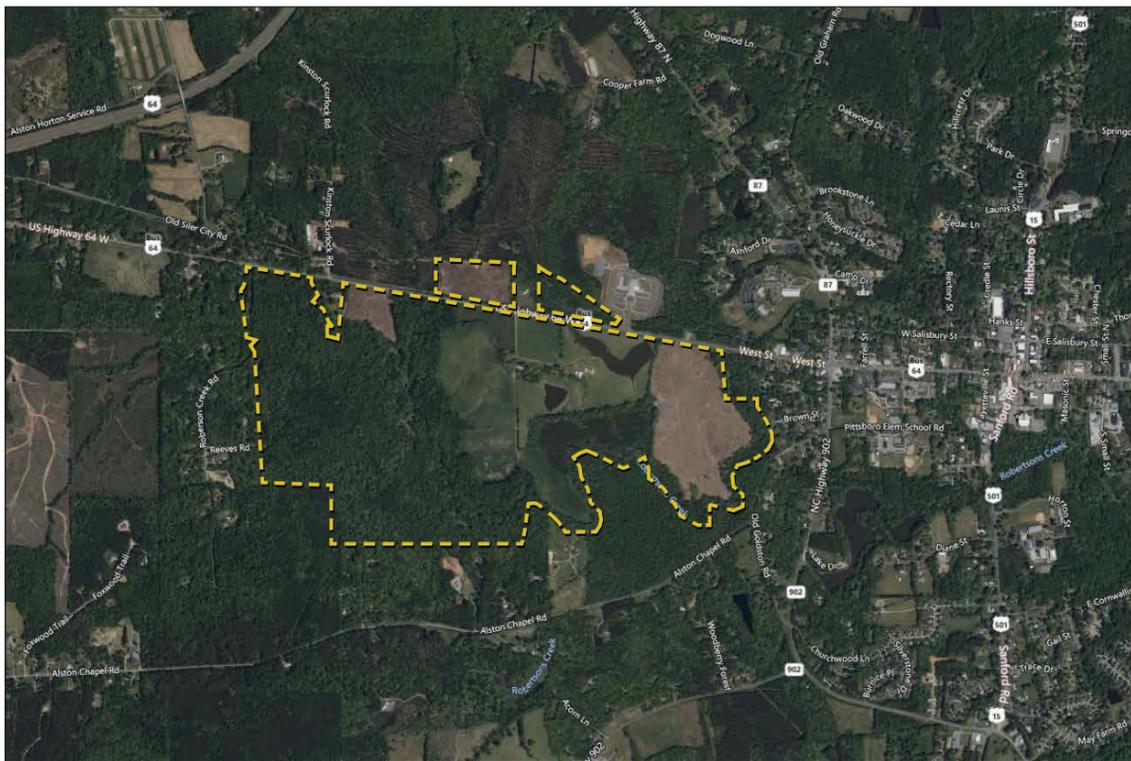
A few weeks later, a friend of mine, Jody Leidolf, who is a land planner, looked at the property with me to give me his input to take back to the Reeves sisters.

Jody could see potential for the property and encouraged me to pursue purchase. He quickly drafted a concept plan, which I showed to Carter and Buddy, that we all liked a lot. I decided to share that with the Reeves to give them an idea of what we envisioned for their property.

I went back to the Reeves sisters later that fall with an offer to purchase, but they understandably wanted to make absolutely sure they got a fair price for their family land. They engaged with CRBE in Raleigh and after a lengthy process of reviewing other offers, they decided to sell to me.

The purchase price was about \$40,000 per acre. I'm curious about how you assessed the value of the property, particularly given how desirable Chatham has become in the last couple of years — and how home and property values have been increasing?

We looked at closed land sales in the area and in similar halo communities around Raleigh, but mostly used our knowledge of the local market as well as financial projections for potential uses to determine what we felt was fair market value. The property is in town limits, offering the tools to meet the needs of the



Courtesy of Edward Holmes Jr.

A site plan view of the former Reeves family property, which consists of 488.91 acres just west of downtown Pittsboro.

local market.

You've described this as the "premier property" on the west side of Pittsboro. Why? What makes it so?

The land itself is beautiful — rolling hills and water features. There are creeks and ponds. The location is ideal as far as proximity to downtown Pittsboro, the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center and CCCC, and there is great access to highways for commuting or exploring. We can complement plans already in place for some of these amenities and create connectivity to them, offering added access and support for their programming. Unlike larger developments, the size of this property offers the opportunity to thoughtfully respond to the existing environment.

You've mentioned that you and Carter have worked together before, and of course Carter and his father, Buddy, are a part of a family that has done development work for many, many decades in and around Chatham County. What brought you three together, and what strengths do you each bring to the table for this project?

We have all known each other for a long time. Buddy ran a business here in Pittsboro and knew my father well. Carter and I connected in 2017 through a mutual friend after I mentioned I had a project in mind and this friend suggested Carolina Commercial Contractors as a developer and builder.

From my perspective, I have extensive background in Chatham County and Pittsboro and a vested interest to see new but thoughtful development happen. Buddy and Carter bring the vertical component and vast experience in seeing projects through from beginning to end. We all respect one another and enjoy the collaboration that happens when you combine the perspectives and experience of people of different ages and backgrounds to create something unique.

We engaged Jody Leidolf as land planner and he has the experience and desire to help all our ideas coalesce and form something truly special.

What kind of timeline do you foresee?

We are currently still in the planning stages. We are exploring all options for development in order to assess what would be the best use for that property while balancing community needs.

And how will you navigate the water and sewer issues that are — at least have been — hampering Pittsboro?

We are very excited about recent decisions and conversations that are happening and know that these issues will get resolved at some point. We understand that this land might sit as it is for a time before we do anything at all. The town has been very helpful and supportive and we are optimistic that these issues will be resolved soon.

Of course there's lots of development happening here ... you've said previously you'd like for this project to "extend the fabric and character of Pittsboro." How will that be accomplished?

We see that as retaining green spaces and ensuring walkability throughout our spaces as well as connectivity to other things around us. We want to contribute to the existing sense of community in Pittsboro by making sure our development works well with the ingredients that are already here, including its businesses, amenities, activities, and its people. As the County and the region continue to succeed in economic development initiatives we see our role in supporting and enhancing the built environment to support the economic windfalls.

Working with the town of Pittsboro we believe there is an opportunity to meet their needs, such as inclusive housing and/or "missing middle" housing options, flexibility to adapt and create authentic and unique responses to existing development programs, provide wonderfully thoughtful public spaces, and be responsive to the environment — specifically the Roberson Creek corridor.

What else would you like people in Chatham County to know?

I hope they see us as good stewards of a beautiful piece of property and know that we are working hard to thoughtfully consider the future needs and desires of our town and greater community. In 20 years, I hope people ride through whatever we do and think it was well-planned and well-executed and was and still is a positive addition to Pittsboro.

Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@chathamnr.com.



Martin Allen (Marty) Loflin

October 3, 1975 - January 19, 2010

Missing you everyday for 13 years.

Love you forever!
Daddy, Mama and Matt Ennis and Becky Loflin

PROJECT

Continued from page A1

or must have spent the majority of their life and career in Chatham. Nominations, which may be submitted online, via email or regular mail, will be evaluated by a five-member selection committee.

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

"We see it every day in our work at the Council on Aging — age is in no way a determining factor

in the ability to give one's talents to the Chatham County community," Council on Aging Director Ashlyn Martin said. "The submissions we have received to date are reflective of the remarkable spirit our older adults bring in bettering our community on a daily basis."

Nominations may be

submitted through Friday, Jan. 20. In addition to an online nomination portal located on the News + Record website, nominees and supporting documentation may be sent via email to jimmy.lewis@chathamcountync.gov or by mail to the Chatham County Council on Aging at 365 Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro, NC 27312 "Attn: 6 Over 60."

Award winners will be notified on or before Thursday, Feb. 2, with the winners announced in the Thursday, Feb. 16, edition of the News + Record with photos and biographical sketches.

"Aging is, in fact, a privilege that is not enjoyed by all," Lewis said. "We at the Council stand in awe of those who continually choose to make Chatham County a great place to live, work and play through their talents and gifts. It is our intention for '6 Over 60' not to exclude, but to include as the years progress, and we are able to recognize more and more worthy recipients."

For more information regarding the "6 Over 60" program, contact Lewis, the Council on Aging's grants and communications specialist, at 919-542-4512 or email jimmy.lewis@chathamcountync.gov.



Your "LOCAL" team of Real Estate Experts! Selling or Buying? Contact a member of our team today!



Scott Harris
919-498-4077



Renee Kennedy
919-548-1329



Chris Walker
919-768-2811



Billy Williams
919-548-1404



Serving Pittsboro, Siler City, and surrounding areas
1325 N. Second Ave. Siler City, NC | JerryHarrisRealty.com



VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | REP. ROBERT REIVES

There are rules of the road, rules in every classroom, and in every workplace. Rules definitely matter.

Rules matter a great deal in my workplace, the North Carolina House of Representatives. After the election of a Speaker, the rules are the first thing we vote on. Last week the N.C. House approved rules that will make our work less transparent and open to the public — and even to many legislators.

What do the new rules do? They allow one person, our Republican Speaker of the House, to schedule a vote to override the Governor at any time with no notice to the public or other legislators. There is no requirement the vote appear on a public calendar. There is no requirement the vote occur during our regular order of

business. On any legislative day, at any point from the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance to the end of the day closing gavel, the veto vote may be called up without notice in a matter of a few seconds. Note, I wrote “seconds” of notice — not minutes or hours or days.

The rules were approved on a party-line vote and they are “temporary” with the plan to come back in a few weeks to pass “permanent” rules. My hope is that my Republican colleagues will reconsider and pass rules fairer to the public and to all members of the House.

The secrecy in our new rules will particularly matter

on bills vetoed by the Governor. Vetoed bills tend to be some of the most high-profile and contentious issues we deal with: abortion, voting rights, civil rights, and the State Budget. The very issues where transparency and openness are most important so citizens can follow what is going on and voice their opinions in a timely way. It is also important that the representatives of all 120 districts have the same opportunity to vote on these matters.

Obviously, we have our disagreements in the State House. One hundred and twenty politicians are never all going to be on the same page. Our

differences can be regional, ideological, and, yes, partisan. Yet we should all have the same information on when we are voting bills and doing our legislative business. That’s just basic fairness.

You do not have to look far to see a better way of doing business — the Republican-led State Senate is right on the other side of the Legislative Building. Their rule is imperfect, but much more sensible. The public and all legislators receive 24-hour notice prior to action taken on a vetoed bill.

I have served in the N.C. House of Representatives since 2014. Our body is capable of

doing great things for North Carolinians. I can promise you, though, that nothing good will come out of a process built around secrecy and deception. It will lead to more partisan rancor and fighting among legislators. It will lead to more suspicion and mistrust from the people of North Carolina. Those are the last things we need as we confront problems like how to improve our public schools, how to address health care costs, and how to make our communities more safe and prosperous.

Robert Reives II of Goldston is the House Democratic Leader in the N.C. General Assembly.

Shopping cart moments are the best!



JAN HUTTON
This Being Human Thing

I shopped at my food co-op this morning and rolled the filled cart out to my car parked on a side street.

I’m a responsible kind of gal so, after unloading the groceries, I began to push the cart back up an incline toward the racks in the store. (Puff, puff.) About halfway up, an incoming customer offered to take the cart from me and return it. (Yeah!) I thanked him (profusely). Suddenly, I heard him say, as he turned around and faced me “Two dollars.”

Whoa, definitely caught me off guard, knew he was joking (I thought) but for a moment was completely bereft of a good comeback (Eeek, I pride myself on comebacks.)

Ah, inspiration. I put my right hand over my heart, bowed slightly, and said “Heartfelt.” Figuratively patting myself on the head for a wonderful comeback, I heard the man reply, “Heartfelt? You can’t buy anything with that.” A few seconds of mutual silence and then we both cracked up laughing. Even if I never see this man again, we built a memorable bridge to each other — a bridge of feeling alive that did not exist previously. Just a wee bit of humor and a shopping cart.

Aha, I have a thing for catchall phrases, and this new one seems apropos — shopping cart moments. I love it! Those times (with or without a literal shopping cart) in which two human beings come together, transforming a moment into unexpected magic, joy, connection, a life essence that wasn’t present before. We could be as different as night and day, but in shopping cart moments, an alchemical reaction occurs and something brand new is created, if only for a matter of minutes. And those minutes, even if brief, continue to resonate, growing and filling us.

Like the following shopping cart moment. Sitting and awaiting a to-go order at my favorite Mexican restaurant. Another to-go customer joined me at the long bar-like table. OK, I admit it, I was initially in judgment overdrive (I’m human!!) about her artfully decked-out appearance (jealous?) and possibly Botoxed lips. (Mea culpa.) But once we began talking about her passion for fostering dogs, all my judgments melted away. Gone. I was in thrall. As Aretha Franklin sang, R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

As another lover of dogs who does not have the fortitude to do rescue work, I walked away from the restaurant feeling grateful for this woman’s presence in the animal world. Poof, my initial judgments went to the dogs!

So, you may ask, why am I so enamored of the catchall phrase “shopping cart moments,” aside from the fact that I made it up? The term reminds me of how the ordinaryness of everyday life — shopping carts, for heaven’s sake — have such capacity to lift us up and contribute to our overall aliveness. Shopping carts are everywhere! So is aliveness and wonder. Ready for my next shopping adventure...

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

We could be as different as night and day, but in shopping cart moments, an alchemical reaction occurs and something brand new is created, if only for a matter of minutes. And those minutes, even if brief, continue to resonate, growing and filling us.



Unsung heroes of the Civil Rights Movement



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

We celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. this week. In addition to his courageous acts and inspiring words, I have learned from less famous people who worked with King. One of them lived right here in the Triangle.

Douglas E. Moore was a Methodist pastor in Durham who eventually became a prominent civil rights activist, serving with King as a board member on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

But Moore first attracted attention on his own. Negative attention.

On June 23, 1957, the 28-year-old Moore organized and led the Royal Ice Cream sit-in. He and six other Black patrons refused to leave the whites-only section of the Durham restaurant. After their arrest, they were heavily criticized not only by white public officials but also the religious leaders of the Black community. Such nonviolent civil disobedience was considered too radical.

Moore argued that sit-ins would spark “local movement centers” that would galvanize efforts of resistance, especially among Black youth. History proved Moore correct as subsequent sit-ins in Greensboro sparked a nationwide campaign.

But before those protests helped create the landmark civil rights legislation of the 1960s, Moore wrote a letter to King describing his own efforts to desegregate America.

Moore boarded a public bus in Asheboro and sat down in the front. He refused to move. The white driver summoned the police, but the officer declined to arrest Moore. The driver had no choice but to proceed with the route. Moore passed the time by singing hymns. In his letter to King, he characterized his efforts as “relying completely upon the force of love and Christian witness.”

Is that how the white driver would have heard Moore?

Moore argued that sit-ins would spark “local movement centers” that would galvanize efforts of resistance, especially among Black youth. History proved Moore correct as subsequent sit-ins in Greensboro sparked a nationwide campaign.

Almost 60 years later, I try to imagine myself as that white bus driver. Just trying to do my job. Not wanting any trouble. A family at home and bills to pay. And here comes this young man on my bus, willfully breaking the law then rubbing it in by singing in my ear!

As we celebrate MLK Day and look back on the civil rights era, we want to believe we would side with the heroes. But if I am honest, I keep my head down and mind my own business more often than I stand up and speak up for others. I justify my own inaction and silence in a variety of ways. Perhaps it’s good, even holy, to notice what inconveniences me or even flat out annoys me.

Just who is singing in my ear?

In his letter to King, Moore continued the story. A few weeks later, he got on another bus in Lexington and saw the very same driver! Only this time, the driver confided that he was undergoing financial hardships. He asked Moore to pray for him.

There are many unsung heroes of the past, including Douglas E. Moore. And there are countless names lost to history whose stories can still inspire. I offer to you this bus driver’s holy humility and change of heart in hopes to inspire songs of justice in our time.

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

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

BILL HORNER III,
Publisher & Editor

TAYLOR HEEDEN,
Reporter/Web Editor

BEN RAPPAPORT, Reporter

JEREMY VERNON, Sports Editor

What’s on your mind?

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

EDITOR'S NOTE:

A number of readers and neighbors of a Chatham County teacher who faces five charges of assault with a deadly weapon have responded to the story "Teacher charged with assault," which was published in the Jan. 12-18 edition of the News + Record. Letters to the editor regarding the story are included here.

Reporting on the story was based on interviews with witnesses to the incident, with local law enforcement and Chatham County Schools officials, as well as information from a formal report filed by the Chatham Sheriff's Office.

Efforts were made to reach the teacher, Eric Hudson, through his attorney. That attorney, Amos Tyndall, spoke to the News + Record but would not comment for the record. Hudson did not respond to requests for comment. Factual errors in the original story have been corrected online to indicate the road on which the incident took place — River Bend Road — was private, and not public, as witnesses told the News + Record; that the rumors of a "devil church" have persisted for decades; and the "goat heads on spikes," as reported by witnesses, are actually sculptures done by a neighbor who's an artist. The News + Record regrets those errors.

A follow-up story can be found on page A1 of this week's edition.

Story was 'biased and one-sided'

TO THE EDITOR:

I was appalled and disgusted last week after reading Ben Rappaport's article "Teacher charged with assault after teens explore devil church." This remarkably sloppy, damaging piece of journalism was obviously very biased and one-sided, reflected zero research, was filled with untruths and lies, and turned reality on its head.

My friend and good neighbor Eric Hudson was cast as a dangerous villain, while the five trespassing teenagers were cast as victims.

I have lived in the safe, peaceful neighborhood on River Bend Road for more than 40 years. Eric and his wife Rachael have been the best of neighbors: calm, friendly, honest, dependable, a home where we have confidently let our young grandchildren play. Now, thanks to your irresponsible article, we all feel endangered and vulnerable.

The truth is that for the past 30 years our driveway has been intermittently invaded

by teenage curiosity-seekers, who somehow feel entitled to trespass into our private neighborhood looking for a non-existent "devil church." This crazy myth presumably started in response to someone misinterpreting a neighbor's lovely home and outdoor sculpture. The myth is entirely absurd, yet lives on into subsequent generations of gullible youth. It is long past due for the local newspaper to write a serious piece researching and debunking this ridiculous, troublesome myth. Instead you are perpetuating it, subtly condoning the search as an innocent rite of passage.

The latest episode of intrusion apparently spun out of control because Eric tried to protect the safety of his home and family. The carload of teens who trespassed twice, within hours, should scarcely have been surprised when a homeowner yelled at them as they sped by. Instead, as evident in the article, the teens lied about the escapade to their parents, describing "goat heads on spikes" and adding other embellishments to their story.

The story scrupulously protects the identity of his one adult source, a parent. He refers to the trespassing teens as "children" and "victims," yet they are old enough to hold driver's licenses, and were clearly the intruders, invaders and provocateurs. Perhaps the mother should less indignantly defend her offsprings' right to drive anywhere they wish to "explore," and instead teach them to respect private property.

This article reflects a stunning lack of professionalism or regard for ethics. You are judging Eric in the "court of public opinion." You have damaged his reputation and career, and deprived Chatham County of a much-needed, dedicated teacher. You should use your community voice to help, not hurt people. Support truth, not superstition.

Dorothy Taylor
Siler City

'Irresponsible' story perpetuated rumors, put neighbors at risk

TO THE EDITOR:

The News + Record's article on Mr. Eric Hudson, the accused 4th grade teacher, has made me feel sick to my stomach. I am a close neighbor and decades-old friend of Mr. Hudson's family and in the last decade, Mr. Hudson. There are many untruths in this one-sided article. It sensationalizes a case that has not been resolved. It has cast these youth as victims and not as confrontational trespassers. It perpetuates a long-held

rumor of devil-worshipping that puts our neighborhood and neighbors at risk for more incursions. It smears Mr. Hudson's character and may ruin his chances of ever regaining his job. It is irresponsible and damaging.

I have lived in this neighborhood on the private driveway, River Bend Road, for over 40 years. My closest neighbor, a graduate of UNC's fine arts program, is a talented metal sculptor. Large metal sculptures are placed in their pasture that also has goats in it. For over 25 years, these neighbors and our neighborhood have suffered from ongoing incursions of carloads of teenagers, at all hours of the day and night. Some of these teens have threatened violence and committed property damage. A dog has been run over, and a child endangered. Over the years, the sheriff's department has been called on multiple occasions with mixed results.

