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HOOPS: 4 Chatham teams make playoff push, eye title runs, PAGE B1

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | MARCH 2 - 8, 2023 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

## 'WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY' County's housing authority director indicted

Federal prosecutors say for nearly a decade, JoAnn Davis used her HUD position to enrich herself

#### **BY SEAMUS HUGHES** & BILL HORNER III News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The executive director of the Chatham County Housing Authority was arrested Friday as part of a wide-ranging federal investigation into more than \$200,000 in kickbacks and payoffs from bogus projects initiated from her Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office responsible for providing housing to low-income families, the elderly, and disabled.

Prosecutors say JoAnn Johnson Davis, who has run CCHA since July 2012, used her position and her Siler City office to fraudulently award contracts for services — including housing

inspections, staff training and client workshops — to friends and family members. In return, Davis allegedly received "kickbacks" from those friends and family members — allowing them to keep small percentages of the payments after they returned most of the cash to her — even though the services were never performed for the housing authority.

Four others were also charged related to crimes linked to Davis and 14 individuals cited as unindicted co-conspirators in the charging documents. Those named in the indictment were Clintess

Roberta Barrett-Johnson, Michele Necole Bell-Johnson, Robert Johnson Jr. and Candace Agatha Brunson-Poole. The nature of Davis' relationship with those four people was not immediately known, but prosecutors said at least five members of her family were involved in the scheme. Not all of the family members and friends will face charges.

Meanwhile, people who worked with Davis, had professional association with her or were served by the CCHA

See INDICTED, page A12

## Chatham gets \$29 million for water projects

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN** News + Record Staff

Chatham County municipalities have been awarded more than \$29 million for infrastructure projects, including \$28.4 million for water and wastewater projects in Pittsboro.

The funding, announced by Gov. Roy Cooper last Thursday, is part of \$462.9 million in help for 249 infrastructure projects in 80 communities to aid drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems across the state.

Cooper's office said aging and failing water systems "are an obstacle for communities across North Carolina, preventing reliable access to clean drinking water and sewer services, and harming health, quality of life and economic development efforts."

"Every single North Carolinian deserves clean drinking water, and aging water systems are a threat to the health and economies of too many of our communities," Cooper said. "Thanks to investments initiated by the Biden administration, we can make a once in a generation transformation in rebuilding water infrastructure for towns and counties

## **FROG TROUBLE TIMES Mom-daughter blog** showcases artsy spirit

#### BY BEN RAPPAPORT News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Creativity bursts at the seams inside Belle Boggs' Pittsboro home. Paint brushes line the cabinets, books of all kinds cover the shelves and crafts of days past are scattered about like treasures.

Boggs passed her artistic energy onto her two daughters, Bea Allen, 9, and Harriet Allen, 4.

When all that imagination and color had to be cooped up at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Boggs knew she and her daughters needed an outlet.

Belle and Bea started writing weekly blog posts about their pandemic adventures what crafts they were making, what they found on their walks to the Haw River, their favorite books



Staff photo by Anna Connors

Bea Allen, 9, talks with her mom, Belle Boggs, at their home in Pittsboro. The two run a blog together on Substack called 'Frog Trouble Times.'



ing across the makeshift balance beam on her back oorch. Bea 1s also the soonto-be-author of "Plant Pets," a kid-to-kid guide about caring for various types of houseplants, which will be published in 2024.

throughout our state.

For this round of funding, the state's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received 649 applications from 91 of North Carolina's 100 counties, and reconsidered applications from spring 2022. In total, 734 applications were considered for funding, representing requests of more than \$3.5 billion. The awards are funded by a portion of \$2.3 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act, State Revolving Funds (including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds), and Community Development Block Grant funding.

Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54), who represents Chatham County in the N.C. House, said investing in infrastructure projects is a necessity

See PROJECTS, page A6

and more.

Thus, The Frog Trouble Times was born . The namesake for the blog is a country music album by Sandra Boynton called "Frog Trouble."

"It really began as a way to record some of the things that were happening and what we were doing," Boggs said. "It's become a good way of keeping up with – and building on — our ideas."

#### The writers' room

When Boggs isn't writing "ribbet"-ing pieces in Frog Trouble Times, she's a creative writing professor



at N.C. State. She's also the author of several fiction and nonfiction books including "The Art of Waiting," "Mattaponi Queen" and "The Gulf.'

Bea, meanwhile, can be found taking care of her dozens of houseplants (her favorite is called "mother of thousands"), reading Greek mythology or cartwheel-

And Harriet, who serves as more of an occasional contributor to the team, loves to paint, eat copious amounts of orange slices and wear her socks in a very particular fashion.

But just because twothirds of the writers' room is in elementary school, the bloggers don't shy away from the big topics of the day. Recently, they've writ-

See SPIRIT, page A7



Submitted photo

'Big Night In for Arts'

musicians, artists. PAGE A3

fundraiser lifts local

Brady Andrew

**IN THE** 

**KNOW** 

## FROM JET TO TAR HEEL J-M's Brady Andrew earns prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship

#### **BY BEN RAPPAPORT**

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — In Brady Andrew's home, learning is paramount. That's evidenced by his mother being a former principal at Silk Hope School and his older sister a high-achieving college student at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Now, lest there was any doubt, he can demonstrate he fits right in.