This rumor of devil-worshipping is now in its second generation. Teenagers have come from as far as Randolph County.

There are statements in the article that are blatantly untrue. There are no goat heads on stakes. There never have been. The rumor of devil-worshipping is a twisted interpretation of the large sculptures and goats that are in our neighbor's pasture. There is no devil's church here — it doesn't exist.

Mr. Hudson is reported to have threatened these teens with a gun. This is a serious allegation with serious consequences. Taking the word of teenagers who also claimed to have seen goat heads on stakes is suspect at best. Mr. Hudson vehemently denies this.

River Bend Road is a private driveway. These teens were not "just out exploring." They knew exactly where they were going. They came into our neighborhood, twice in one day.

When confronted about their second trespass, they aggressively cussed out Mr. Hudson. Without consequences, they now feel more entitled and enabled.

There are eight families who live peacefully along River Bend Road. This article not only damages a young man's reputation and career based on flawed claims, but also has put our neighborhood at risk for more trouble.

Kim Caraganis
Siler City

Story was 'poorly researched,' 'sensationalized'

TO THE EDITOR:

An article appearing this

week about an encounter between my neighbor and friend Eric Hudson and some local teenagers misrepresents the incident and casts him as an unsavory and probably dangerously deranged character. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The article is poorly researched and contains sensationalized falsehoods:

The teenagers "went to explore an area on a road near Hudson's property on River Bend Road in Siler City." "The mother...said the road...was not marked "no trespassing," nor was it marked "private."

That would be our shared, dead-end, marked private, gravel driveway.

"According to the incident report filed by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Hudson threatened the victims with a gun."

Eric says he doesn't own a gun. I believe him. Never heard him talk about guns, never seen or heard a gun around him. I do not believe three trespassing teenagers just because they say he threatened them with one.

This is a most serious, unsupported allegation. Where is any evidence of this?

"The area is reportedly known by many as the site of what some have described as a "devil church." The brother and sister reported seeing goat heads on spikes..."

"Reportedly known"? "devil church"? "goat heads on spikes"?

Known by whom? Over 20 years' worth of too many anonymous, uninformed intruders?

The enthusiastic myth-making targets the home of a graduate of the UNC fine arts program in sculpture. Neighbor to me and Eric's wife's parents for 43 years, and now Eric and family.

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

Yes, they do. If they're fortunate, by someone like Eric, esteemed by faculty, staff and students as a good person and a very good teacher.

By contrast, the intruders, who drove by Eric shouting "F--- you, b----!," are cast as innocent victims. The mother's outrage rings hollow to me. The word of teenagers in trouble is famously biased toward their own innocence. Zero consequences for them. Good luck with that.

This article should have been flagged as one-sided, factually unsupported, sensationalized, and lacking any statement by, or supporting the person being characterized as a dangerous potential criminal. Guns, the devil, goat's heads and schoolchildren are catnip to a

journalist, but to feature such clickbait should have been weighed against the human cost of publishing.

The allegations and characterizations will have profoundly damaging effects on the reputation and career of Eric Hudson, a good neighbor, husband, father, teacher, citizen. A sorry history of teenager trespass and confrontation exists in our otherwise peaceful neighborhood. This will encourage more.

I believe a statement of regret is in order.

Lewis Caraganis
Siler City

Outraged at Hudson story

TO THE EDITOR:

Like most of my neighbors, I was shocked and outraged by your newspaper's report concerning Eric Hudson. It is full of falsehoods and hearsay, and not a human interest story.

I am Betsey Elliott, and Mark Elliott and I built our house on River Bend Rd. (which is indeed marked private) 30 years ago. We have suffered from harassment, trespass, threats, and property damage ever since then. We designed and built the house ourselves, and it is beautiful, with three handcrafted, arched windows. We have had goats for many years, in order to keep the pasture grass mowed around Mark's large steel sculptures. The goats are pets! And now your front page story has perpetuated a stupid, harmful rumor that has damaged our lives for decades.

As for the "assault," there was no gun, and the danger caused by reckless teenagers tearing around our neighborhood, day and night, for all these years, has become unbearable.

These particular juveniles parked their vehicle ON our property, a few feet from a "NO TRESPASSING" sign, got out, and further trespassed while scoping out our house. I was witness, and have prepared a sworn statement for the court. If I were the mother quoted in the story, I might perhaps be concerned about my children driving around the county looking for devil churches. I might "stir the pot" a bit deeper to find out if my children could be lying, and why. But, most of all, my advice is for you and this reporter — you could have put a minimum of time and effort in reporting this "story." It is shameful and harmful. In fact, you could come out yourself and see our neighborhood and meet the goats. ANYTHING.

You owe us an apology.
Betsey Elliot
Siler City

Campuses will try to keep discriminating



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

North Carolina and the rest of American higher education to halt the pervasive practice of racial and ethnic discrimination in admissions.

Academic leaders should have ended this obnoxious and counterproductive policy on their own, decades ago. It shouldn't have required lawsuits by Edward Blum and his group Students for Fair Admissions to force universities to comply with federal anti-discrimination laws.

But it did — and even now, the higher-education establishment is plotting to circumvent what it finally understands will be a definitive ruling

Later this year, the U.S. Supreme Court will finally compel the University of

from the nation's highest court.

One tactic will be to diminish the significance of academic ability and accomplishment in the admissions process while elevating the role of more-subjective criteria such as essays, interviews and extracurriculars. In this way, they hope to smuggle illegal preferences in the "back door," so to speak, much as Harvard University already discriminates against Asian applicants by systematically giving them low ratings in interviews.

This may be one reason UNC officials sought to extend a "temporary" moratorium on the requirement of minimum SAT or ACT scores for admissions. Originally introduced in 2020 as a pandemic-era measure, the moratorium will now last until 2025. High test scores shouldn't be the sole or even primary criterion for university admissions, of course, but the best available

It is already illegal, but nonetheless widespread, for institutions to take race or ethnicity into account when making decisions about hiring, pay and promotion.

evidence suggests that a combination of grade-point average and test score is a better predictor of college success than GPA alone.

Another probable response to the end of racial preferences in admissions will be, if anything, more pernicious: universities will shift their emphasis from admissions to employment.

It is already illegal, but nonetheless widespread, for institutions to take race or ethnicity into account when making decisions about hiring, pay and promotion. Infuriated by the end of admissions preferences, however, progressive faculty and activists will press university leaders to advance "social justice" (properly used,

the noun needs no such modifier) by establishing explicit hiring goals and preferences based on both racial and ideological identification.

One device for tracking the latter will be the use of "diversity, equity and inclusion" statements. At many campuses and departments, including some here in North Carolina, individuals are already required to submit DEI statements when applying for jobs or even for admission to graduate programs. Here's what the UNC-Chapel Hill medical school offered as a sample of the kind of DEI statement it wants from prospective faculty:

"As I move forward in my career, I intend to continue to include issues of equity and inclusion in my bedside teaching.

I commit to annually attending a seminar offered by the University Office of Diversity and Inclusion to learn more about the intersectionality of race, gender, and sexual orientation in clinical care and medical education, and to confront my own biases and the biases of our medical culture to improve inclusivity in my environment."

What if you are an experienced, accomplished and caring physician who sincerely believes you already treat everyone with respect and dignity, and prefers to devote your professional-development time to other topics, such as the economics of health care or the latest innovations in your medical specialty?

Better not say that if you want to get a job, or get ahead, at medical school.

Contrary to the strident claims of self-styled "anti-racism" advocates, the most-effective way to combat prejudice and

expand opportunity in a free and open society is to make less use of crude racial and ethnic categories, not more use of them. It is to treat individuals as individuals, not as pawns in some political game or cogs in some social-justice machine. It is to respond to specific markers of personal disadvantage — offering scholarships to poor students, for example, or well-tailored accommodations to disabled ones — rather than to membership in some politically concocted class of preferred beneficiaries.

Explicit admissions preferences will end. Then a broader debate, likely a very contentious one, will begin. The stakes couldn't be higher.

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).

INTERNET

Continued from page A1

infrastructure in underserved communities. He said the county has “huge coverage problems.”

“I live on the western side of the county, and it’s more dire on the west side of the county, because we’re so spread out,” Reives, a Goldston resident, said. “When you’re not in a densely populated area here in the state period, then you really have a hard time getting true high-speed broadband.”

“But unfortunately, this is not unique to Chatham,” he said. “It’s a problem that we have in a lot of our rural areas — and 80% of the state is still rural.”

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said the county is “aware of service outages” and it “shares the concerns of many residents who have limited or no access to broadband service.”

“There are still parts of the county that are unserved or underserved with residents and businesses struggling to compete in the digital economy,” LaMontagne added. “The pandemic underscored the critical need for high-speed internet connectivity to close this gap.”

What happened

The first outage on Charlie Cooper Road began on Oct. 1. It took just under three weeks for Brightspeed to restore the internet, residents there said, during which time they were told that it would only be “a few days” before they could access a Wi-Fi connection again. Meanwhile, residents said Duke Energy restored power in just a day or two.

Flash forward to Nov. 28, when a tractor trailer hits the power lines, taking them down across the road. The same pattern followed, according to residents: while the power is fixed right away, Brightspeed takes one day short of a full month to return residents to full service. It’s two days after Christmas before they’re finally able to load webpages again or access email.

“Duke repaired their lines immediately, but Brightspeed, who was at fault for the power poles being downed, was not there to repair their lines,” Hedrick said. She believes the low-hung wires from the previous repair job contributed to the accident, which also took down the power pole.

“I could understand a week maybe, but 20 days and a month, two recent outages for both our landlines and our internet — that’s really unacceptable,” Kidd said.

Hedrick said one of the workers who fixed the fallen line during the second outage told her he was a contractor for Brightspeed and the crew that came out there to fix the lines was from Henderson, roughly 90 miles away.

“We treat all outages as a top priority and in some cases utilize temporary cabling to restore service until permanent fixes can be implemented,” Gene Rodriguez Miller, the public relations director for Brightspeed, told the News + Record. When asked specifically about the three- and four-week-long outages on Charlie Cooper Road, Miller said in an email the company did not “have all the details about the outages you have mentioned.”

Miller then referenced, unprompted, a separate outage that occurred 25 miles away.

“Our research shows we did experience an outage on Oct. 11 at 6 Mount View Church Road in Moncure,” Miller said. “In that case, we identified the issue and engaged our line extension contractor, a vendor partner, to

resolve it. However, there were challenges to restoring service immediately, including weather related delays across the state and material shortages.

“Additionally, we have had cable theft in the county that in some cases has been extensive,” Miller said. “These challenges contributed to the prolonged outage of eight days. This is much longer than we or our customers would have expected.”

At least one resident living in the same neighborhood as 6 Mount View Church Road had previously confirmed an outage had taken place around that time period. However, the resident, Elizabeth Morton, said the outage lasted much longer than eight days. Morton, who lives about two miles down the highway from the address given, said her outage began on Oct. 13 and lasted until Oct. 27.

Customer service issues

On top of having no internet for weeks on end, Charlie Cooper Road residents also struggled to get Brightspeed customer service representatives to take them seriously — or engage with them at all. They reported being misunderstood, misled or downright ignored by customer service representatives during phone calls.

On repeated occasions, residents were told a technician would be able to help, despite explaining a line crew was needed, not a technician, to fix the fallen wires.

“We could not talk to anybody,” Hedrick said. “We were talking to these people following a script. It would always start with, ‘Let us check your modem,’ and we’d be like ‘No, you are not hearing us, the problem is out at the road.’”

Kidd said she was once told by customer service, after requesting to speak with a supervisor, that one would contact her.

“Well, I never got a call,” she said. “I gave him my cell phone number, and I never got a call back from upper management to address any concerns. You only get to speak to the customer service reps that give you the run-around ... Nobody wants to address the problem.”

On the night of Nov. 28, during the second outage, Hedrick said she called Brightspeed customer service and got a “lead representative who assured me that our internet would be restored much more promptly than post-Hurricane Ian,” since the storm had caused so many other outages.

“Well, obviously that was not accurate because it took even longer (one day short of a full month) to restore phone and internet this second time around,” Hedrick said.

Residents also reported a language barrier. Some customer service representatives they interacted with had strong foreign accents that even Hedrick, who teaches English as a foreign language, said she struggled to understand.

“We take customer outages very seriously and our standard is to engage immediately and work until service is restored,” Miller said.

“When we launched Brightspeed in October 2022, we knew that some customers expected everything to change overnight — and that is fair from a customer standpoint,” she added. “However, we took on the same operations and network that existed previously, and it will take time to transform the entire experience for our customers, but we are committed.”

Since taking over for CenturyLink last year, Brightspeed has recently increased customer service staff “by more than 35% and are actively expanding our service and repair teams,” Miller



Courtesy of Joanna Hedrick

Joanna Hedrick (center) and some of her Charlie Cooper Road neighbors in Siler City pose holding a downed Brightspeed cable that lay across that road for part of November and most of the month of December. Shown are, from left: Keith Kidd, Jim Underwood, Ronnie Pickard, Joanna Hedrick, Tammy Kidd, Sue Underwood and Anna Sue Moody.

said. She told the News + Record they company has since hired 35 new technicians, including four in Chatham County, as well as added about 200 representatives to its support call center team.

Hedrick said she would like to change service providers but she can’t afford the other options.

“It was all more expensive,” Hedrick said. “I’m a public school teacher, I’m on a budget, and I look at my budget, and I’m like, ‘CenturyLink, while we had it, was doable.’ These others, it’s doubling what I was paying. And so I just wish we had something at that price, one other option, because after this experience, honestly, I just would like to give my business to another company. But I feel stuck.”

More outages, health concerns

Other Brightspeed customers elsewhere in the county have reported similar long-term outages in recent months and corresponding customer service issues.

“We have had just a harrowing event with them,” said Tracy Hanner, a Brightspeed customer in western Chatham County whose broadband was out for almost two weeks during the holidays.

After his internet went out on Dec. 23, Hanner said he was initially told the problem would be fixed within a day or two, but was later informed he would need to wait another two weeks to have the Wi-Fi connection fixed. He tried unsuccessfully to reach a supervisor during that time. Finally, he managed to get a hold of a representative who — after two hours of discussion — was able to get his ticket moved from Jan. 11 to Jan. 3.

“I went through so much just to communicate with them through their chat line and online and talking to different people, but you never get really a good answer from them,” Hanner said. He added: “It always comes down to whether your community is large enough or important

enough for somebody to say, ‘Well, yeah, we can help that area.’”

While some residents described such outages as inconvenient, others said not having access to a landline or internet connection posed a risk to the health and safety of their families.

“And when I’m at work, I told [Brightspeed], it was a safety issue,” Kidd said. “Because, [with] no home landline, my mom couldn’t call if anything was going on. And at her age, I can’t get her to learn to use a cell phone. And then I had recently pulled my son out of high school for some bullying issues, and he was unable to have internet access to do with homeschool. It really impacted us.”

Morton was especially troubled by the lack of internet because she had to go out of her way to travel to accessible places around the county that had decent internet service available to the public. This was something she had to do to monitor and update her daughter’s medical charts, she said.

“I have a chart that I have to monitor my daughter’s health on every day — it’s communicating with her team medical staff — and you know, I can’t have it down that long,” Morton said. “And I myself am chaired, so it’s very hard.”

Morton said she expressed her concerns to the county manager, who connected her with a Brightspeed executive. The executive sent her a medical priority form that could be used to expedite service restoration for customers with health concerns.

“He sent me a medical form that I didn’t know that existed,” Morton said. She received the form on Oct. 26, a day before her service was expected to be restored.

Accessibility hurdles

There are laws in place in North Carolina preventing county and municipal governments from putting up new broadband infrastructure. Advocates for digital inclusion say this legis-

lation, which was put in place in 2011, has made it more difficult to provide service to rural areas.

Waring said the government does not regulate internet service providers like they do with electric utilities, and “they’re being given an area in which they don’t have any competition in the future.” This makes it harder for companies to justify spending on broadband infrastructure.

“I’m still a very libertarian guy, but I think this is one of the areas that it’s going too far in a direction now, it has to be solved by the government,” Waring said.

This means the private sector has effectively been made to cover this essential service, said Reives. He thinks it’s “not realistic” for private companies to be tasked with providing internet service and infrastructure in rural areas, where houses are more spread out and less economically-desirable targets for these companies.

“That’s not the type of dense population that’s gonna encourage somebody to spend billions of dollars to put up fiber that you need for high speed internet,” he said.

Reives added: “The government’s got to get out of the way and let people, and let towns, municipalities invest money, because I can promise you a lot of these rural counties and municipalities would love the opportunity to take money that they’re spending on other ways to market themselves and put that money into infrastructure for high speed internet, which then makes where they live much more appealing to people who want to come there.”

LaMontagne said the county “remains committed to doing what it can to expand broadband coverage in the community” while navigating the barriers surrounding public broadband infrastructure.

Residents say they would like to see the laws change or another solution implemented by the government.

“I would suggest or recommend that local governments be given the opportunity to provide for areas lacking in multiple non-satellite, non-fiber optic service,” Hanner said. “We are left to defend for ourselves. They expect us to pay on time but lack the courtesy to provide adequate service.”

A prior attempt at legislation that would allow counties and municipalities to build and lease new broadband infrastructure stalled in 2019. Reives said there has not been momentum to move forward on the issue at this time.

“I have not seen it from

leadership presently,” Reives said. “And that does not mean that there will not be future efforts to be made. But I’ve not seen the will or desire to change that legislation at this time with present leadership.”

Despite these legislative hurdles, Reives said progress is being made to address the digital divide. He pointed to the recent awarding of funds in the GREAT Grant program, which gives private sector broadband providers funds to deploy infrastructure in unserved areas. Chatham County received \$4 million in state funding this past August to improve broadband access for more than 1,900 homes.

Waring said residents can also help themselves by looking up their address on the FCC’s National Broadband Map and reporting false information about the service providers available to them. By doing this, it could help make sure they are covered in future broadband funding efforts. He also said Innovate Chatham is sponsoring events to discuss broadband issues.

“At these events we will listen to the challenges people have around the internet and what we should be doing about them,” Waring said. “That information will go into the Chatham Digital Inclusion Plan, which will be used to access grant money coming from the Federal and State government. We will also share several programs that are already available to help with certain internet challenges.”

The next event is scheduled for 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at the N.C. Arts Incubator at 223 N. Chatham Ave. in Siler City. (For tickets, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chatham-internet-discussion-tickets-487285914287>.)

Brightspeed told the News + Record it has plans to build more than 6,000 new fiber-optic passings in Chatham County in 2023 and more in subsequent years. Fiber-optic internet is much more reliable and speedy than traditional DSL broadband, the technology that uses phone lines to connect to the internet.

Still, residents worry Brightspeed and other companies need more oversight — or at least a track-record of providing quality service — to be trusted with future infrastructure endeavors.

“It should come down to does everybody have accessibility,” Hanner said. “But that’s not the way things work — I know life don’t work like that. You got to stand up for and do something, shout or scream, to get something for your area.”

Chatham Charter School

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

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

La Escuela de Chatham Charter

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

La Escuela de Chatham Charter es una escuela pública, multidenominacional, y no lucrativa que provee una educación de la calidad para los niños de todas las razas, los credos, una condición de discapacidad, y los orígenes nacionales.

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

Las clases pequeñas
Atención individualizada
Ofrecen más de 30 equipos de deportes para los grados 6-12



**Extra Curricular Activities
College Preparatory Tuition Free**

Las actividades extracurriculares
La preparación de universidad
Enseñanza gratuita

CHATHAM SCENE | BEN RAPPAPORT

Chatham has a broadband issue, but there's good news

One thing Chathamites of all political persuasions can agree on is that the county has an internet problem.

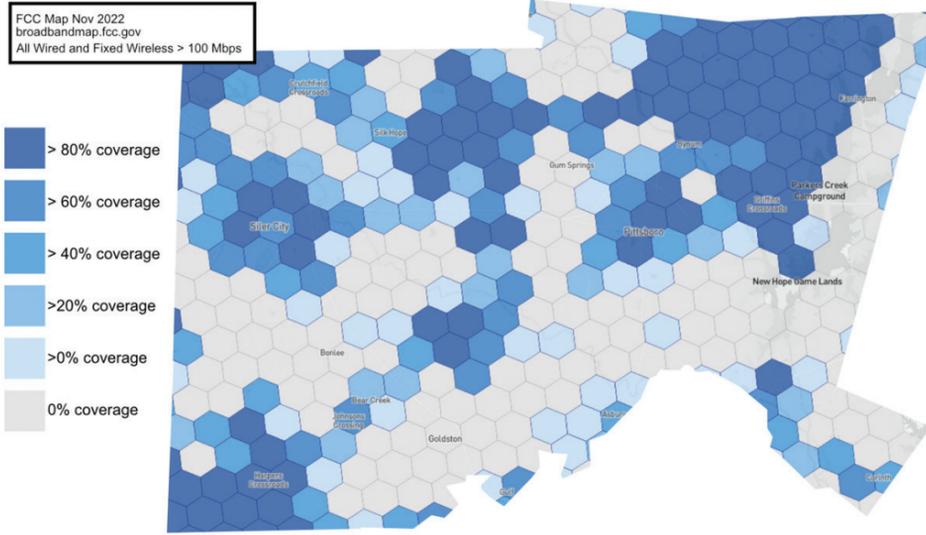
In fact, the lack of broadband access in Chatham was ranked as the number two issue in the 2022 Chatham Community Assessment behind only water quality, with 35% of residents ranking it as their primary concern.

It's not a stretch to say broadband in the modern age is a necessity. The ubiquity of the internet has made it a necessary tool for work, education and everyday life. So when residents throughout the county lack access to this tool, it presents a threat to Chatham's ability to continue progressing and growing.

Last Thursday, Innovate Chatham, a local organization dedicated to teaching others about technology, held the first of two Internet Discussions. The discussion at 79 West Innovation Hub in Pittsboro was meant to receive public feedback on a new initiative from Chatham County — The Chatham Digital Inclusion Plan. Innovate Chatham hosted a second of these talks in Siler City this Thursday, Jan. 19, at the N.C. Arts Incubator.

The plan is modeled on other neighboring counties with similar broadband struggles like Alamance County. Once completed, the plan will be submitted to the N.C. Dept. of Information Technology (NCDIT), which will allow Chatham to seek further state and federal funding. Chatham has a draft based on what the county believes to be existing broadband issues and the current programs available to amend those issues.

Chatham's Digital Inclusion Plan is centered on three main areas: availability, access and adoption. Burney Waring, president of Innovate Chatham,



Map via Federal Communications Commission

The FCC map of Chatham's broadband coverage will be used to determine grant funding from the state and federal level. Some residents are concerned about inaccuracies in the map.

led the discussion Thursday. He said the goal of the Digital Inclusion Plan is to ensure all houses in Chatham have internet available at an affordable rate.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently created a broadband map of every home in the U.S. to help guide future service and improvements. The map is an attempt to help mend that access problem that persists in Chatham and across the U.S. The problem with this map, however, is its massive imperfections.

If we zoom in on Chatham County, the map shows close to zero broadband access issues in the northeast portion of the county, and limited issues in Siler City. If you've been to those areas, you're likely aware that's simply not accurate. The inaccuracy of the FCC map presents a problem because if the map is inaccurate, then the

people in need of funding for broadband won't receive help.

But there's good news: you have the power to change that map, and perhaps bring more broadband funding dollars to Chatham County.

At Thursday's discussion, Waring said neighborhoods across the county should be organizing to bring awareness to the flaws of this map. All neighbors have to do is go to www.broadbandmap.fcc.gov, insert their address to view what the FCC says about their broadband status and if they believe the status is incorrect, challenge the status.

Challenges can be made for a variety of reasons including inaccurate download speeds, inaccurate internet service provider (ISP) information or other complaints found in the map. So long as you can provide documentation or evidence of the challenge, all complaints will be accepted.

While the complaint period from the FCC closed last Friday, Jan. 13, late challenges will be accepted. For assistance filing a complaint, Waring said contact help@innovatechatham.org.

Waring expressed frustration on Thursday that the challenge period was closing so quickly after it opened. The FCC released the map just more than eight weeks ago, but the challenge period included Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's — all times where U.S. residents are largely off of work or not as attuned to the news cycle.

If Chatham is able to bring in federal and state funding to improve broadband infrastructure, it may also help mend internet accessibility issues for low income households. As it stands, the average internet cost in Chatham is about \$75 per month, according to data from the FCC. This rate is

unaffordable for many in the county, not to mention internet costs are coupled with rising prices on computers, smartphones and other internet-accessible devices.

There's more good news on that front too. Internet is available at a reduced cost if you qualify for \$30 per month or less. Qualified applicants include those with household income less than 200% of the federal poverty line, which is \$55,500 for a family of four. Applicants can also qualify if their household has a student eligible for free or reduced-price meals. If you qualify, ISPs like Verizon, AT&T and Spectrum all have discounted internet rates too.

There are also resources for those who cannot afford a computer, including Kramden Institute (www.kramden.org) — which provides free desktop computers to families with K-12 students and low-income adults. Kramden also provides classes to help new users get acclimated with using the internet and their new devices. Chatham County also provides computer classes for those in need through the Chatham County Community Library.

It's no secret Chatham internet is shoddy at best, but the county and organizations like Innovate Chatham are working toward solutions to make broadband affordable, accessible and available to all Chathamites. Digital inclusion is an important step in making that vision a reality, and you can be part of seeing it to fruition. For more information about the Digital Inclusion Plan visit www.innovatechatham.org/digitalinclusion or email help@innovatechatham.org.

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



YMCA LEPRECHAUN DASH 5K/10K

March 11, 2023 | Pittsboro, NC

RACE TO SUPPORT OUR CHATHAM COUNTY KIDS!

The Chatham YMCA Leprechaun Dash 5K/10K is a fabulous, fun opportunity to support our community with friends, family and neighbors. Walk, stroll or walk the 5K or 10K courses through Chatham Park and back to the heart of downtown Pittsboro!



REGISTER TODAY!
YMCATriangle.org

Benefitting YMCA program scholarships for Chatham County kids.



OBITUARIES

AGNES BROWN FOX

November 4, 1944 ~ January 14, 2023



Agnes Brown Fox, 78, of Bear Creek, passed away on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at Westfield Rehabilitation in Sanford.

Mrs. Fox was born in Chatham County on November 4, 1944, the daughter of Joseph Gale and Ruth Dixon Brown. She was a member of Oakley Baptist Church. After high school, she spent her working years with Kellwood, A.J. Schneierson & Sons, then later retired as a Carburetor Assembler for Magneti Marelli in Sanford. Agnes loved fishing with a cane pole, playing solitaire, knitting and baking character cakes for her friends. She was an avid collector of salt and pepper shakers. Agnes was an animal lover, who enjoyed spending time with her beloved dog Duchess. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Brenda Parker.

Agnes is survived by her husband, Edward Francis Fox; son, Dwain Light and wife Lora Baird of Sanford; brother, Joseph Wayne Brown and wife Allene of Bear Creek; grandchildren, Dylan Light and Jacob Light (Tiffanie Thomas), both of Sanford; and great grandchildren, Liam and Piper Light.

The family received friends on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. Her funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at Oakley Baptist Church, 2300 Siler City-Glendon Rd., Siler City with Dr. Jeff Johnson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the ASPCA, or to the American Cancer Society.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Fox family. Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

request donations be made to the charity of your choice in Wilbur's memory.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

JOHNNY RAY CAIN

Johnny Ray Cain, 65, of Siler City, passed away on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at his home.

There will be no services held at this time

He was the son of the late Larn Wesley Cain and Mary Magdalene Gentry Cain, who preceded him in death.

Surviving are his daughters, Mary Melissa Andrews of Arkansas, Krystal Cain of Virginia, Ashley Noyd and Danielle Noyd, both of Colorado; sisters, Karen Thomas of Sanford, Therese Dunn of Moncure, Penny Rush of New Hill; seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

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

WILLARD 'DOCK' O. BATCHELOR

June 14, 1928 ~ January 13, 2023

Willard "Dock" O. Batchelor, 94, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, January 13, 2023, at his home.

Burial was held on Monday, January 16, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Buffalo Cemetery. A Celebration of Life service followed at Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church at 4 p.m. with Dr. Calvin Sayles, Rev. Curtis Norris and Rev. Robert Thomas officiating.

He was born to the late A.R. Batchelor and Mamie Lamm Batchelor. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Ruth Baker, Richard Batchelor, Geraldine Laws, Elvin Batchelor and Curtis Batchelor. After attending Benhaven High School, Dock served in the U.S. Army. He attended Durham Institute of Barbering, and barbered for over 55 years.

Dock was a member of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Lorena Pace Batchelor; daughter, Belinda McGugan of Sanford; son, Jeffrey Dock Batchelor of Broadway and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church, 316 West Main Street, Sanford, N.C. 27332.

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

CHARLIE HERBERT OLDHAM

April 23, 1937 ~ January 13, 2023

Charlie Herbert Oldham, 85, of Bear Creek, passed away on Friday, January 13, 2023, at FirstHealth Hospice House in Pinehurst.

The graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2023, at Fair Promise U.M.C. with Rev. Tom Halberg presiding. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Charlie was born the son of Henry and Bessie Maness Oldham. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a retired supervisor at Collins & Aikman. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Timmy Oldham; sister, Wilsie Dalton and brothers, Walter Oldham, Harvey Oldham, Russell Oldham and Tommie Oldham.

He is survived by his sons, Jeffrey Todd Oldham and Marty Alan Oldham.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Fair Promise U.M.C. Cemetery Fund, c/o Carmen Hussey, 372 N. Howard Mill Rd., Robbins, N.C. 27325.

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

DEBORAH E. (HEADEN) BROOKS

August 5, 1968 ~ January 6, 2023

Deborah Headen Brooks, 54, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, January 6, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Thursday, January 12, 2023 at New Life Fellowship Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

LEON DAVIS LEE

Leon Davis Lee, age 76 of Moncure, passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2023, at his residence.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 14, 2023 at Bryant Memorial Gardens,

SAMUEL BERNARD BURCH, SR.

Samuel Bernard Burch, Sr., 57, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, January 15, 2023, at Novant Health, New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

DAVID LEE ALSTON

David Lee Alston, 79, of Chapel Hill passed away on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

CRAIG MCKEITHAN, JR.

Craig McKeithan, Jr., 31, of Raleigh, passed away on Thursday, January 12, 2023.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

NATARSHA RENEE ALSTON

November 20, 1973 ~ January 15, 2023

Natarsha Renee Alston, 49, of Broadway, passed away on Sunday, January 15, 2023, at her residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

WILBUR LEE 'PEPAW' MOORE

January 25, 1930 ~ January 11, 2023

Wilbur Lee "PePaw" Moore, 92, of Pittsboro, died at the Siler City Center on January 11, 2023.

Visitation was held Saturday, January 14, 2023, at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory with the funeral service following at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Dan Robinson presiding. Burial followed at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Wilbur was the son of the late Edgar L. and Fannie John-

son Moore. He served in the U.S. Army. He helped organize, and establish the first rescue squad in Pittsboro. He was a long-time member of the Pittsboro Fire Department. Wilbur retired from UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill after 32 years as an Electrical Supervisor in the Maintenance department.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda Ray Moore of Pittsboro; two stepsons, Richard Norris and Jay Norris, both of Silk Hope; four step-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family

5th annual Sing and Play student music competition set for February

From JMArts



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

Winners of 'Sing and Play '22' with the show's co-hosts were, from left, co-host Wilson Ramos Meza, Jojo Chen of Woods Charter School, Zachary Klingel of Margaret B. Pollard Middle School, Buck and Maggie Thornton of Jordan-Matthews High School and co-host Litzzy Garcia.

SILER CITY — Sing and Play '23 Showcase, the 5th annual music competition for students from elementary through high school, returns next month with auditions and its popular showcase concert at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City.

Instrumental and vocal acts will compete for a \$50 prize awarded for the best performance in each of three age categories — elementary, middle school and high school. Acts may be individuals or ensembles of up to four people, with all performers being full-time students in a North Carolina public, private or home school.

Auditions will be held by appointment in the Jordan-Mat-

thews Auditorium from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7, where a panel of judges will select four to six acts in each age category to perform in the showcase competition. Auditions are held with an educational focus, providing an opportunity for young, aspiring performers to experience the audition process in a supportive environment. Individuals and ensembles planning to audition must register online by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

The Sing and Play '23 Showcase competition concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23. Immediately following all performances, winners in each age category will be selected by audience vote. General admission is \$5 per person and includes one vote in each category.

Last year's winners were Jojo Chen of Woods Charter School in the elementary division, Zachary Klingel of Margaret B. Pollard in the middle school division, and the duet of Buck and Maggie Thornton of Jordan-Matthews in the high school

division. Sing and Play '22 was hosted by JM actor-musicians Wilson Ramos Meza and Litzzy Garcia.

An overview of the competition — including rules and a link to the registration form — is available online at jmarts.org/s/JMASingAndPlayRules2023.pdf.

Sing and Play is a fundraiser for JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, a non-profit created to provide what student artists need to excel.

Money raised by the competition will be used by JMArts for educational projects, including its annual New York Arts Adventure. Scheduled over spring break, the educational trip to New York City gives a group of upperclass musicians, actors and visual artists an opportunity to explore one of the world's great cities, experience the very best in their arts, and gain new perspectives and experiences that will influence their lives and work. Several world-class actors, musicians and critics meet with JM artists during the five-day adventure.

NEWS BRIEFS

CCL to present 'McMasters' Will: The Scheme that Almost Freed Us' by Calvin Dark

PITTSBORO — In recognition of Black History Month in February, Chatham Community Library will sponsor a lecture by Calvin Dark, a native of Siler City.

The program, entitled "McMasters' Will: The Scheme that Almost Freed Us", is free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9.

Dark, a Washington, D.C.-based communications professional, Fulbright Scholar, and historian, will present the story of his great-great-grandfather, Aaron McMasters, and the fight for freedom for him and his mother after being promised such by his enslaver, Simeon McMasters, upon his death.

With the help of the Quaker-led North Carolina Manumission Society, a plan was developed to use the proceeds of Simeon's estate to purchase their freedom. But did Aaron McMasters and his mother ever receive their freedom?

This virtual event participants should register online at tinyurl.com/McMastersWill to receive the meeting link. Residents may visit the libraries' website, www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or rita.vanduin@chathamlibraries.org for more information.

Funding for this program is made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Chatham Community Library.



Pre-Planning Check List for the New Year!

Make an Appt. to gain information

Transfer my arrangements from that other funeral home to Donaldson

Peace of Mind for me and my family



396 West St. Pittsboro, NC, 27312

www.donaldsonfunerals.com

919-542-3057



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Meet Dozer

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Dozer, a 3-year-old neutered male Pit Bull Terrier looking for a fun-loving household to call home. Dozer came into the Sheriff's Animal Resource Center (ARC) in August 2022 and is heartworm negative; he is a people pleaser and never meets a stranger! Dozer is bursting with energy and exudes contagious enthusiasm for life, treats, and chin scratches. He is glued to his human caretakers during enrichment activities and adores frolicking in the play yard on sunny days. Squeaky toys fill Dozer with fanatical delight; in fact, his new owner(s) should probably exercise caution when operating squeaky toys to avoid inadvertently transporting Dozer to another dimension. Dozer is current on all vaccines and is ready for same-day adoption. For more information on how to meet or adopt Dozer or another deserving pet, please contact the staff of the Sheriff's ARC at 919-542-7203 to schedule an appointment for a visit at 725 Renaissance Dr., Pittsboro.

Siler City close to finalizing SOC for sewer moratorium

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town of Siler City was placed under a moratorium last May regarding sewer capacity, preventing new developments from being tapped into the town's sewer system. Now, eight months later, Public Utilities Director Chris McCorquodale says the town and the state are close to agreeing on conditions for a Special Order by Consent (SOC), which would place harsher restrictions on what Siler City's wastewater facility can discharge.

"We have an internal meeting ... and then we're going to try to make any request changes that we feel like we want to make to it and get that back to the state by the 20th," McCorquodale said.

Siler City's sewer moratorium came about the same time Town Manager Hank Raper joined the staff. The N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality cited several violations of the Clean Water Act, including elevated nitrogen levels — some above 800% of permitted limits — in wastewater discharges.

The moratorium prevents the town from adding new sewer connections, effectively putting a halt to developments in Siler City's planning jurisdiction.

According to Raper, the town has received the final draft of an SOC in collaboration with NCDEQ. The SOC is the most significant step toward lifting the allocation restrictions on new sewer lines, Raper said.

"Think of the SOC as a contract between the town and the state where both sides are agreeing to these terms," he said. "It's what we've been working toward for the last year ... it's been a process since the middle of May, and it's interesting to see that process through so now that we can really get the work started that we've been fighting for all this time."

McCorquodale said the state and the town have come to an agreement on milestones that need to be achieved in order to lift the moratorium. He said as the town wastewater and sewer treatment facility reaches certain achievements, it will be allowed a limited allocation of additional sewer taps.

"The main thing that we're looking at is what type of sewer allocation that we can receive throughout the rest of our SOC," he said. "Once we hit these milestones that they're requesting, [there will be a] type of release will they give us so that we can distribute that amongst developers and stuff."

McCorquodale said his department has already worked on addressing some of the issues highlighted in the moratorium. A temporary sludge removal process was implemented to help the town's plant get through the colder, wet months, which was one of the requirements the state implemented in the moratorium.

McCorquodale also said part of the reason addressing the moratorium has been a lengthy process is because NCDEQ has to sign off or approve what steps the town has taken to address the issues.

"They [the state] wanted us to reissue our pre-treatment permits and submit them to the state and I've done that also, so I'm just waiting for those back from the state so I can issue them to our industries," McCorquodale said. "I had to rewrite a pretreatment program for the water plant, and we have done that too, and it's been issued to the state."

McCorquodale added that while the moratorium does put a pause on future developments in Siler City, it won't have an impact on existing lines and current customers.

"The only impact it will have on current residents is if they're trying to build a home that doesn't already have sewer," he said. "No new sewer taps can be added so they can add to their house, they can add a garage, they can build whatever they want to do as long as it doesn't create a new tap."

McCorquodale said after submitting the changes to the final draft to the state, town staff will meet with NCDEQ representatives on Jan. 26 to finalize the SOC. From there, the SOC will enter a public comment period where residents can have a chance to provide input on the proposed agreement.

"We won't know what the complete final draft will look like until after it goes to public comment because it can always change after the public comment, but it won't go to public comment until us and the state both come to an agreement," he said.

McCorquodale also said he hopes the state and Siler City will come to an agreement at the Jan. 26 meeting, and then, the town can move forward in finalizing the SOC through public comment and state approval.

"They [NCDEQ] will have to review all the comments and all that stuff, we're looking at probably sometime mid-March before it (the SOC) would actually go into effect," he said. "It could be later, it depends on the state."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com

TEACHER

Continued from page A1

2018, there's been just a single complaint call from the neighborhood regarding cars speeding on the road and no complaints of vandalism. Lt. Sara Pack, the chief public information officer for the Sheriff's Office, told the News + Record the group involved in the July incident in question "were intercepted by an officer and told not to return to the area."

On July 30, Eric Hudson, a teacher at Pittsboro Elementary School, was arrested and charged after an incident that occurred on July 10. Two teens involved — a brother and a sister — told the News + Record that on that day, Hudson chased after their car after they drove into the area, then stopped suddenly in front of them and appeared to brandish a gun in the process of confronting them. Hudson continued to follow the teens, they say, until they were able to elude him on Pleasant Hill Church Road.

Neighbors criticized the News + Record's reporting of the story and defended Hudson, saying the teens were exaggerating. They say the car of five youngsters were trespassing on a private road and yelled expletives at Hudson. They also said Hudson — whom they described as an ideal neighbor "whose precious family has suffered from several of these incursions" — doesn't own a gun, and was acting to protect his family.

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office report of the incident, however, describes Hudson's modus operandi as "by subject threatening victims with a gun" and lists "handgun" in the "weapon" portion of the report.

Requests for comment from Hudson through his attorney were not responded to.

Hudson had been listed as a teacher on the school's website on Friday, Jan. 6, when Chatham County Schools officials were queried about the case by the newspaper. By Monday, Hudson was no longer listed as an employee. Nancy Wykle, a spokesperson for CCS, told the News + Record last week that "Once the district was made aware of this issue, the administration followed district policy in addressing it." She would not provide further information, citing it was a personnel issue.