Two weeks ago, Brady was awarded UNC-Chapel Hill's Morehead-Cain scholarship for the Class of 2027. The full-ride scholarship covers four years of tuition, summer programs, room

and board at UNC. The application and selection process involved multiple rounds of interviews, campus visits and more.

In Brady's words, "It's an offer you can't refuse.'

While he hasn't officially committed to UNC, he says he's "99.9% sure" he'll be a Tar Heel when fall semester rolls around.

#### Lasting lineage

He knows how good the offer is, in part because his sister Lindley, a junior at UNC. is also a Morehead-Cain scholar. Brady says his sister's advice

throughout the application process was invaluable.

"Ever since she got the Morehead, I had always been like 'Wow this is such a great opportunity," he said. "This scholarship just seemed like a dream."

After seeing the opportunities the scholarship afforded his sister, Brady said he poured his heart into the application. He said it forced him to dig deep and be introspective.

At first, he thought it seemed unlikely the selection committee would choose two students from the same

See ANDREW, page A3

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

#### **ON THE AGENDA**

 The Siler City Board of Commissioners will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 6, in the courthouse of Siler City Town Hall.

 The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 6, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

#### 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).

• Learn more about the CCCC Health and Fitness Science program at the Spring 2023 **Fitness and Fun Challenge** event set for 9 a.m. on March 2 at the CCCC Chatham Health Science Center, 75 Ballentrae Ct., Pittsboro. Reserve your spot at www.cccc.edu/hfsevent. Or, for more information, call

(919) 718-7357 or email to dbruner@cccc.edu.

• Wren Memorial Library Maximizing Social Security, Monday, March 6, 6 to 7 p.m. - Community members interested in retirement planning, are invited to join Knox Hughes, Chartered **Retirement Planning Counsel**or (CRPC), for a workshop on Maximizing Social Security at Wren Memorial Library to learn all about how to maximize social security benefits. This workshop is free and open to all, but seats are limited. Those interested in attending should contact the library at wren@ chathamlibraries.org or (919) 742-2016

 The Chatham County Democratic Party East-West Siler City precinct meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 4, at The Chatham Rabbit in downtown Siler City. The meeting will be both in person and Zoom. For more information about attending please call Pam Hawe at 919-610-2450 or Jesse Scotton at 919-548-0810. Come have coffee and get to know your neighbors!

• The Siler City Lions Club will have a **blood drive** at Piney Grove Methodist Church, 2343 Piney Grove Church Rd., Siler City on March 11 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

• Begins Wednesday, March 1 -Friday, March 31: The Goldston Public Library will host a Popup Art Gallery. In celebration of Youth Art Month, the library will display art pieces from surrounding Chatham County schools (JS Waters, Bennett, Bonlee, and Chatham Central). The Art Gallery will be displayed throughout the library. --Goldston Public Library Learn About Food at Your Library: Heart Healthy Eating, Monday, March 6th, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., The Goldston Public Library will host a presentation and demonstration on heart healthy eating on March 6th at 10:30 a.m. Registered dietitians, Ann Clark and Laura Hearn, from the Chatham County Public Health Department will lead the presentation. This event is made possible by the Chatham County Libraries Food Literacy Center Grant.

 The Siler City Lions Club meeting for next month at Dry Dock Seafood Restaurant, 408 N. 2nd Avenue, will be March 14 and 28th at 6 p.m. Join the Siler City Lions 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 Dry Dock Seafood. For more information, visit Silercitylions@gmail.com or call 910-624-5784. Together we serve! Cambridge Hills Assisted Living hosts a Community and Family Dementia Support Group. We meet the first

Wednesday of each month unless stated otherwise. You are invited to join us at 1:30 p.m. in our private dining room at 140 Brookstone Lane, Pittsboro. Come and meet some other family members who are on a similar journey. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1. RSVP to: angela@ silver-thread.com or 919-545-9573. You don't have to be on this journey alone.

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

• The Chatham Historical Museum's permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history and are appropriate for adults and children. The Museum is open Wednesa.m. until 4 p.m. There is no admission fee. The current shortterm 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. Second Bloom announces their winter hours from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday until Saturday. We are now accepting spring and summer Clothes, jewelry and accessories, in good and clean condition. Credit cards are accepted. We are located at 630 E. Street, Pittsboro, in the Food Lion shopping center. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration

days, Thursdays and Fridays, 11

#### with Chatham County. Foster and/or adoptive

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

## **Can You Plan For An Unplanned Retirement?**

Many people plan to take an early retirement, so when that day arrives, they're ready for it. But what if you were to face an unplanned retirement? Would you be prepared to deal with the financial issues?

It's something worth thinking about, because any number of factors - illness, a spouse's illness, downsizing, other issues - could lead to an abrupt departure from the workforce. But taking action while you're still working may help you make the transition easier on yourself.