According to Chatham County Schools Policy Code 7140, which concerns criminal records checks, a potential hire must disclose his or her criminal history to the district prior to hiring decision, and if they are found to have a criminal record the district will make "a determination of whether the final candidate/independent contractor poses a threat to the physical safety of students or personnel or has demonstrated that he or she does not have the integrity or honesty to fulfill the duties of the position."

The policy further states "false information on an employment application or contract which is intended to defraud, falsify, materially misrepresent or conceal the truth regarding criminal history will be a basis for denying employment or immediate dismissal."

Other CCS policies iterate the school board may refuse to renew the contract of any teacher for any cause it deems sufficient, so long as the cause is not arbitrary, prohibited by state or federal law, or for personal or political reasons.

Teachers may also be dismissed if they are convicted of a felony or "a crime involving moral turpitude."

Many of Hudson's neighbors on River Bend Road contacted the News + Record following a story in the Jan. 12-18 edition, which was entitled "Teacher charged with assault." The story has since been updated online to correct errors present in the initial reporting, including clarifying that the roadway of Hudson's residence is a private driveway, that the "goatheads on spikes" the teens reported seeing were actually ornamental sculptures created by a neighbor who's an artist, and that the harassment faced by neighbors spans over the past three decades.

In calls, email messages and letters to the editor (see page 5A) to the News + Record, neighbors disputed much of what the teens were quoted as saying, as well as other information presented in the story. They also said they've complained frequently to local law enforcement about trespassers, with little effect.

Pack said contrary to claims of residents of the street, "every call" made from the area in the last four years to the Sheriff's Office — calls which included animal and wildlife complaints, a shooting and reports of a fire — "received a response."

Hudson was scheduled to make a court appearance on Wednesday, Jan. 18; his case, originally scheduled to be heard back in August, had been delayed until now. In addition to the assault with a deadly weapon charges, Hudson has also been charged with damage to personal property.

Following the incident, both Pack and the teens said the teens called 911. Chatham County Sheriff's officers responded, investigated and turned information about the incident over to the District Attorney's office. It was the DA's office that filed the charges in the case based on evidence they collected, including — according to the mother of two of the teens — a video of the group's encounter with Hudson.

The video of the incident has not been released to the public.

Neighbors said the News + Record's reporting of the incident has caused them to feel "endangered and vulnerable," and described the teens quoted in the story as "confrontational trespassers" who swore at Hudson after he confronted him about driving near his home twice on that July day.

The teens, one neighbor wrote in a letter to the editor in this week's edition, are a pattern of "bored and malicious" youngsters who torment those in the neighborhood and "drive stealthily into our rural neighborhood along our private, common driveway, at all hours, often at night with their lights off. They trespass beyond property lines, vandalize, shout scary threats and obscenities, ignore 'No Trespassing signs' — once or twice even sawing through padlocks. Then they careen out of here at high speed on our one-lane, gravel lane. A dog was once hit. A young child was nearly hit."

This is a developing story. Updates will be posted online at chathamnewsrecord.com and in next week's edition.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport. Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @billthethird.

COVID

Continued from page A1

stable, is definitely higher than we would like. We have also experienced recently an increase in our staff COVID-related absences — we peaked last week at seven COVID-related absences, and are now down to three."

According to Wolak, the hospital staff was averaging zero to one absence due to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. That has since multiplied, and Wolak said that Chatham isn't alone in that phenomenon.

"UNC Medical Center, which can be a good barometer, has seen a dou-

bling of COVID patients needing hospitalization over the past month, going from around 25 in early December to the mid-60s in early January," he said. "They have recently seen a slight decrease in COVID census over the past two weeks and are currently at about 50 COVID inpatients."

The hospital has implemented additional protection measures for staff, patients and visitors, including a mask requirement for staff and visitors.

"At UNC Health Chatham, we continue to require our staff to always wear a mask and eye protection when working with patients,"

Wolak said. "We also require all visitors, vendors and outpatients to wear a mask when they are in our facility, and we encourage our inpatients to wear a mask whenever someone else is in their room with them."

The CCPHD also recommended a return to mask-wearing in indoor, crowded settings in a recent statement regarding the increase in COVID-19 cases. This comes as other institutions across the country contemplate bringing back mask requirements, including North Carolina's own Duke University.

CCPHD recommended the following steps to Chathamites as a way

to protect themselves during the ongoing COVID-19 surge:

- Stay up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccines. Find out when you can get your booster, if you haven't already, here: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html. You can find a COVID-19 vaccination location here: www.vaccines.gov.
- Wear a high-quality face mask or respirator in crowded indoor settings
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you are experiencing symptoms or were recently around someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Keep a supply of at-home tests on hand for if you have symptoms or come into close contact with someone with COVID-19. COVID-19 treatments are available and can greatly lower your risk of hospitalization or death. For more information, visit MySpot.nc.gov/FindTreatment.

The CCPHD and community partners are offering multiple COVID-related services and resources, including:

- The CCPHD's offices in Pittsboro (80 East St.) and Siler City (1000 S. 10th Ave.) have free COVID-19 at-home rapid tests available for pick-up during business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- The CCPHD's Siler City clinic offers no-charge Moderna COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots, including to children ages 6 months and older.

- Optum Health is continuing to offer combination flu and COVID-19 tests at the Old Agriculture Center in Pittsboro (65 E. Chatham St.). The clinic is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/public-health or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

PLACE YOUR AD HERE FOR \$5 PER WEEK. CALL 919-663-3232

Up to 25 words — additional words 20¢ each

PLUS: Your ad is posted on chathamnewsrecord.com for FREE!

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learn-aboutland.com - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

OFFICE SPACE RENT

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

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. Pre-spoiled 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, J5,12,19,26,4tc

INGERSOL RAND Air Compressor, 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, J5,12,19,26,2tc

AUCTIONS

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

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real estate, personal property, estate settlement, farms & land, business liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.Jerry-HarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, J6,tfnc

SERVICES

DIGGING AND DEMO - Land improvements, mini-excavating, stump removal, mobile home and building tear down, al digging. Call John Hayes, 919-548-0474, J19-Ju1,20tp

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 environmen-

tally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Active relationship with Christ and membership in a church of like-faith required. 18-20 hrs/wk to manage office, prepare publications, and maintain records. Computer proficiency required. Submit resume and hourly salary requirement to: Personnel Committee, Tyson's Creek Baptist Church, 10891 Siler City-Glenndon Rd., Bear Creek, NC 27207 or email to tysonscreek@tysonscreek.com. J19,26,F2,9,4tc

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

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

LEGALS

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE # 22 E 636 The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix for the Estate of **RYNOLD CONWAY FOX**, 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. 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 notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 27th day of December, 2022. David Samuel Cooper, Executor PO Box 1824 Pittsboro, NC 27312 D29,J5,J12,J19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM 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 Lemmond c/o Paul A. Yokabitus, Attorney 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 104 Raleigh, NC 27605. D29,J5,J12,J19,4tc

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 persons, 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 SOLIMAN**, 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) LLP 555 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1100 Raleigh, NC 27601 J5,J12,J19,J26,4tc

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 RIGSBEE 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

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 27358 J12,J19,J26,F2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION
Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon
Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m.
Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.
Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.
Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 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

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

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

AUCTION
160+/- Acres Divided into 8 Tracts of 8-30 Acres! - Buy 1 or Combination -
Homesites/Pastureland/Development Potential
***Residential & Agricultural**
Estate of the Late Mr. David A. Kopf & Dr. Myra Collins (Moved to Assisted Living)
1838 Alex Cockman Rd. & 460 Elmer Keck Rd, Pittsboro, NC

Register & Bid Online 1/3/23-1/17/23
ROGERS AUCTIONEERS & REAL ESTATE (919) 545-0412 RogersAuction.com NCFL7360

Career Opportunities Available
Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

Cardinal Chase Apartments
Featuring 1, 2 & 3 BR units: conveniently located in Siler City, NC
Handicap accessible units 3x3 available
Section 8 Assistance Available. Income Restrictions Apply
Call 919-742-4377
Telecommunications Relay Services: 711
Office Hours: M-T-TH-FRI • 8:30AM - 5:00PM
Equal Housing Opportunity
Managed by Community Management Corporation

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 23 E 26
 All persons having claims against **ALLENE H. HARMON AKA ANNIE ALLENE HARWARD HARMON**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th 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 19th day of January, 2023.
 Jane Harmon Pendergrast, Executrix
 140 West Newman Rd
 Chapel Hill, NC 27517
 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 The undersigned, having qualified as **Executrix of the Estate of TROY M. HANCOCK, JR.**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said decedent or his estate to present them to her at 2755 Bonlee-Bennett Road, Siler City, NC 27344 on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All of those indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned. This the 19th day of January, 2023.
 Ann P. Hancock
 Executrix of the Estate of **Troy M. Hancock, Jr.**
 2755 Bonlee-Bennett Road
 Siler City, N.C. 27344
 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 2022 E 000711
 All persons having claims against **MARTIN PALMER ODOM JR.**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th 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 19th day of January, 2023.
 Margaret T. Odom, Administrator
 5128 Bonlee Caribonton Road
 Goldston, NC 27525
 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 23 E 8
 All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH BROOKS COBB**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th 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 19th day of January, 2023.
 Christopher William Cobb, Co-Executor
 6368 Waterway Drive
 Falls Church, VA 22044
 Anna Lees Cobb, Co-Executor
 1315 Langdon Place
 1315 Farrington Post
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

PUBLIC NOTICE
N.C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INTENT TO ISSUE NPDES WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT #NC0000892
 Public comment or objection to the draft permit is invited. All comments received by February 20, 2023 will be considered in the final determination regarding permit issuance and permit provisions.
PERMIT APPLICATION:
 Arclin USA, LLC, 790 Corinth Rd., Moncure, N.C., has applied for renewal of its NPDES wastewater permit (NC0000892) for Arclin USA, 790 Corinth Rd., Moncure, Chatham County. The facility discharges treated industrial wastewater and treated groundwater to Haw River in the Cape Fear River basin. Some of the parameters are water quality limited. This discharge may affect future allocations in this portion of

the Cape Fear River basin. The location of Outfall 001 is: **Latitude: 35°36'9"; Longitude: 79°3'1"**. The draft wastewater permit and related documents are available online at: <https://deq.nc.gov/public-notices-hearings>. Printed copies of the draft permit and related documents may be reviewed at the department's Raleigh Regional Office. To make an appointment to review the documents, please call 919-791-4200. Public comment on the draft permit modification should be mailed to: Wastewater Permitting, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C., 27699-1617. Public comments may also be submitted by email to: publiccomments@ncdenr.gov. Please be sure to include "Arclin" in the email's subject line. J19,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Haw River wetlands and streams would be harmed under proposal for VinFast site

If the permit is approved, Haw watchers say parts of ecosystem could be 'completely lost'

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
 News + Record Staff

MONCURE — A proposal from Vietnamese electric car manufacturer VinFast would threaten to permanently

damage portions of the Haw River's streams and wetlands near Moncure, according to advocates at the Haw River Assembly. The proposal, which was filed by VinFast and N.C. Dept. of Trans-

portation, seeks federal approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is currently under review. It would impact 3,688 linear feet of stream channel, 22,789 acres of wetlands and one acre of open waters in waterways including Shaddox Creek, Haw River, Deep River and the Cape Fear River Basin.

The permit filed by NCDOT and VinFast states the impact on the existing ecosystems will be "moderate" and "do not present a significant or imminent threat to the stability and integrity of

the aquatic ecosystem within the watershed." The permit states the environmental impact will be similar to other projects in the region. VinFast is building a more than 1,700 acre manufacturing plant in Moncure, where it will build electric vehicles and manufacture batteries for those vehicles. Over the next two decades, the project is expected to bring more than 7,500 jobs and \$4 billion in economic investment to the region.

Industry's

environmental costs

Environmental advocacy groups like the Haw River Assembly disagree with the analysis provided by NCDOT and VinFast. HRA leaders say the change will be permanent and substantial. Emily Sutton, Haw riverkeeper, said she believes there are ways to develop projects like the VinFast facility in a sustainable fashion.

Sutton told the News + Record she hopes the permit is rejected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because of the large impact on the Haw River.

"The permit that's proposed does not include any alternative analysis," Sutton said. "This proposal also doesn't include much information about the cumulative impacts of this development, and the development in that general area."

While there are alternatives shown in the 284-page permit application (view the full permit at <https://bit.ly/3CRQg4m>), Sutton said her review of the permit showed there was not enough information presented as to why those alternatives were not chosen for the project.

That lack of alternative analysis, she said, may cause further harm to residents of the current Moncure area who have already incurred increased pollution

and sedimentation in the local environment. With construction of the new FedEx facility, grading of the land for the VinFast facility and other nearby construction, the Moncure area is quickly becoming part of an industrial corridor in Chatham. The increased construction also comes with environmental costs.

Under the current proposal, VinFast would dredge and fill streams, wetlands and open waters. Dredging is the practice of using heavy machinery to scrape the bottom of a stream bed. Filling means that construction teams will use dirt to fill the streams, which buries the waterways.

"All of the aquatic habitat that thrives there will just be completely lost," Sutton said.

'Impacts the entire food chain'

The habitat under threat includes macroinvertebrates like mayflies and stoneflies. Tall grasses along the creeks also serve as nurseries for small fish species, mussels and clams.

"So all of those small habitats are essential for the health of that entire aquatic ecosystem," Sutton said. "If we don't have a healthy population

See **VINFAST**, page A12

Upgrade Your Home with a **NEW METAL ROOF**
 Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER
60% off
 YOUR INSTALLATION
 +
 TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **10% off**
 Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE Metal Roofs
Limited time offer. Expires 3/31/23. *Excludes certain areas. See website for details.

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES
 From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE** 1-855-585-1815

Made in the USA

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires March 31, 2023. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on www.erie-roofing.com. All rights reserved. NC License Number: 83195

I BUY HOUSES, LOTS, LAND & MOBILE HOMES

Any condition · Anywhere
(704) 285-0452

LeafFilter
 GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!
20% OFF + 10% OFF
 YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*
 SENIORS & MILITARY!
 FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.
 Promo Code: 285
 FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-877-649-1190
 Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. Manufactured in Plainfield, Michigan and processed at LMF Manger Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. Registrations: 036620922 CSL# 1037595 Registrations# NC060905 License# CBC05678 License# RC-51604 Registrations# C12730 License# 559544 Suffolk HIC License# 522294 License# 20221296 License# 26200022 License# 26200040 License# 21021256 License# 54851122 Registrations# 17647 License# 42330 Registrations# 8731804 License# 50145 License# 40869 Registrations# 13A0959300 Registrations# H1914 License# 218294 Registrations# PA06083 License# 4154 License# 7654 DCR# #10783658-5501 License# 423303 License# 270516542 License# LEAF#NW222 License# W056012

FREE INTERNET
 Qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program

YOU QUALIFY for Free Internet if you receive Housing Assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline and Tribal.

Bonus offer: 4G Android Tablet with one time co-pay of \$20

CALL TODAY (877) 224-7739

maxisp
 CONNECTS

ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq

When outdoors, your impact should be smaller than this ad.

OUTDOORNC.COM
 #MAKE IT YOUR NATURE

LEAVE NO TRACE

Statewide Classified

YOUR AD can be promoted in multiple markets with one easy and affordable ad placement. Your ad will be published in 114 NC newspapers for only \$375. You reach 1.7 million readers with the North Carolina Statewide Classified Ad Network. Call this newspaper's classified department at 919-663-3232 or visit www.ncpress.com.

ABSOLUTE DUMP TRUCK AUCTION, FRI JAN 20 10 AM 25 LATE MODEL KW T880 TRI AXLE WITH AUTOMATIC FOR PICTURES AND DETAILS GO TO WORLDNETAUCTIONS.LIVE.COM OR CALL 843-426-4255 SCAL 3965F

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 866-579-0885

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-649-1190

LONG DISTANCE MOVING: Call today for a FREE QUOTE from America's Most Trusted Interstate Movers. Let us take the stress out of moving! Speak to a Relocation Specialist, call 833-586-8395

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER? You may qualify for a substantial cash award - even with smoking history. NO obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help! Call 24/7, 844-641-0129

SAVE MONEY ON EXPENSIVE AUTO REPAIRS! Our vehicle service program can save you up to 60% off dealer prices and provides you excellent coverage! Call for a free quote: 877-324-4071 (Mon-Fri :9am-4pm PST)

PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Pest, rodent, termite and mosquito control. Call for a quote or inspection today 877-593-6072

AUTO INSURANCE STARTING AT \$49/ MONTH! Call for your fee rate comparison to see how much you can save! Call: 833-472-0580

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg, And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 833-649-2292

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles

and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - \$500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-585-1815

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-931-3643

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote - Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-938-0700

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-496-8601 www.dental50plus.com/ncpress#6258

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-877-224-7739

Caring for an aging loved one? Wondering about options like senior-living communities and in-home care? Caring.com's Family Advisors are here to help take the guesswork out of senior care for you and your family. Call for your FREE, no-obligation consultation: 1-866-327-0721

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-877-920-7405

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 844-213-6711



Courtesy of Haw River Assembly

Emily Sutton is the Haw Riverkeeper for the Haw River Assembly.

Family VACATIONS on the Outer Banks - North Carolina

Over 600 Vacation Homes from from Corolla to Hatteras:
NOW in Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, Avon, Buxton, Hatteras and Frisco!

Brindley Beach
 VACATION HOMES & SALES

877-642-3224
brindleybeach.com

VINFAST

Continued from page A11

at the bottom of the food chain, then it impacts the entire food chain.”

Sutton also predicts — based on the permit application — that these waterway infill systems would be used to make way for horizontal directional drilling, which is a construction technique whereby a tunnel is drilled under a waterway or other designated area, and a pipeline or other utility is pulled through the drilled underground tunnel. The threat of horizontal directional drilling is the possibility of frac-out, which means the fluids from the drilling could accidentally be released directly into the surface water.

“There’s these heavy toxins that are being pushed through a pipe to get through the rock under a river body,” Sutton

said. “If that burst, or if it leaks, which isn’t uncommon, then all of those contaminants go into the river.”

Sutton said she is concerned at the prospect of further contamination of the river because the Cape Fear River Basin, which the Haw flows into, is the drinking water supply for thousands of residents in the area.

Mitigating damage

VinFast is offering to buy “mitigation credits” from the state. Those credits pay for stream and watershed improvements elsewhere to offset damage at the site.

“Impacts to streams and wetlands within the VinFast property have been largely avoided by the careful layout and design of the manufacturing facilities and locating them within upland areas of the property,” VinFast Director of Communications Jeff Holland

told the News + Record in a statement. “The only impacts within the VinFast property are limited to perpendicular roadway crossings that are necessary to provide safe and efficient access within the site and from the manufacturing facility to the roadway improvements.”

Holland added VinFast is working with the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality and other area leaders on the permitting process.

At the scale of the VinFast project, Sutton believes there are ways to construct the property that do not include damage to natural habitats. She said considerations like stormwater mitigation and integration of natural topography should have been taken.

“It should have green space, it should have streams, trails and trees — all of those things don’t need to be destroyed,” she said.

Community concerns

One of the other concerns Sutton raised with the current proposal is the lack of community engagement shown by NCDOT and VinFast. It’s a concern echoed by Moncure residents as more and more permits, proposals and construction have begun in the area. Affected residents expressed similar sentiments about the lack of notice and community engagement instances like the August NCDOT public hearing and the uncertain future of Merry Oaks Baptist Church.

“We got calls from community members that received a very vague letter in the mail two days before Thanksgiving,” Sutton said. “That is in the middle of everyone’s holiday season, and it’s hard to make time for something like this.”

The permit was filed on Nov. 21 with initial public comments closing Dec. 26. Haw River

Assembly filed a petition for an extended public comment period on the permit, which was granted until Jan. 5. Sutton believes even with the extension, there was not enough time for communities to organize and provide necessary feedback.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has not made an official ruling on this permit as of publication. The permit is currently under holistic review, which includes examining impact on human environment, property owners, aquatic environment and overall effects.

“If this project is approved as proposed in the existing permit, then we’re looking at the loss of a lot of ecosystem services that are protecting our water quality,” Sutton said.

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



Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
866-495-1123

FREE

7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid February 15 - June 6, 2021

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Dental Insurance

Get the dental care you deserve with dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It can help cover the services you’re most likely to use -


 Cleanings


 X-rays


 Fillings


 Crowns

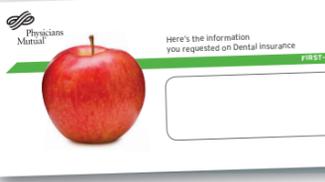

 Dentures

- ◆ Preventive care starts right away
- ◆ Helps cover over 350 services
- ◆ Go to any dentist you want - but save more with one in our network
- ◆ No deductible, no annual maximum

Call today for all the details.
844-903-1784

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit!

dental50plus.com/chatham



Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250O); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438/B439. 6154-0120



Bowen

Insurance Agency, Inc

We are **OPEN** and here for you.

Bowen Insurance Agency

serves Pittsboro, Chapel Hill, Siler City, and the surrounding communities.



Call Bowen Insurance Agency today for all of your insurance needs!

We specialize in homeowners, auto, and life insurance.



Jennifer McLaurin

Bowen Insurance Agency is located at:
1345 Thompson Street

Give us a call at 919-444-2499

www.boweninsurance.com



SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

JANUARY 19 - 25, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

BASKETBALL

Chatham Charter teams feeding off each other

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

teams are doing it the right way. They both go out and play hard. I think it's good for the entire school community."

Messier's squad boasts the better record of the two teams at 20-0. The Knights picked up their latest win Monday afternoon, 85-40, over Eastern Alamance.

Coming off a loss in last year's 1A state final, the Charter boys look determined to exorcise any demons they might have encountered last year during their playoff run. This year's boys have made a renewed commitment to the defensive side of the court, and through their first 20 games, the Knights have only allowed 30.1 points per game.

This is down from the 35.1 points per game Charter allowed during their 33-2 campaign last winter. The Knights are also averaging more points on the offensive end at 74.0 per game, which is the best mark in the entire county so far this winter.

"Defense continues to be

our focus. We work on offense, but we trust our guys when it comes to offense. Obviously, we have a really good point guard (sophomore Beau Harvey) who can run our team on the offensive end."

Entering Monday's game, four Chatham Charter boys — senior Adam Harvey (16.4), sophomore Brennen Oldham (10.0), senior Aamir Mapp (10.0) and sophomore Beau Harvey (9.0) were averaging at least nine points per game.

While they suffered a 49-34 loss to Eastern Alamance on Monday, the Chatham Charter girls are still among the top teams in Chatham County so far this season. Prior to Monday's loss, the Knights had won six straight games under head coach Jeff Patterson.

Unlike the boys team, the Charter girls have a clear star leading the way in senior Tamaya Walden, who is averaging 20.5 points, 3.6 rebounds, 4.7 assists and 3.5 steals per game

See **CHARTER**, page B2



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter sophomore Brennen Oldham (42) dunks the ball in a win over Roxboro Community last Thursday.

INDOOR TRACK

Seaforth, Northwood brave cold at Polar Bear meet

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Across the long indoor track season, different meets serve different purposes. Some are tune-ups. Some are low stakes. But every meet serves as an opportunity for athletes to continue growing.

This was exactly the goal of the East Chapel Hill Polar Bear No. 3, at which Northwood and Seaforth both participated this past Saturday. While neither the Chargers nor the Hawks were at full strength, both saw their athletes take home at least one first-place finish in an event.

Northwood, which competes at the 3A level, has aspirations of winning a state championship, especially on the boys side.

The Chargers are known for their prowess in the distance events. Northwood's 4x800 team of Noah Nielson, Jackson Adams, Trey Hudson and Christian Glick ran the second-best time of any 3A team this season at 8:19.95. Nielson also has the third-fastest 1,000-meter time in 3A this season (2:38.34), while Glick is fifth in the 3,200-meter race at 9:40.36.

But without those four runners Saturday, the Chargers still managed to finish second in the boys compe-



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Seaforth sophomore Will Cuicchi won the 1,000-meter race and was part of the 4x800 relay team that finished third at Saturday's East Chapel Hill Polar Bear Meet No. 3.

tion. This was thanks in part to a huge day from senior Jack Nicholson, who took first place in the triple jump with a distance of 39-01.00 and second in the long jump with a distance of 18-07.00.

"In the jumping events, Jack really shines for us," said Northwood

coach Cameron Isenhour. "He was our MVP last year, and he's trying to help us out at the state meet this year."

Northwood sophomore Luke Waldstein also won an individual

See **TRACK**, page B4

Do as the athletes do



BEN RAPPAPORT
Columnist

In Ancient Rome, aspiring politicians and wealthy elite looking to climb the social ladder would host Munera games to honor their deceased relatives. As the empire grew, so did the popularity of these games and the elite would use them to curry political favor among the Romans.

Sport, to the Roman elite, was a political and social tool to display power and wealth.

Modern sport and the media have used this model as well, using sport as a game for the wealthy at the expense of those looking for an escape from their dire situations.

Gladiators in the arena were often prisoners of war or people of lower social class looking for a way out. Their social class was called *infames*, literally infamous, because their lives were seen as a service to others. It was a social class dedicated for those using their bodies in service of entertainment. Ironically, they would choose this gladiatorial lifestyle because it presented a chance at fame and freedom.

Sport always deeply reflects society. Athletics tell us what and who we value as a culture and hold a mirror as a microcosm of societal issues and debates.

In this way, sports are, and always will be, a political endeavor. The endurance of that sentiment is what makes recent developments from the governing bodies of international sports especially troubling.

Last week, the governing body of Formula 1 racing, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), stated that Formula 1 drivers must not use their platform to make statements for their own "personal agenda." This includes personal, political and religious statements. Unless the FIA grants approval in writing, drivers who make such statements will now be in breach of the rules.

This move by the FIA is only the latest in the sport to attempt to silence the platforms of its athletes.

I'm well aware the readers of Chatham County are likely not avid F1 fans the way I am (trust me, watch "Drive to Survive" on Netflix and you'll be a convert, too). But there's a much larger point to be made here and it goes well beyond motor racing.

The same quelling of political dissent was seen at the 2022 Qatar World Cup, where International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) scolded players and teams for attempting to wear LGBTQ+ armbands. There, FIFA said the 32 national soccer teams should "focus on the football."

The armbands were meant to show concern about Qatar's human rights record through a collective gesture during international matches. Seven European teams had agreed to wear the bands to "use the power of football to promote inclusion and send a message against

See **F1**, page B4

BOYS BASKETBALL

Whitaker doing a bit of everything

BY SHELBY SWANSON
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — After the Northwood boys basketball team's resounding 67-23 win over Jordan-Matthews on Saturday night, Chargers head coach Matt Brown wasn't shy in his praise for his team's point guard.

"I feel like he's one of many backbones for us," Brown said. "He controls the tempo. He does a lot of the things that a lot of the other people can't do. I feel like he's one of the point guards in the state, for his class."

A 5-foot-9 guard in the Class of 2024, Whitaker is the Chargers' very own Swiss Army knife. He does a little bit of everything for Northwood — pushing the pace, distributing to Northwood's top scorers and serving as a vocal leader on the court. From his on-ball defense, and his own ability to handle pressure as Northwood's primary ball handler, he has been a key player for the Chargers this season.

Whitaker, who isn't exactly known for his scoring prowess, can also step up for

See **WHITAKER**, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Fred Whitaker (0) calls out a play to his teammates in the Chargers' win over Jordan-Matthews on Saturday.

SCORES AND SCHEDULES

SCORES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Girls basketball

Chatham Charter 45, Clover Garden 37
Woods Charter 56, River Mill 22

Boys basketball

Chatham Charter 98, Clover Garden 18
River Mill 58, Woods Charter 48

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Girls basketball

Chatham Charter 55, Roxboro 35

Boys basketball

Chatham Charter 86, Roxboro Community 28

Swimming

Northwood boys place 1st and girls place 2nd at meet against Orange and Western Alamance.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Girls basketball

Northwood 59, Eastern Alamance 20
Bartlett Yancey 46, Chatham Central 38
Seaforth 54, Graham 18
Chatham Central 63, Southern Wake Academy 12

Boys basketball

Northwood 47, Eastern Alamance 31
Bartlett Yancey 58, Chatham Central 46
Seaforth 75, Graham 48
Chatham Central 72, Southern Wake Academy 16

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Girls basketball

Northwood 62, Jordan-Matthews 2

Boys basketball

Northwood 67, Jordan-Matthews 23
First Flight 87, Seaforth 59

Indoor Track

At East Chapel Hill Polar Meet No. 3, Northwood finish 2nd in boys and 6th in girls. Seaforth finishes 6th in boys and 7th in girls.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Girls basketball

Eastern Alamance 49, Chatham Charter 35

Boys basketball

Chatham Charter 85, Eastern Alamance 40

SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Girls basketball

Northwood at Western Alamance (5:30 p.m.)
Chatham Central at North Moore (6 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews vs. Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.)
Woods Charter at Clover Garden (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Northwood at Western Alamance (7 p.m.)
Chatham Central at North Moore (7:30 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews vs. Bartlett Yancey (7:30 p.m.)
Woods Charter at Clover Garden (7:30 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Indoor track

Mid-Carolina Conference Championships at Cummings High (3:30 p.m.)

Wrestling

Northwood at Western Alamance (6 p.m.)
Seaforth at Bartlett Yancey (7:30 p.m.)
Chatham Central vs. Jordan-Matthews and North Moore (6 p.m.)

Girls basketball

Seaforth at North Moore (6 p.m.)
Chatham Central at Triangle Math & Science (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Seaforth at North Moore (7:30 p.m.)
Chatham Central at Triangle Math & Science (7:30 p.m.)

p.m.)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Girls basketball

Chatham Central vs. Jordan-Matthews (6:30 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Chatham Central at Triangle Math & Science (7:30 p.m.)

Wrestling

Chatham Charter at Uwharrie Charter (5 p.m.)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

Girls basketball

Northwood at Williams (6 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Cummings (6 p.m.)
Chatham Central at Graham (6 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews at North Moore (6 p.m.)
Chatham Charter vs. Woods Charter (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Northwood at Williams (7:30 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Cummings (7:30 p.m.)
Chatham Central at Graham (7:30 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews at North Moore (7:30 p.m.)
Chatham Charter vs. Woods Charter (7:30 p.m.)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Indoor track

Northwood at Fast Track High School Invitational at JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem (10 a.m.)

Seaforth at East Chapel Hill Polar No. 4 (10 a.m.)

Wrestling

Mid-Carolina Conference Tournament at Bartlett Yancey High (TBA)

Girls basketball

Northwood vs. New Hanover (2 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Northwood vs. New Hanover (7:30 p.m.)



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter junior Delana Loflin (14) is averaging 9.1 points, 4.1 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game so far this season.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter senior Tamaya Walden (4) scored 29 points in a win over Roxboro Community last Thursday.

CHARTER

Continued from page B1

this season. Walden has scored at least 15 points in every game this season and has eclipsed the 25-point mark four times.

The two other players averaging at least eight points per game are juniors Meah Brooks (11.3) and Delana Loflin (8.9). For the season, Chatham Charter is shooting less than 40% from the field and under 25% from the 3-point line, but they find ways to win thanks to some inspired play on the defensive end.

The Charter girls are allowing their opponents an average of 35.2 points per game this winter. Last season, that number sat at 38.4. Last year's Chatham Charter girls went 19-9 overall and made it to the second round of the playoffs

before falling to Clover Garden School.

Both teams' schedules the next several weeks will feature games against conference opponents, but one big matchup with a county team looms Feb. 11, when the Knights will hit the road to play Seaforth. The Seaforth girls are currently 12-2, while the boys are 10-5.

While his team definitely has that matchup circled, Messier has drilled his team about staying focused and taking care of business in league play in the time between now and the team's regular season finale.

"We've talked a little bit about Seaforth, just that they're out there going forward, but we don't overlook the other opponents we still have on our schedule," Messier said. "We know we have a job to take care of. Even

though we had success against our conference opponents last year, it just takes one bad game where nothing goes your way, and the other team plays as well as they've ever played. Those are

kind of the challenges of playing the right way."

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



Animal Resources

Low Cost Spay / Neuter - Only \$20

Qualified applicants may purchase vouchers to use at participating pet clinics. Submit applications to:

Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center

725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Phone: 919-542-7203 | [facebook.com/chathamsoar](https://www.facebook.com/chathamsoar)

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm, Closed Sun.

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

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

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



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



CLIPBOARD Q&A | BRETT WALDEN

Walden, Central baseball ready to roll

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

After starting the 2022 season 3-5, the Chatham Central baseball team rallied to win seven of its final 10 regular season games last spring and eliminate Jordan-Matthews in the Mid-Carolina Conference tournament.

The Bears really turned in heads in the playoffs, however. After entering the 1A tournament as the No. 21 seed in the east region, Central won its first three playoff games before falling to Perquimans. The Bears scored at least 11 runs in each of their three playoff wins. Over the off-season, head coach Brett Walden's team graduated

three seniors, including Collin Lagenor, who led the team in batting average (.439), hits (36) and RBI (27) last season while starting at catcher. Chatham Central's top returners at the plate this season are senior Hasten Paige, who hit .395 with 34 hits and 14 RBI last spring, and sophomore shortstop Matthew Murchison, who hit .419 with

31 hits and 25 RBI. On the mound, the Bears top returning pitcher is junior Anthony Lopossay, who was 7-1 with a 0.72 ERA and 63 strikeouts across 48.1 innings last season. Walden spoke with the News & Record this week about his team's playoff run last spring and his expectations for the upcoming 2023 season.



Submitted photo

Brett Walden

third of the year because Collin had an injured shoulder. We moved him to DH after that. So he has experience at the plate, and he caught most of our second-round game last year in the playoffs. I also think we'll be really good up the middle. Matt Murchison at short and Wesley Clewis at second. When Clewis isn't pitching, he'll be at second most likely. The outfield should be really good. Defensively, we should be really good. I'm just concerned about how things are going to go offensively and if we're going to hit enough. Early on in the season, the pitchers are normally a little further along than the hitters.

Murchison and Zane Overman combined for 54 hits as freshman last season. What was it like having them come into the team and make an impact as early as they did?

Last year, if we were going to be any good at all, the freshmen had to produce. We threw them out there in different positions. DH'd them early. Pitched a little bit early. Matt, we had him at first base to start, but around the second Jordan-Matthews game, we switched him to short, and he's stayed there since. We don't plan to do anything else with him this year. And he should play every inning for us, unless there's a blowout or something like that.

Are there any players who were on JV last year that you expect to compete at the varsity level this year?

It's hard to say. Our numbers are down overall, so we've been practicing together. We'll say, "O.K., here are our varsity starters," and

then we'll grab a few guys to throw on the bench so we have some subs. Our better underclassmen we have pretty much already brought up, so I don't see any individual getting a ton of time on varsity that played JV last year right now, barring an injury.

Northwood is coming down to 2A next year and will compete in a conference with you, Seaforth and Jordan-Matthews. What was your reaction to the news, and what do you think this will do for county athletics going forward?

The ADM, we're at 376 or somewhere around there. North Moore is in the 600s and everybody else is 700 plus. Other than North Moore, ADM-wise, every other school is twice or three times as big as us. I was kind of shocked, honestly, that Northwood would go down. I know numbers-wise, they'll probably go right back up in two years. But those are things are out of our control. You also have the new school in Alamance County coming in, South east Alamance. That's a good baseball area too. I think our conference will be good at the top this year, but I think next year it will be really competitive up and down. We have no control over those kinds of decisions. The next realignment, I expect we'll be with Seaforth. Jordan-Matthews is over .900 now. Who knows what the next realignment will bring, but I expect the next two years to be really competitive. I think Seaforth is a team that will be really good in a year or two. I'm glad we got them early last year. I think they could be pretty good this year too.

Last year, your team had a successful season, going 14-11 overall, 5-3 in conference play and reaching the fourth round of the state playoffs. What was it like watching things unfold the way they did last spring?

BRETT WALDEN: We were really young. We lost a lot of seniors entering in the season. We only had three seniors on the team last year. They were an important three. Our best pitcher was a sophomore, and our No. 2 and No. 3 were a sophomore and freshman. We were extremely young in a lot of spots. We pitched a pretty good schedule, both in conference and non-conference. Our conference, at the top, was really good. North Moore was really good, senior-heavy. Jordan-Matthews was pretty good. We played a good schedule. What you don't want to have happen is, when you get to the playoffs, see something that you haven't seen all year. I always try to have a challenging but balanced schedule.

The biggest thing for us was, we didn't hit very well most of the season outside of one through four, but when we got to the playoffs, we started hitting at the bottom. I thought that was the difference.

You mentioned only graduating three seniors from last year's team. What is it like bringing back so much talent from last season, including most of your top pitchers?

We're really excited about this season. We return, essentially, all our pitching. We have a big hole to fill behind the plate with Collin Lagenor graduating. That's a huge loss. He hit around .440 last year and was a really good defensive catcher. He'll be tough to replace, but Travis Crissman caught a little bit for us last year. He'll probably be our catcher this year as a senior. Two year ago, he caught the first

Council on Aging Weekly Activities Calendar

Monday, January 23

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)
- 10 a.m. - Geri-Fit Part 2 w/ Jackie
- 11 a.m. - Bingocize
- 11:15 a.m. - Chair Volleyball w/Wynne
- 2 p.m. - Table Tennis
- 6 p.m. - Caregiver Virtual Support Group (via Zoom, RSVP by noon to William Riggsbee)

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 2 p.m. - Strength & Tone

Tuesday, January 24

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - 3G's Men's Group
- 10 a.m. - Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joe & Coffee
- 1 p.m. - Rummikub
- 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. - Ping Pong
- 1 p.m. - Rook/Phase 10/Rummikub; Book Club; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering

Wednesday, January 25

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom); Choir to Siler City
- 11 a.m. - Bingocize
- 1 p.m. - Open Art Studio
- 2 p.m. - Team Building & Challenge Activities w/Alan

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. - Gospel Choir
- 1 p.m. - Cornhole
- 2 p.m. - Crafting w/Kathryn (Custom Key Chains)

Thursday, January 26

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
- 10 a.m. - Crafts and Conversation
- 11 a.m. - Science w/Alan
- 1 p.m. - Board Games & Cards
- 2 p.m. - Bowling @ Buffaloe Lanes, Cary
- 3 p.m. - Gentle Yoga w/Liz

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. - Men's Coffee & Conversations
- 10 a.m. - Music Jam Session
- 1 p.m. - Book Club
- 2 p.m. - Tai Chi
- 3 p.m. - Trivia

Friday, January 27

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 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! ("Live With Larry - Music of 50s and 60s")

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 9:30 a.m. - Blood Pressure Checks
- 10 a.m. - Muffins with the Manager
- 7 p.m. - Friday Night Dance (fee required to attend)



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

Eastern Chatham Senior Center
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center
919-742-3975

Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org

AT YOUR Service



THIS SPOT CAN BE YOURS!

Call Advertising @ 919-663-3232

Bob Atkinson, GRI, CRS, E-PRO
Homes-Land-Investments
C: 919-362-6999
LearnAboutLand.com
Atkinson Properties Group
bobatkinson321@gmail.com

TREE MASTERS
• Brush Chipping
• Tree Climbing • Stump Removal
• Free Estimates
(919) 775-7408
Tommy Dunigan Cell: (919) 548-3542

D & G PLUMBING
Plumbing Problems?
Commercial and Residential Installation and Service
Located in Siler City
Locally Owned and Operated by Greg and Donna Kennedy
Licensed and Insured
Office: 919-742-4587 Cell: 919-427-2374

JHJ Painting & Power Washing
"We Specialize in All Your Painting & Power Washing Needs"
Deck Washing, Renewal & Repair • Window Washing & Install
Carpentry • Door Install • Other Small Repairs
John Hayes, Jr • 919-548-0474

ASHEBORO TIE YARDS, INC
Beautiful Yards Start Here!
Mushroom Compost • Shredded Hardwood Mulch
Pine Mini Nuggets • Brick Chips • Sand • Top Soil
Black, Brown & Red Mulch • White Pea Gravel • Railroad Ties
205 Hanner Town Rd. Bear Creek
(2 miles South of Bonlee on Old 421)
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM - 4 PM, Fri. 7 AM - 12 PM
(919) 837-2822 • We Deliver!

FIND THE HELP YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

Chatham News + Record **Local Service Directory**

NORTHWOOD 62, JORDAN-MATTHEWS 2

Bland playing, thriving through pain for Northwood girls

BY SHELBY SWANSON
News + Record
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — On Saturday, Northwood junior Skylar Adams played with a bandage on her left hand. She's been playing with a broken finger for a while now. Senior Te'Keyah Bland remembers when Adams first injured her finger in a 54-40 loss to Millbrook earlier this season. She remembers how her younger teammate fought through the pain and played the remainder of the game. After Northwood's win over Jordan-Matthews on Saturday, Bland applauded Adams' efforts once again. "She's still playing," Bland said. "She just tapes it up." If you were in attendance at the Northwood girls' basketball team's 62-2 defeat of Jordan-Matthews, you probably didn't see much of Adams. She only had two points in the game. However, the junior led the team in assists — a testament to Adam's versatility and constant contribution to the Chargers' success. "Skylar is doing a really good job for us in a lot of areas," Northwood head coach Kerri Snipes

said. "She'll bring the ball up for us. She will be a guard on the wing. She's done a really good job of attacking but then she's also got a good outside shot as well." While Snipes will tell you that Adams is "not scared to shoot it, even from deep" and that she's "got a good-looking shot," this confidence took nearly an entire offseason of encouragement. After serving as an integral defender in Northwood's 3A state championship run as a sophomore, Adams knew she had to do more her junior year. "Last year I would always guard (the opponent's) best player and was mainly focused on getting defensive stops," Adams said. "But this year, losing all the seniors we lost, I knew I had to step up and score a few more points than last year." Adams said she draws inspiration from older teammates Bland and Gianna McManaman, as well as many of the seniors on last year's roster. In particular, the advice of recent graduate Olivia Porter stuck out to Adams. Porter averaged 18 points per game last season and is a current first-year on the Michigan State women's basketball team.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood freshman Shaylah Glover shoots a free throw in the Chargers' 62-2 win over Jordan-Matthews on Saturday.

"Olivia always told me to keep shooting it even when my shots weren't falling," Adams said. "Everyone was just encouraging me." Adams, who averaged nearly seven points per game as a sophomore, is now averaging nearly 10 in her junior campaign. "She's definitely taking more shots and I think that's great," McManaman said. "She's taking more threes. I love that. In practice she's killing me in threes. She's been

shooting really well." Adam's rebounding (3.5 per game) and block (0.5) stats have also improved — a testament to the increased aggressiveness her teammates have praised her for. The same exact vigor is applied to Adams' dribble drive, which McManaman described as "slimy." While Adams was rather quiet on Saturday, she's put her "slimy" skills on display when they mattered, such as her last-ditch efforts against Millbrook.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Skylar Adams (22) is averaging 9.8 points and 3.5 rebounds per game so far this season.

In the very same game in which Adams broke her finger, she carried the energy of the Chargers in the final stretch. With a varied arsenal of spin moves, Adams either got to the rim for a lay-up or was fouled and sent to the line. Despite the ultimate outcome of the game, Adams ended with 14 points in a game in which she broke her finger. Regardless of injuries or nagging pains, Adams is dedicated to fulfilling her expectations as a

scorer for the Chargers. She also knows that next year, the departure of Bland and McManaman will force her to make yet another jump. "I'll probably have to step up even more next year," Adams said. "Definitely getting my teammates involved but scoring enough for myself where we can get a win at the end of the game." And if you ask Adams, she's more than ready to follow in her older teammates' footsteps and "put on a show."

TRACK

Continued from page B1

event, taking the boys high jump with a height of 5-06.00. The Chargers hope both Waldstein and Nicholson can aid them when they finally compete at the state championships next month. For Seaforth boys coach Tommy Johnson, the entire indoor season has acted as a teaching opportunity. Only competing for the second season as a program after opening in 2021, the Hawks are underclassmen heavy and are still trying to find their sea legs in the greater North Carolina track landscape. That said, Seaforth doesn't lack talent. That much was clear Saturday, as sophomore Will Cuicchi won the 1,000-meter race in a time of 2:48.06. Cuicchi was also part of the Hawks' 4x800 relay team

that placed third in a time of 9:17.64. Fellow sophomore Jack Anstrom, the reigning 2A cross country champion, was also present at Saturday's meet, but not in his usual capacity. After competing with the 4x800 relay team, Anstrom took some time to do a tempo run. The sophomore is expected to challenge for a state championship in the 3,200-meter race after finishing third in last year's 1A/2A state championship meet. "I think what was really exciting about the meet on Saturday was, after doing the time trials just over a month ago, a lot of our new athletes, a lot of our 9th graders, were a handful of seconds faster in their sprints and sometimes full minutes faster in their distance events," Johnson said. "It's cool for them to see how fitness begins to build."

From here, both Seaforth and Northwood have a handful of events remaining before the state championships, which take place Feb. 11 in Winston-Salem. Both teams will be in action again this upcoming weekend. Seaforth will compete at the Mid-Carolina Conference championships against local programs Chatham Central and Jordan-Matthews, while Northwood will split its time between the East Chapel Hill Polar Bear No. 4 and the Fast Track HS Invitational in Winston-Salem. "Everybody has a lot of confidence," Johnson said. "Now, the focus is how far beyond qualifying marks can we get for some of them that have already qualified for regionals." *Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_ernon.*

WHITAKER

Continued from page B1

Northwood as a shooter when needed, as seen in an 18-point performance to help take down Millbrook in December's Dexter Cooley Showcase. Breakout moments like this shouldn't be a surprise to anybody who's kept up with the Chargers, as Whitaker averaged more than 13 points per game last season. However, in his junior campaign, Whitaker has put much more emphasis on his role as a facilitator. "He knows where to get the ball and who to get it to," Brown said. "Whether it's Drake (Powell), Max (Frazier) or Kenan (Parrish) he can see the mismatches, he can see the key points on our offense, and again, he's a vital role." While Saturday's defeat of the Jets wasn't exactly a litmus test for Whitaker, he

put his skills on display, recording multiple one-handed assists. His court vision was perhaps most obvious in a connection with senior center Kenan Parrish in the first half. With three minutes remaining before halftime, Whitaker saw Parrish trailing behind. Instead of generating a quick offensive sequence, Whitaker was patient. "I just waited a little bit," Whitaker said. "Then I saw him go to the basket and I just gave it to him. He was wide-open." After receiving the ball in the middle of the paint, Parrish rose up for an emphatic one-handed slam. Soon, the Chargers were up 41-9 at the half. "With Fred being the floor general, it's so easy for us — me and Kenan — to score around the paint," Northwood senior forward Max Frazier said. "He finds us, like I don't know how he finds us (sometimes)." Junior shooting guard

Drake Powell, bursting into the postgame interviews taking place on Saturday, voiced his agreement with Frazier, adding: "Fred sees things that other point guards might not see." These words of support aren't just fluff. Whitaker's stats back it up. Through 15 games this season, the junior is averaging a team-high 3.9 assists per game to go with 8.2 points and 1.4 steals. Whitaker, on the other hand, isn't one to brag. He said he's developed into more of a facilitator this season because his teammates have gotten better. He's a vocal leader because Coach Brown has been encouraging this since he was a freshman. It's easy for Whitaker to take charge on the court because "everybody likes each other on the team." He doesn't even know what to attribute his court vision to, besides "maybe just watching film a lot".

F1

Continued from page B1

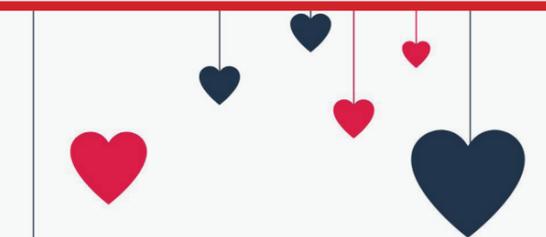
discrimination of any kind as the eyes of the world fall on the global game," according to a statement from the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA). Time and time again we see governing bodies, sports media and the general public fawn over the capabilities of athletes to perform at their sport. But when it comes to using that platform to advance social change or advocate for a cause, they're told, as Fox News host Laura Ingraham infamously put it, to "shut up and dribble." This isn't the first time Mohammed Ben Sulayem, president of the FIA and a former rally driver from the United Arab Emirates, has attempted to assert his dominance over F1 drivers and teams, and the importance of his organization. In recent years, the relevance of the FIA has been called into question as they impose unpopular regulations on

and off track. For example, in 2020 — when Ben Sulayem was vice president of the FIA — seven-time world champion and arguably the sport's most popular driver, Lewis Hamilton, publicly advocated for F1 to do more around the Black Lives Matter movement. Before the Tuscan Grand Prix that year he wore a shirt that read "Arrest The Cops Who Killed Breonna Taylor" and "Say Her Name" during the national anthem. He was condemned by the FIA for "failure to follow the instructions of the relevant officials for the safe and orderly conduct of the event." Five-time world champion Sebastian Vettel has been similarly condemned by the FIA in recent years for wearing clothing advocating for climate change-related issues and equality for LGBTQ+ individuals. Whether you are a fan of the sport or not, there is no denying F1 drivers, World Cup soccer players and athletes of all kinds stand atop an international platform with the

power to make change. When that platform is deliberately knocked down by those in more powerful positions, it sends a clear message about the values of those higher-ups — and our society writ large. Power in sports still lies in the hands of those with money — the elites. Speaking out through t-shirts, armbands, interviews or other political actions threatens the power of those elites and calls into question the systems which support its persistence. I'd like to think society has morally progressed beyond Ancient Roman blood sport. We no longer see public executions in massive stadiums or sword fights to the death in broad daylight. And yet, we are still relying on those same values to shape our current athletic world. Rather than doing as the Romans did, we must center control of the narrative around those who capture our attention — the gladiators who risk their lives in race cars, the soccer pitch and beyond for the love of the game.

It is then that we will see athletes for all that they are: not just playmakers, but changemakers. *Reporter Ben Rappaport*

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



THE PITTSBORO ROTARY CLUB

Valentine's

Virtual Bingo Fundraiser

Thursday, February 9 at 7pm

All Proceeds Benefit The Karen Sbrollini Heilman Scholarship for Local High School Seniors

1 Bingo Card=\$10
3 Bingo Cards=\$25

REGISTER ONLINE OR SCAN QR CODE



Sponsored by



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



Commissioners define priorities for new year

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners gathered at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center for a three-day annual retreat last week to define their priorities for the new year.

Throughout the entire-day meetings, commissioners covered a variety of topics including school funding, budgeting and potential trends for the upcoming year.

While few votes were taken during the meeting, the gathering provided an inside look at the board's goals and where it wants to prioritize funding in the Fiscal Year 2023-24

cycle.

Here's a roundup of what happened at the retreat:

Day 1: Setting expectations

The first day of the retreat saw commissioners meet with members from the UNC School of Government to set expectations for the ways county staff would work with commissioners.

The discussion largely focused on the role of staff and how they inform the commissioners of operations. Commissioners asked several questions about seeing performance indicators from county departments.

VinFast Drive

Before the commis-

sioner retreat began, commissioners approved a consent agenda item, meaning it was approved without discussion, to rename a roadway in Moncure. The 1.6-mile private road off Old U.S. Hwy. 1 will be the entryway to the VinFast facility and was appropriately renamed VinFast Drive.

Chatham County Schools update

Commissioners also heard a presentation from Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. He shared the progress of the district including the growth seen in the district's test scores, which exceeded state averages in nearly every category. Jackson also lauded the relationship between the schools

and the commissioners. He pointed to high supplement to the school district from the commissioners, which ranks among the highest in the region.

Tony Messer, CCS's chief financial officer, also shared a presentation with commissioners about the financial expectations of the district in 2023. Messer also told commissioners that because of their support of CCS, the system ranks sixth in the state in county funding at \$3,998 per pupil, and an increase of 13.2% from the previous year. Messer also discussed the strong standing of the district's financials including that CCS hasn't had audit findings or compliance issues in the last 11 years.

For Fiscal Year 2023-24, Messer shared the district will also seek a county funding request of \$4,995,200 in the Fiscal Year 2023-24. The request includes increased funding for employee supplements, compensation and benefit increases, and post-COVID program sustainability costs.

A presentation from Tony Messer, chief financial officer of Chatham County Schools, shared during the annual retreat on Tuesday shows the breakdown of the district's request for increased funding from the Chatham Board of Commissioners in the 2023-24 Fiscal Year.

Defining goals and priorities

As commissioners continued to set expectations, they further defined their goals for the new year. That definition began by examining the goals for the county as defined by the 2017 Land Use Plan, Plan Chatham.

The goals in that plan included the following:

1. Preserving rural character
2. Managing growth and focusing on quality growth near towns and centers
3. Creating jobs and economic opportunity throughout the County
4. Preserving the natural environment and agriculture
5. Conserve natural resources
6. Provide recreational opportunities and access to open space
7. Provide infrastructure to support desired development and support economic and environmental objectives
8. Become more resilient by mitigating, responding and adapting to emerg-

- ing threats
9. Provide equitable access to high-quality education, housing and community options for all
10. Foster a healthy community

HR and hiring challenges

Assistant Human Resources Director Courtney Jones shared the status of hiring and benefits in Chatham County. She said the county is struggling to fill necessary positions right now and has been forced to take an active approach to recruiting. The HR department has begun finding candidates on social media job sites like LinkedIn, Handshake and Indeed.

In 2022, Chatham County employees had a 22% turnover rate, up from 12% the previous two years. The high turnover rate coupled with an increased desire for remote work opportunities has forced the county to get creative with its hiring and recruitment.

The county has altered its benefit offers in the past two years. Those additions include a 5% increase in 401k retirement plans for all employees, increased hybrid work plans, and even a free subscription to Headspace — a meditation and mindfulness app.

Day 2: Budget goals

The second day of retreat saw commissioners dig into the nitty-gritty details of local policy and assess where they'd like to spend the county budget in the coming fiscal year. While no formal votes were taken, commissioners heard from a variety of town staff about programs ranging from arts to solid waste.

Collaborative Impact Teams

The day began with a presentation about the importance of Collaborative Impact Teams (CITs), which are comprised of all county departments and various complementary community agencies that meet to discuss common issues and develop collaborative solutions or ideas that align with organizational and community needs and various goals of Plan Chatham. County staff informed commissioners that the original idea of CITs remains the same, but their goals have changed slightly as the county evolves and the goals of Plan Chatham shift over time.

CITs are also the basis for what Chatham calls its "Heads-Up" process, which is how the county determines its budget priorities.

Common identified pri-

orities through Heads-Up included culture & recreation, human services, natural resource management and public safety. Some priorities also carry over from the previous fiscal year including a focus on legislative impacts, equity, access to technology and mental health.

Discussion of Fiscal Year 2024 budget priorities showed that Chatham is a growing county with a population that expects more and higher

quality services. To provide those services the county departments believe they must collaborate and work on continuous process improvement.

The final recommended budget for FY 2023-24 won't be delivered until May.

Solid Waste Fees

County staff are proposing an annual increase in Solid Waste Fees between \$12 and \$20. The pay increase would help boost annual revenues from the fund.

The current fee of \$125 is charged to all landowners with dwellings in unincorporated areas of the county.

For FY 2022-23, \$3,430,500 is budgeted for revenues from the solid waste fee from unincorporated residents. This number is based on the fee being paid by approximately 27,444 households paying the \$125 fee.

The proposed fee increase also ensures revenues and expenses for the Solid Waste and Recycling Department are equal or profitable as the population of the county increases.

Occupancy Taxes

Commissioners also debated the potential impact of increasing the occupancy tax rate. The rate has remained steady at 3% since it was first levied in 1994. Increasing the rate could lead to more revenues for promoting tourism in the county and keep Chatham aligned with neighboring counties like Randolph and Wake. On the contrary, increasing the tax gives the county less overall control on how that revenue is used and current stakeholders like owners/operators that will charge the additional tax are unlikely to see marked growth in relation to the tax increase.

Arts programming

Public arts displays and events focused on celebrating local artists highlighted the goals for Arts in Chatham in the short term. County staff shared examples of public art pieces and events in Raleigh, Cary and Person County as reasons for commissioners to provide funding for these displays in Chatham. Staff said the county could explore art opportunities in parks, community centers and schools. With this increased focus on the arts, staff recommended the approval of the name change from Chatham County Parks & Recreation to the Chatham County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. They said the name change would "allow people to envision themselves participating in services beyond the traditional idea of only art."

Commissioners met again on Tuesday, Jan. 17, which was after publication deadline. A recap of that meeting will be online at chathamnewsrecord.com later this week and in next week's print edition. For more information visit www.chathamcountync.gov/government/board-of-commissioners.

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

Worried About Inflation? Consider These Moves

As you know, inflation was big news throughout 2022. But will it continue in 2023? And looking even further ahead, how should you account for inflation in your long-term plans?

In regard to the first question, many experts predict that inflation will cool off this year, though there are no guarantees. The high inflation of last year is thought to have been caused by some unusual factors, such as a spike in the demand for consumer goods as the world came out of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to supply chain issues. Also, the war in Ukraine drove up oil prices, increasing the cost of manufacturing and shipping and driving up the price of wheat and other commodities.

In any case, last year reminded us that inflation needs to be reckoned with as you work toward your financial goals. But how you respond to inflation will depend somewhat on your stage of life. So, here are some suggestions to consider:

If you're still working ...

• *Contribute more to your retirement plans.* If you can afford to put more money away in your IRA and 401(k), you may want to do so. The more resources you'll eventually have available in retirement, the better protected you are against the rising cost of living.

• *Adjust your portfolio objectives with your financial professional.* Using tools such as "hypothetical" illustrations, a financial professional can show you some different paths you might take with your investments, given different rates of inflation. So, for example, if you feel that inflation may be higher for a longer period than you once thought, you could request a hypothetical showing how you might need to adjust your investment mix to achieve

your long-term goals, given your risk tolerance and time horizon.

If you're already retired ...

• *Consider part-time work or consulting.* Once you retire from your career, it doesn't mean you can never do any paid work again. If you've accumulated years of experience and expertise, you could use your skills as a consultant. Also, many part-time jobs are available for retirees. With the added income from employment, you may be able to delay taking withdrawals from your retirement accounts and other investments, possibly extending their longevity. (Once you turn 72, though, you will need to begin taking money from your 401(k) and traditional IRA.)

• *Delay taking Social Security.* You can begin taking Social Security when you're 62, but your monthly checks will be substantially bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. (You could even wait until 70, at which point your monthly benefits will max out.) Of course, the ability to delay taking Social Security depends on whether you can afford it, but it may be possible if you work longer than you once planned or if you work part time in retirement. But even if you do need to take Social Security before your full retirement age, your payments will be adjusted annually for inflation — in fact, for 2023, benefit checks will rise 8.7% over 2022.

We'll always have to deal with some level of inflation — so it's a good idea to be prepared.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Pittsboro
Chad Virgil, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®
630 East St Suite 2
919-545-5669

Governors Club
Sharon A Dickens, AAMS®
50101 Governors Dr Suite 118
919-967-9968

Pittsboro
Lee Shanklin, AAMS®
120 Lowes Drive Suite 107
919-545-0125

Penguin Place
Eric C Williams, AAMS®
114 Russet Run Suite 120
919-542-3020

Pittsboro
Kevin C Maley, AAMS®
984 Thompson St Suite E2
919-444-2961

Chapel Hill
Jessica L Villagrana, CFP®
180 Providence Rd
Suite 1c
984-219-6635

Siler City
Laura Clapp, CFP®, AAMS™
301 E Raleigh St
919-663-1051

Pittsboro
Stephen Cornwell, AAMS™
984 Thompson Street, Suite E2
Pittsboro, NC 27312
(919) 444-2961 Office

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

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

edwardjones.com Member SIPC

CHATHAM IS BOLD!



POLICE REPORTS

FROM CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Jan. 4, Fernando Jorge Guzman Perez, 27, of homeless, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for indecent liberties with child, first degree statutory sex offense, felony child abuse involving a sexual act and crime against nature. He was issued a \$375,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 4.

On Jan. 4, Santiago Deferia Garcia, 30, of 507 Dalton Drive, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Alberto 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 Jan. 4, Dylan Martin, 27, of homeless, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Zackary Gross for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 24.

On Jan. 5, Jeremy Lenel Palmer, 39, of 915 Taylors Chapel Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Amer for traf-

ficking opium or heroin, felony maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to ½ oz., and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 6, Kyuana Tena Reaves, of 215 Horton Road, Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and injury to real property. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 6, Lewis Earl Alston, of 1309 S. Port St., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for assault on a female. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 24.

On Jan. 7, Degwanus Lavon Brown, of 1005 Glenmont Road, Winston-Salem, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for fleeing to elude arrest in a motor vehicle, failure to heed light or siren, expired registration card/tag, driving while license revoked, speeding and reckless driving to endanger.

He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 8, Shelton Lamont Bethea, 55, of 1100 Alma St., Durham, was arrested by Deputy Paul Durazo for possession of stolen motor vehicle and possession of stolen goods/property. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 9, Degwanus Lavon Brown, 42, of 1005 Glenmont Road, Winston-Salem, was arrested by Deputy Durazo for fleeing to elude arrest in a motor vehicle, driving while license revoked, resisting public officer, speeding, driving left of center and two counts of failure to stop for a stop sign/flashing red light. He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Moore County District Court on Feb. 1.

On Jan. 10, Thomas Andrew Fore, 42, of 2363 Sheriff Johnson Road, Lillington, was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for obtaining property by false pretenses and two counts of larceny. He was issued a \$24,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham

County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 10, Trevor Jeremiah Matthews, 24, of 7155 Silk Hope Liberty Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Welch for assault on a female, injury to personal property and interfering with emergency communication. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 11.

On Jan. 10, William Holt Morrison, 32, of 2704 Mt View Church Road, Moncure, was arrested by SSgt. Chris Burger for two counts of Order for Arrest. He was issued a \$23,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court on Jan. 19.

On Jan. 10, Tawana Lynn Sanford, 38, 151 Elder Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Welch for misdemeanor child abuse. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 24.

Sanford was also arrested by Deputy Welch for failure to appear or comply with child support. She was issued a \$1,000 cash bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County District Court on Jan. 27.

CHATHAM CHAT | JOYCE BOULDIN FRANK

SonShine & Blessings serves county's elderly, disabled

Pittsboro native and resident Joyce Bouldin Frank's work career took her to a variety of jobs in Chatham County and then to positions in accounting and management. But sensing God had other plans for her, Frank resigned, seeking a different way to serve.

"After much prayer and lots of work," she says, "SonShine & Blessings was born."

Founded in 2004, SonShine & Blessings' mission is to "share the love of Christ with the people of our community by providing Adult Care and Transportation Services, and Music Education for all ages." This week, we speak with Frank about the work of the ministry.

She and her husband Mike are members of Emmaus Baptist Church in Pittsboro.

How did SonShine & Blessings begin?

I was an office and accounting manager in Cary when I felt the Lord leading me to do something different. After months of praying, I felt that it was time to begin a ministry that serves the elderly and disabled with their everyday needs, and their caregivers with respite care services, along with teaching music as well!

Since you started, back in 2004, has the ministry evolved in the way you originally envisioned? What changed along the way?

God always has some directional changes along the way.

Originally, we offered Christian financial counseling in addition to our other services. But after a few years, between lack of interest in the financial counseling aspect, and the elder care and music education areas growing rapidly, our board of directors decided it best to drop that part of our services.

The original vision for the elderly was respite care due to my father, Raymond Bouldin, having Alzheimer's disease. As it turned out, we've had very few actual respite care clients. Most of our clients have been elderly or disabled folk who just need extra help to stay in their homes longer and stay as independent as possible. We do a lot of house cleaning, grocery shopping, transporting clients to



Courtesy of Joyce Frank

Joyce Frank shows client Virginia Waldeck how to FaceTime with a friend from Peru.

and from doctors and the grocery store, and personal care, like help with bathing, medications, cooking, laundry and changing sheets.

Why focus your efforts on working with older adults?

I've always had a love for the elderly. When I was in elementary school, I adopted a "grandmother" in a nursing home near my home. I still remember her fondly. Her name was Mrs. Berta Dark. I would write letters for her, paint her nails, etc. I also started then (and have continued over the years) to take my flute and play for the residents. As I said earlier, my daddy had Alzheimer's. It broke my heart to see him decline mentally and to see my mama get so tired and worn out caring for him. I just wanted to be able to supply help for others in similar situations. And it's not just for older adults. We serve physically handicapped people as well.

How do you get connected to potential clients, and how do you decide how best to serve them?

Most of our clients have come by word-of-mouth: A client telling someone else about our services, then that client telling someone else, and so on. A few have been referred from the Chatham County Council on Aging or have learned about SS&B from the annual fundraising event we

held annually in Pittsboro for several years (pre-COVID) at Hwy. 55 Burgers Shakes & Fries. We're hoping to resume that event this year in April with the new owners of what is now Dillinger's. Keep your eyes and ears open for more on that!

How is your work funded?

SS&B is privately funded. We don't receive any government funding of any kind. We have set rates for our services and mileage, but they are only to value the services for IRS purposes. Funds given to charities can't be considered donations if services were rendered in return for those funds. Clients (and students) are asked to pay whatever they can afford; we don't ask regarding finances... we leave that between them and the Lord.

They don't have to pay anything if they can't afford to, and some of our clients don't. Some pay exactly the valued rate. Some pay a small lump sum, like \$25 per month, and some give generously above the valued amount. Funds given over the value are considered a donation. SS&B has received a few grants through Donor Advisor Funds, gifts from deceased clients' estates, and donations from private citizens who just want to help make a difference! Of course, the Lord is our true provider!

You've said that you do

for clients whatever you're capable of doing physically and mentally... But you also have a musical element to your work. Can you tell us about that?

One of the talents that God gave me is the gift of music. When I was praying about what God wanted me to do with my life, teaching music was part of what I felt He told me to do. I thought about all the home-schooled children and wondered how they would learn music if their parents weren't musical.

I started out holding group classes for multiple home-schooled families, which was a lot of fun and a lot of work. As it turned out, more work than I could really handle. In addition to group classes, I also taught (and still do) individual



Courtesy of Joyce Frank

Joyce Frank poses with SonShine & Blessings client George Reeves.

lessons for students of all ages. I currently have a 79-year-old student. I teach piano, guitar, banjo, flute and beginner trumpet.

What else do you want people to know about what you do?

All of us at SS&B love the Lord Jesus! Our goal is to share God's love with others while bringing some joy into their lives, either by physical assistance, simple companionship or the beauty of music. We treat our clients like they are an adopted family.

All volunteers must complete an application, have background and driving records checked, and be interviewed to be sure they have the right motives and heart for this work. Since we are a Christian ministry, and

we strive to represent Christ as His hands and feet, we require that all volunteers be Christian. We serve — and teach — anyone, regardless of race, religion, nationality or gender. We are here to serve. The Lord will provide the funds needed to cover expenses via some other avenue if a client/student can't. He has for 19 years now, and I praise Him for that!

Just FYI, a couple of tidbits: Cindy Perry, Pittsboro's mayor, was one of our first board members and secretary back in December 2003; Bob Wachs, pastor and writer for the News + Record, recently retired as an SS&B board member after just over eight years. He's still an active volunteer.



Courtesy of Joyce Frank

SonShine & Blessings' Joyce Frank (second from left) poses with former board member Bob Wachs (left) and current board members Mary Hummel, Randy Van Buren and Debbie Cosentino.

Chatham declares 2023 as the 'Year of the Trail'

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County joins communities across the state to celebrate 2023 as the Year of the Trail. At its meeting on Dec. 19, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2023 Year of the Trail Proclamation put forth by Chatham County Parks and Recreation. The 2023 Year of the Trail initiative is led by the Great Trails State Coalition.

According to the Great Trails State Coalition, the North Carolina Year of the Trail campaign aims to showcase and celebrate North Carolina's trails, encouraging ongoing participation,

investment, and development among locals and legislators. Year of the Trail celebrates North Carolina's vast and diverse collection of trails and encourages all to recognize their role as champions of these special resources.

Chatham County Parks and Recreation will celebrate the Year of the Trail through special events and share resources about local trails available for community members to walk, pedal, paddle or ride. Pollinator Week: A Celebration of Natural Resources in Chatham County will take place on Saturday, June 24, from 9 a.m. to noon at Northeast District Park located at 5408

Big Woods Road in Chapel Hill.

"The Year of the Trail is giving us the opportunity to showcase, promote and celebrate our trails," Tracy Burnett, Chatham County Parks and Recreation director, said. "Trails are for all of us to enjoy. People use trails for so many different reasons from parents pushing strollers, kids riding with their training wheels, paddlers enjoying the rivers, hikers exploring the landscape, bird watchers enjoying the environment, or commuters using them to get to work or school. We are excited to celebrate the Year of the Trail, and we challenge you to get

out and explore the trails in Chatham County this year."

For more information, individuals may visit the N.C. Year of the Trail website at <https://greattrailsnc.com>, the Chatham County Parks and Recreation website at www.chathamcountync.gov/parks-rec or contact Jina Stamey at the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department at 919-545-8554 or jina.stamey@chathamcountync.gov. Information and updates will also be shared on Chatham County Parks and Recreation and Great Trails NC's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

CCCC announces BLET graduates

SANFORD — Seventeen individuals are among the most recent graduates of the Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program.

The graduates — with hometowns listed — are Milo Byrd of Dunn, Caitlin Cade of Siler City, Isaiah Crum of Bunnlevel, Paul Derazo of Lillington, Kyle Evans of Cameron, Gabriela Gomez of Broadway, Richard Gunter of Pittsboro, Adrian Laboy of Lillington, Kolby Harrison of Sanford, John Lacy of Moncure, Michael Lubawski of Spring Lake, James Murphy of Sanford, Zachary Price of Lillington, Joseph Stark of Siler City, Jessie Taub of Durham, Noah Thomas of Snow Camp and Noah Welsh of Lillington.

A ceremony to honor the graduates was held Jan. 10 at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center in Sanford.

The guest speaker was John "Brad" Johnson, Chatham County Sheriff's Office, now retired. Others participating in the program were Jamie Brunson, CCCC interim BLET director;

Roy E. Allen, CCCC associate dean of public safety and criminal justice; and Major Tammy Kirkman of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. The class response was by Paul Derazo. Presentation of Colors was by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard.

Several of the graduates were recognized for outstanding achievement during their training. They included: Fastest Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT): Chase/ Apprehension — Kolby Harrison; Fastest Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT): Rescue — Kyle Evans; Jimmy Collins Top Gun Award — Noah Thomas; and Highest State Exam — Milo Byrd and Zachary Price.

Class sponsors were the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Harnett County Sheriff's Office, Lee County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina State Parks and Recreation and the Sanford Police Department.

To learn more about the Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training program, visit www.cccc.edu/blet.



Courtesy of CCCC

Seventeen individuals are among the most recent graduates of the Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training program.



Contributed photo

Pittsboro High School Class of 1965

The Pittsboro High School Class of 1965 held its 57th class reunion recently at Best Foods Cafeteria in Siler City. Those in attendance included, front row, from left: Mary Ann Perkins Norwood, Grace Carroll Moore, Linda Parker Smithwick, Lydia Farrell Karstaedt, Margaret Hamlet Bingham and Janet Fearington; second row, from left: Linda Mann Cooper, Irene Faircloth Gattis, Frona Riddle Morgan, Katherine Wright McCauley, Rebecca Crabtree, Lora Howard Griffin, Sharon Copeland Martin, Glenette Mann Vaughn and Carlene Meacham White; back row, from left: Ronnie Johnson, Jim Mitchell, C.W. Harris, Bobbie McNeil, Archie Hackney, Ray Fuller, Pierre Oldham, Ronny Vaughn and J.C. Barrett.



Don't let anyone take what's yours.



Your Prescription Your Responsibility



For more information contact

Terri Fowler 336-413-4237 tfowler@insightnc.org

Derrick Vickers 336-287-2411 dvickers@insightnc.org



BE AWARE. DON'T SHARE.

LOCK YOUR meds

lockyourmeds.org/nc



Pittsboro Youth Theater wins national award at Atlanta festival

3 performers also cited for individual honors
CN+R Staff Report

ATLANTA — Students from Pittsboro Youth Theater won a Freddie G Outstanding Production National Theater Award at the 2023 Junior Theater Festival Atlanta, held Jan. 13-15 at the Cobb Galleria Convention Center.

Student Amari Bullett received a Freddie G Outstanding Individual Performance award, and students Kai Halford and Rue Schneider were named Junior Theater Festival All-Stars, a select group of outstanding performers.

Nearly 7,000 young theater lovers and their chaperones attended '23 Atlanta JTF, where they all were in one huge room for a number of events.

At the festival, each group performed 15 minutes of a Broadway Junior musical for adjudicators.

Pittsboro Youth Theater's Elite Ensemble's Jan. 13 performance of "Peter Pan Jr." astounded the judges and audience of the room full of other casts from all over. The entire 15-minute



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

Performers Ava Wright, Eva Halford, Josie Goodman, Ever Harris, Florence Owen and Kai Halford, on top, during the 'I'm Flying' scene from Pittsboro Youth Theater's Main Stage performance in Atlanta in front of 7,000 viewers.

performance earned the cast an "Outstanding Performance" trophy at the festival and earned them the honor of performing on the big main stage at Cobb Convention Center, a Broadway-quality main stage.

PYT is run by Craig Witter and his partner Tammy Matthews. Witter said the children involved in the festival would remember this occasion.

"Performing on the main stage at Junior Theater Festival Atlanta is surely something every kid in the cast will remember for the rest of their lives," he said. "The directorial staff did an excellent job preparing out

cast. Josie Patterson, our choreography director, did a fantastic job. The selfless involvement of Josie, her kids, Kai and Eva and their dad, Scott Halford, was invaluable to our JTF cast's success."

After their judging performance but before results were known, Matthews told her cast that she had "never been so proud of a group of kids in my entire life."

PYT presented Peter Pan Jr. to actor Brion Wan Jr. (Hamilton, national tour, Wicked, national tour), Nina Meehan (Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) founding CEO), and Peter Avery,

director of Theater for the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE).

"Pittsboro Youth Theatre created clear pictures which transported us into the world of Neverland," Watson said. "They all trusted and supported each other so beautifully which is a testament to the strong leadership guiding this group."

"This company of performers showed what it means to be a true ensemble," Avery said. "Wow! They had us at the top with an incredibly choreographed Peter Pan flying across the stage. Bravo!"



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

Pittsboro Youth Theater's Amari Bullett poses with the trophy she received for Outstanding Performance by an Actor at the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta, held Jan. 13-15.

"We saw incredible dance and character work in this musical telling of the classic tale," Meehan said. "It's clear this program is all about building trust and working together as a team."

PYT earned Outstanding Production along with only six other teams in a competition of 125 musical theater troupes representing 28 states and four countries.

"Disney, Music Theater International execs and theater loving folks from around the world will go home knowing Pittsboro has great youth theater,"

Matthews said. "All the executives loved the choreography in our presentation — it was amazing — I don't want any credit. I want to thank Josie, Parker Harris for preparing our kids to sing better than they ever have, Scott Halford, Joanna Szeto and all the parents who worked so hard, but I give all credit in the world should go our wonderful kids."

For more information, photographs and video clips of PYT's Elite Ensembles experiences at '23 Atlanta JTF, go to www.PittsboroYouthTheater.com.

COLLEGE HONORS

UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS

Kayla Morgart of Pittsboro has been named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, Kentucky. The list recognizes students who earn a 3.50 or higher grade point average for the semester.

CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

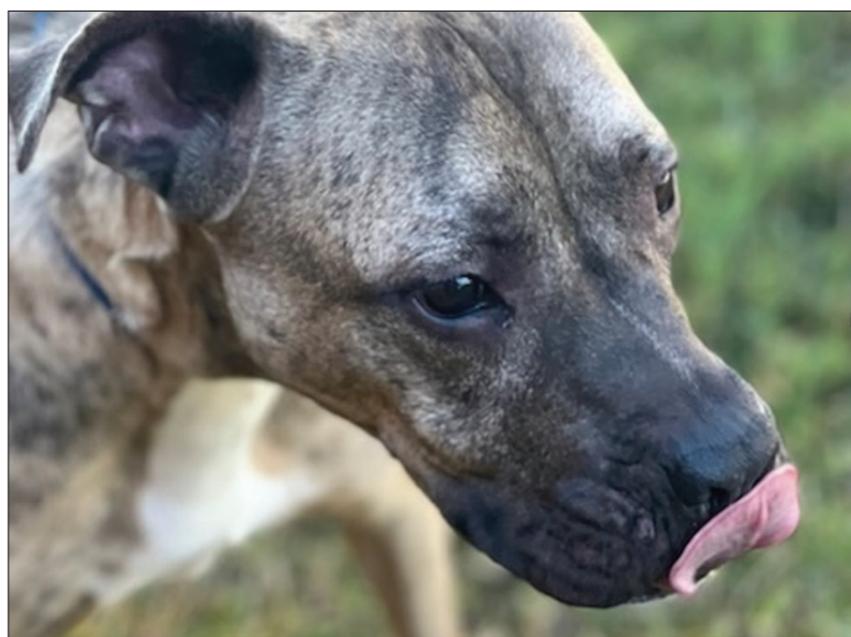
Brent Whitley has been named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio. Whitley, a resident of Moncure, is majoring in Computer Science.

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Juliann Chavis of Pittsboro has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2022 President's List. Antoine Williams of Siler City has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2022 Dean's List. The school is located at Manchester, New Hampshire.

CCCC FALL 2022 GRADUATES

The following Chatham County students graduated with the Fall 2022 graduating class at Central Carolina Community College: Patricia Aguilar Teutle, Rachel Bradley, Emma Brown, Jaxson Burke, Thomas Cantwell, Alfred Chavez, Jacob Cohen, Kaio Cowherd, Nelson Cruz, Grayson Culberson, Samuel Demian, Sara Dunn, Jonae Fochtman-Lange, Rosario Gaytan, Jonathan Gregory, Kayleigh Jackson, Rosalba Jaimes Tapia, James Keith, Cristiano Lagreca, Molli Lambert, Sarah Lawter Jordan Lee, Melissa Lima Ryan, Lorenti Elisa Luna, William Maag, Gabriella Milliken, Sarah Moore, Noemi Mora Marcial, Victor Nambo Avila, Toni Olds, Hailey Ostenfeld, Brooke Perrell, Jordan Phillips, Alex Rastenis, Michael Ray, Jennifer Rios, Bradley Roberts, Rebecca Samuel, Walter Scott, Sarah Stacy, Bradley Svirik, Jason Tillman, Mikaela Uptmor, Kenneth Vickers and Kristin Wiley.



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Meet Rooke

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Rooke, a 6-year-old neutered male Pit Bull Terrier Mix looking for a kind human companion. Rooke came into the Sheriff's Animal Resource Center (ARC) in August 2022 and is heartworm positive; he loves people and other canines and would make an exceptional addition to a dog-friendly home! Rooke's energy level is mild, meaning he is equally happy going for leashed walks or napping on his blanket. He loves snuggling up with his caretakers and never turns down an offer for a belly rub. He is current on all vaccines and is ready for same-day adoption. For more information on how to meet or adopt Rooke or another deserving pet, please contact the staff of the Sheriff's ARC at 919-542-7203 to schedule an appointment for a visit at 725 Renaissance Dr., Pittsboro.



At **Dossenbach's** you have choices!

Some groups have choices of arms, leg color, seat cushion and cushion design!

From Reclining Sofas to Accent Chairs... It's Your Choice!

OVER 400 FABRICS TO CHOOSE FROM!

LOTS of CHOICES Lots of Styles

OVER 500 FABRICS TO CHOOSE FROM!

WE HAVE 6 DIFFERENT BEDROOM SUITES THAT HAVE UP TO 4 DIFFERENT FINISHES. ALL MADE IN THE U.S.A.!

Cherry, Gray, Merlot, White | Lattice Folkstone, Gray, Sienna

We invite you to come in and experience the choices we have at Dossenbach's - from reclining furniture to regular sofas. From choosing the right finish on your bedroom suite to picking out which size dresser you need. We make choices easy!

"Always a Saving" **Dossenbach's** FINER FURNITURE

Downtown Sanford
215 Wicker Street
4 Building 1/2 Block Showroom
(919) 775-7237
www.dossenbachs.com

2018 Best of the Best
The Sanford Herald

*New Inventory Arriving Daily

Mental Health Services that Meet Your Needs.



- Outpatient Therapy
- Intensive In-Home Therapy
- Outpatient Plus
- School Based Counseling
- Substance-Abuse Intensive Outpatient Therapy

919-704-8449 • rwellnessservices.com

288 East St, Suite 1001-F7
Pittsboro, NC 27312

235 E Raleigh St.
Siler City, NC 27344

CN+R ENTERTAINMENT

GET IN *line.*

Amusement parks and retirement communities do have one thing in common. *Long wait times.*

EXPLORE MORE AT
GALLOWAYRIDGE.COM



Your Chatham Real Estate Source

Welcoming Siler City's Newest CHR Agent!

Brandy Alexander
919-495-8420

brandyalexanderproperties@gmail.com



110 E. Raleigh St.
Siler City
919-663-0073

490 West St.
Pittsboro
919-545-2333

chathamhomesrealty.com



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO TRAVEL!

LET NORTH CAROLINA TRAVEL PLAN YOUR DREAM VACATION!!



CALL NC TRAVEL

919-742-2839 or Email Amy: apugh@northcarolinatravel.net

105 N. Chatham Ave, Siler City, NC

TEMPLE THEATRE



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

UNNECESSARY FARCE

JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 5

www.templeshows.org

(919)774-4155

AMERICA'S BEST STORAGE SPACE

Getting Organized



NEED MORE SPACE? Don't sell it, store it! We can help.

60 Andrews Store Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-968-8705
americasbeststoragespace.com



CONNOLLY WALKER
Sales & Marketing Agent
connolly@hc1935.com

60 Mosaic Blvd., Ste. 130 Pittsboro
919-726-3003
www.HC1935.com

AGENT SPOTLIGHT

Connolly has 11 years of experience in the insurance industry & can assist you with your auto, home, business & life insurance needs.

She proudly serves the Pittsboro community as a Chatham Chamber Ambassador, Chatham YMCA board member, and President-Elect of the Pittsboro Rotary Club.

HARRIS & COMPANY

Insurance Since 1935

Auto - Home - Business - Life

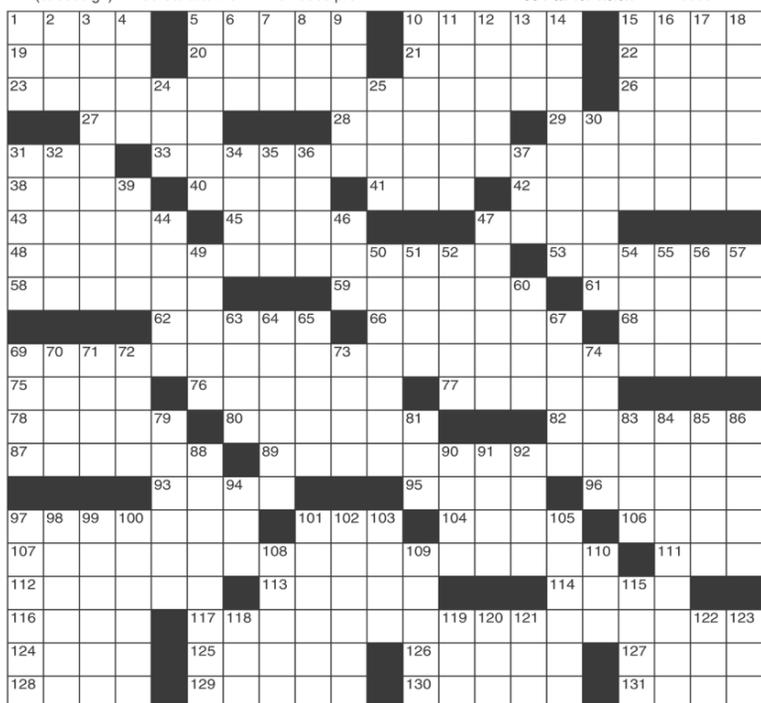
An Independent Agent Representing



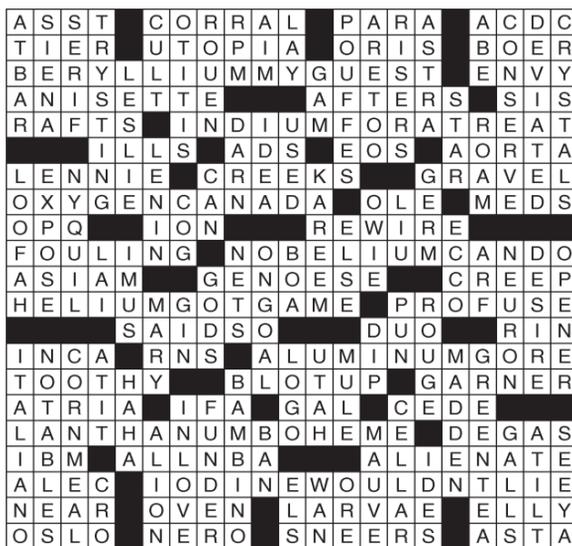
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

WAX SHOP

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 48 Riddle, part 3 | 107 End of the riddle | 9 Military pupil | 47 Nissan model until 2015 | 84 Rescue ropes |
| 1 Cheer shouts | 53 More tightly packed | 111 Directed | 10 Infant's sock | 49 More peeved | 85 Sleep noisily |
| 5 Specialty of Penn & Teller | 58 In the habit of | 112 In last place, say | 11 Northern part of an urban area | 50 Amount of food carried in a cafeteria | 86 Goaded (on) |
| 10 Meddles, with "in" | 59 Common origami birds | 113 Plastic wrap | 12 Robbins of "underground comix" | 51 50% | 88 Habitually lazy sort |
| 15 Golfer Snead and politician | 61 Pass on | 114 Rock bassist Quatro | 13 Tic — -toe | 52 Slashed words of choice | 90 Tiny fraction of a min. |
| 26-Across | 62 Duration of "Smallville" | 116 Stork's kin | 14 Kind of answer | 54 Old soda brand | 91 Cat, in Spain |
| 19 On the ocean | 66 Astronaut Buzz | 117 Riddle's | 15 Maalox's company | 55 Czech, e.g. | 92 Sound from a 91-Down |
| 20 Port in Japan | 68 Own | 124 Fork feature | 16 Grown-ups | 56 Roof feature | 94 Always, to poets |
| 21 TV's Winfrey | 69 Riddle, part 4 | 125 Extracts juice from | 17 Crème de — | 57 Seedy loaves | 97 Cracks |
| 22 "Zip — -Doo-Dah" | 75 Shine | 126 Olympics award | 18 Feels | 60 Perches | 98 Extreme fear |
| 23 Start of a riddle | 76 Alleviation | 127 Depraved emperor | 24 Furry "hand" | 63 3/15, e.g. | 99 Cello bow rub-ons |
| 26 Four-term Georgia senator | 77 Worshiper of Jah, for short | 128 Wise off to | 25 Slangy refusals | 64 Stiff shirt part | 100 Liqueur flavorings |
| 27 Cal's meat | 78 Bits of Viking script | 129 Ballerina's field, in France | 30 Ray who portrayed the scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz" | 65 It's negatively charged | 101 Cramps, e.g. |
| 28 Make a dining surface of | 80 Decelerate | 130 Affirmative answers | 31 Famed orca, once | 67 Sleep aid brand | 102 Sentence structure |
| 29 Fastening bars with crosspieces | 82 Ultimatum ender | 131 Gas brand in Canada | 32 Bagel shape | 69 Hideous giant | 103 — Sea (salt lake in Asia) |
| 31 Hog hangout | 89 Riddle, part 5 | | 34 Faith faction | 70 Continuous change | 105 1950s Fords |
| 33 Riddle, part 2 | 93 Robert of "The Sopranos" | | 35 Rice-shaped pasta | 71 It might be boldface | 108 C.S. Lewis lion |
| 38 Kolb of morning TV | 96 Clear mist from | DOWN | 1 Coarse residue | 72 Fancy jug | 109 Foe |
| 40 In this place | 97 Sci-fi writer L. — de Camp | 2 Campfire | 2 Campfire residue | 73 Prurient | 115 Web mag |
| 41 Sun Yat — | 101 Place to get a mud wrap | 3 Large amount of medicine | 3 Large amount of medicine | 74 Capacitance unit | 118 Grassy tract |
| 42 Travel bags | 104 To be, in Toulon | 4 Surfeit | 4 Surfeit | 79 Broadway's "Miss —" | 119 Spot |
| 43 Nice scent | 106 Sahara-like | 5 Bread | 5 Bread | 81 Edgar Allan — | 121 Actress Issa |
| 45 Government bigwig | | 6 Horse relative | 6 Horse relative | 83 Pair for vision | 122 52-wk. spans |
| 47 Deer — (street sign) | | 7 Gun, slangily | 7 Gun, slangily | | 123 Lav, in Leeds |
| | | 8 1950s prez | 8 1950s prez | | |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



Youth Theater
Spring Season
SIGN UPS

"Princess and the Pea"
"Aristocats"
"Lord of the Flies"
"Into the Woods"



Downtown Siler City
OLD NORTH STATE

INSURANCE SERVICES

Storms? Accidents? Fire!
Let us help you avoid the major costs of the "What Ifs" of life

Kim Lindley, CISR
919-742-3422 Ext #2 | kim@oldnorthstateins.com
Kevin Reavis, CRM, CIC, CPIW
919-742-3422 Ext #7 | kevin@oldnorthstateins.com

CN+R ENTERTAINMENT



Locally owned and operated

**ONE STOP
INSURANCE AGENCY**

919-930-4780

Cindy Carter at your service!
189 Thompson St.
Pittsboro, NC



SILER CITY CENTER NOW HIRING
RNs, LPNs, and CNAs

Competitive wages with shift differentials, Sign-on Bonus, Benefits, and 401k
Contact Brittany Burton with inquiries or to apply:
brittany.burton@genesishcc.com



900 West Dolphin St, Siler City, NC 27344 • 919-663-3431

A Unique Boutique in Pittsboro Women's Apparel & Shoes and Gifts for the whole family.
52 Hillsboro Street
(919) 542-7366
Monday - Saturday 10 - 6
Every Sunday 12 - 5

Provisions for Work, Travel & Outdoor Adventure!
674 West St, Pittsboro, NC
M-F 10-6 Sat 9-6 Sun 11-5
(919) 542-5487

COME MEET OUR STAFF!

"Excellent service and quick response. Car looked as if nothing had happened."
-Blake Y.



"Meredith stayed on top of the insurance and helped us get our car back on the road."
-Carla N.



Pictured: Cathy Baker



Chapel Hill
1174 US Hwy 15-501 N
919-537-0770

Pittsboro
1022 Sanford Rd
919-542-2334

WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH HAIR COLOR

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: REDDISH-BROWN HAIR

- | | | | |
|----------|--------|----------|------------|
| Black | Dark | Gray | Sandy |
| Bleached | Dyeing | Light | Strawberry |
| Blond | Flaxen | Platinum | White |
| Brown | Ginger | Red | |

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

TODAY NO TEXTING OR EMAILS. I THINK IT WOULD BE NICE TO WRITE A LETTER TO GRANDMA.

I'LL LOOK FOR ENVELOPES AND SEE IF MAYBE YOUR FATHER HAS ANY STAMPS.

I USED TO WRITE LETTERS TO FRIENDS AND ALWAYS HAD THE NICEST CURSIVE.

OK, WHAT'S A STAMP, WHY DO WE NEED ENVELOPES AND WHAT THE HECK IS CURSIVE?

GRILL OUT FOR LESS THIS SUMMER
20# TANKS FILLED FOR \$15.98 + TAX
WE FILL ALL SIZES!

Get Ready to Grill!

STOP IN TODAY!



193 Lowes Dr., Suite 110,
Pittsboro
919-704-8589
strickslpgas.com



John Cheesborough, MD



Dawn E. Kleinman, MD



Mary Candace Seagle, PA-C



Brittany Atkinson, PA-C



Candace L. Marin, APRN

Proudly serving Chatham County over 30 years!

Sanford Dermatology

Conveniently located in
Platinum Commons

959 East Street, Suite B - Pittsboro

919-775-7926

www.sanforddermatology.com

Accepting
New Patients
Any Age

Self-Pay
& Insurance

Medical &
Cosmetic
Dermatology

Dysport, Botox
& Fillers

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WHAT?... I THOUGHT SHE SAID "TEST THIS FOOD".

GRIN TO BEAR IT

"Our friend? We thought he was your friend!"

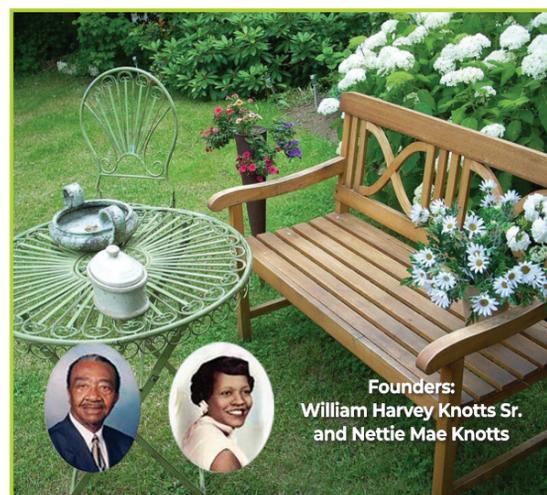
CN+R ENTERTAINMENT

Working tirelessly to provide you with a beautiful, lasting tribute to your loved one

Thank you
for allowing us
to serve your
families for more
than 60 years

Knotts
FUNERAL HOME

SANFORD: 719 Wall St • 919-776-4345
CHAPEL HILL: 113 N. Graham St • 919.968.7780
PITTSBORO: 50 Masonic St • 919-542-6180
knottsfuneralhome.com

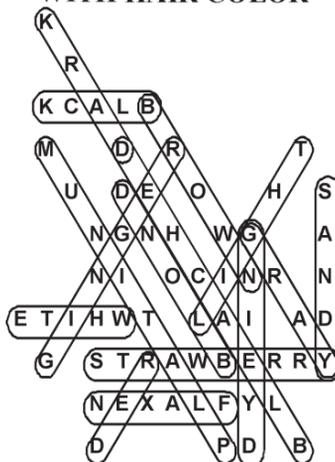


Founders:
William Harvey Knotts Sr.
and Nettie Mae Knotts

chatham brew

Chatham News + Record
chathamnewsrecord.com

WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH HAIR COLOR



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

A meat for thee



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

"I like pork chops."

For some, that statement is the equivalent of a fireworks and marching band declaration.

I grew up eating chops made with the store-bought crumb mixture. But one day, I had just tossed an empty bag of pretzels and realized it wasn't empty. There was a handful of pretzel shards in that bag.

Around the same time, I began to wonder what's really in that box of pork breader. Even studying the ingredients I couldn't discern the components of it.

So, I tried to reverse engineer it.

The goal of these products is to mimic fried pork chops. I'd never actually fried them or even eaten them. But I have both cooked and eaten plenty of other fried meat.

The two coating choices one has when frying most proteins

are flour-based (think fried chicken and country fried steak) or crumb-based (fried fish or schnitzel). Obviously, the pre-made breader was supposed to resemble the crumb type.

So, I started collecting crumbs.

I keep two zip-top bags in my freezer; one for the last few, stale slices of bread, and one for crackers, chips, pretzels, even plantain chips.

And when I need crumbs of any kind, they're right there in the chill chest waiting for me. I haven't bought breader or bread crumbs in literally decades.

As far as the flavoring for your breader, that's really up to you. Go German with caraway and juniper. Try Herbs du Provence for some French flair. Or take it south of the border with some chole lime seasoning and fresh cilantro. Or Chinese five-spice and Thai basil. You could go Moroccan with mace, allspice, and oregano.

Have some fun and take some chances with flavor, Gentle Reader.

This week I decided that instead of sharing one dish with

you, I would give you an entire dinner. The pork chops and the potatoes make frequent appearances on our dinner table, but the leeks are a new creation.

But leeks have a dirty little secret.

And, it's dirt.

Leeks are grown in very sandy soil, and like the onions they are related to, leeks are a layered veg. But because the layers are loose and exclusively vertical, as it grows, a measure of sand gets deposited between the leaves. Sandy, when eaten

becomes the most unwelcome of edible texture: gritty.

Unless you enjoy the feeling of munching on broken glass and tiny eggshells, you need to be scrupulous about cleaning them. It's not hard, though, and I've told you how in the recipe.

4 1-inch pork chops, boneless or bone-in
2 cups flour with 1 tablespoon flour and 2

3 cups crumbs of any sort
2 teaspoons spice (I usually use a Caribbean adobo seasoning)
2 teaspoons dried herbs (usually thyme, and rosemary if I have it on hand)
½ cup grated, dry cheese, like Manchego or Parmesan
¼ cup fat
Salt and pepper to taste

If you're using any type of bread products as crumbs, toast them for 20 minutes in

1 ½ pounds new potatoes or small creamers
¾ cup chicken stock
4 tablespoons butter
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
½ teaspoon dried thyme

5 large leeks
2 tablespoons butter
1 lb. bagged baby spinach
¼ cup grated dry cheese, like Manchego or Parmesan
1/3 cup 2% milk
1/3 cup heavy cream
15-20 gratings of fresh nutmeg (a large pinch)
Salt and pepper to taste
Prepare the leeks:
Cut 1/4-inch off root end as well as dark green part and discard.

Slice in half, lengthwise, then slice into ¼ inch half-moons. Place into a large bowl of cold water and agitate until the pieces are all separate. Let

Shaking, Baking, Pork Chops

teaspoons pepper placed in a zip-top bag
2 cups fat-free buttermilk poured into a second

Breader

a 250° oven before grinding. Place all ingredients into food processor and grind until they're uniformish in size. Taste a pinch and re-season, if necessary.

Pour into a shallow dish. Directions: Preheat oven to 375°. Put oil into baking dish and set aside.

Right before cooking, coat chops: one at a time, place chops into bag of flour and shake until well coated. Then

Poached New Potatoes

2 tablespoons fresh herbs (chives or Italian parsley work well here)

Place everything except fresh herbs into a large, heavy pot with a lid. Cover and cook on medium until

Creamed Leeks

stand for 15-20 minutes. The sand and debris will fall to the bottom of the bowl.

Carefully scoop out leeks and put into a colander to drain. Blot with a kitchen towel or paper towels to remove more of the moisture.

Prepare the spinach: Put all the spinach in a very large, microwave-safe bowl and cover with a paper towel. Microwave for three minutes and 15 seconds until it has totally wilted. Once cooled, put it into a colander and let it drain. When ready to use, take it by the handful and squeeze your little heart out to get as

shallow dish
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
Breader (recipe follows)

coat with buttermilk. Finally, dredge in crumb mixture, pressing crumbs all over so there is a nice heavy coat of breader all over chops.

Put chops into baking dish, being sure there is a little space (½-inch at least) between each chop.

Bake for 15-25 minutes or until internal temperature is 145-150°. Let rest a few minutes before serving.

the potatoes are fork-tender (15-20 minutes).

Uncover and cook until the liquid has cooked out. Gently stir in the fresh herbs. Serve.

much water from the spinach that you can. When you think you've gotten it all, squeeze it some more. Then put it on a cutting board and chop it.

Directions: Melt butter in a large heavy skillet. Add leeks along with the salt and pepper. Cook on medium-low until the leeks are softened and all the water has cooked in.

Stir in the rest of the ingredients and cook until the veg are tender and a thick, creamy sauce has formed.

Check for seasoning and re-season, if necessary.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Pork chops — regardless of how you prepare them — are a tasty focal point of any meal.



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



We are cooperative, social-minded, curious, inclusive, searching. A niche firm with an environmental ethic.

Reach out to Weaver Street Realty when it's time for a change.

919-929-5658 • info@WeaverStreetRealty.com

WeaverStreetRealty.com

The local pharmacy you can trust to provide the best personalized care, professional advice, and convenient services. We are offering walk-in flu vaccinations

Angelynn Fox McClary

Pharmacist Manager & Owner



202-A East Raleigh Street
Siler City, NC 27344

T: 919-663-5541

www.silercitypharmacy.com
info@silercitypharmacy.com

WE'RE ALWAYS HIRING!

GROW YOUR CAREER WITH MOUNTAIRE

- Hiring for all shifts
- General Labor starting at **\$14.50/HOUR**
- Industrial Maintenance positions starting at **\$23/HOUR**
(starting pay increases for experience)
- **FREE** transportation to and from work from Greensboro or High Point
- Guaranteed on-site interviews

OUR BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- On-site Health & Wellness Center
- 401(k) and profit sharing
- Great benefits
- Educational assistance
- One week of vacation after 90 days and additional week after 180 days
- Employee discounts on chicken



MOUNTAIREJOBS.COM

1100 E THIRD STREET | SILER CITY | NC
4411 W GATE CITY BLVD. | GREENSBORO | NC
8 AM - 5 PM | MONDAY - FRIDAY
(919) 663-6712