Your first move, of course, should be to at least consider the possibility of having to retire earlier than you planned. You can then move on to some concrete steps, possibly including the following.

• Build an emergency fund. Under any circumstances, it's a good idea to build an emergency fund — but it's especially important if you want to prepare for an unforeseen retirement. Generally speaking, your emergency fund should contain three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. But if you suspect an earlier-than-anticipated retirement may be in your future, and you have some time to prepare for it, you should consider an emergency fund that contains a full year's worth of expenses.

• Consider your portfolio's asset allocation. If you're concerned about an unexpected retirement, you may want to consider the equities allocation in your portfolio. If you think you may need to tap into your portfolio sooner than you expected, you may not want to be over-exposed to investments most vulnerable to market volatility. However, these are the same investments that offer you the most growth potential - which you'll need to help stay ahead of inflation. So, look for an investment balance that's appropriate for your needs. As part of this positioning, you may want to shift some assets into income-producing vehicles, while also adding to the "cash" portion of your portfolio to boost your liquidity.

• Evaluate your Social Security options. An unplanned retirement may cause you to consider taking Social Security earlier than you had planned. You can start taking Social Security when you're 62, but your monthly benefits will be up to 30% lower than if you had waited until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. If you have sufficient income through other sources, you may be able to delay taking Social Security until your checks will be bigger - but of course, if you need the money, waiting may not be an option.

• Address your health care needs. If you take an unplanned retirement, and you have employer-sponsored health insurance, you'll have to look for alternatives. You might be able to get extended coverage from your employer, but this could be quite expensive. Of course, if you're already 65, you can get on Medicare, but if you're younger, you might be able to get coverage under your spouse's plan. If that's not an option, you may want to explore one of the health care exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act. To learn more about these exchanges, visit healthcare.gov.

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\$225,000

00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36.000 acres \$350,000 37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) .996 acres \$350,000 0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000 Tract 2 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000 Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000 1406 Jessie Bridges Rd (Siler City) 25.500 acres \$400,000 5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3.584 acres \$625,000 O Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 64.720 acres \$750,000 7587 Siler City Snow Camp Rd (Siler City) 50.000 acres \$1,200,000 13120 Strickland Rd (Raleigh) 16.250 acres \$1,500.000 499 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 12.619 acres \$1,750,000 00 Alston Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 176,000 acres \$2,288,000 00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33.662 acres \$3,366,200

Taking an unexpected retirement can certainly be challenging-but the more prepared you are, the better your outcomes are likely to be.

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

Pittsboro

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12190 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 15.158 acres \$1.894.750

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



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#### Chapel Hill Jessica L Villagrana, CFP® 180 Providence Rd

## Local art scene on display for fundraiser

Collaboration between Triangle arts councils brings money for arts education and helping artists with pandemic impacts

#### BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff In front of the Bynum General Store, Austin and Sarah

McCombie sing about taking risks and giving your heart fully to new passions, even though it feels scary.

"Like an unburned candle, you're a piece of art," the song begins, as Sarah's banjo plays the Americana melody. "It's time to light the flame, and let it melt your heart."

The song goes on to explore the excitement of immersing in the unknown, and all that's left behind in the process.

The duo, better known as Chatham Rabbits, performed their song "Hinges" in the place they got their start for the 3rd annual Big Night In for the Arts, a fundraiser for the arts across the Triangle.

The fundraiser, presented by WRAL, was born during the COVID-19 pandemic as a collaborative effort with the four county arts councils of the Triangle — Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake. It aims to help local artists struggling with the lasting impacts of the pandemic.

Alongside Chatham Rabbits, the event will feature performances from Grammy-nominated country musician Rissi Palmer, Tony Award-winning Beth Leavel, Appalachian-Venezuelan fusion duo Larry & Joe, stick artist Patrick Dougherty, and spoken word poet and current Piedmont Laureate Dasan Ahanu.

#### **Community boost**

The event is also an ode to local art, and the ways support from the community can allow art to flourish. In that way, it makes "Hinges" the perfect song for the occasion.

"When we decided to take the plunge I just remember the Chatham community being so incredibly encouraging," Sarah McCombie said. "No one thought we were crazy because it's such a strong arts commu-



Austin and Sarah McCombie tune their instruments ahead of filming their song 'Hinges' as part of a performance for the Big Night In for the Arts fundraiser.

nitv."

She said the support from the community has been more than just vocal. When gigs were canceled and the Rabbits' main income seemed wiped away, Chatham Arts Council stepped up. They helped the duo get through the hardships of the pandemic with grant funding. They used that funding to buy solar panels for their tour van and run an off-grid sound system.

"During COVID we played 194 different neighborhood concerts just in the summer of 2020," McCombie said. "And they (Chatham Arts Council) were the ones who made that financially possible by supporting us when we really needed it."

A large component of Big Night In is a spotlight on arts education. The broadcast features interviews with student artists at schools across the Triangle. This year, students from Bennett School and Jordan-Matthews High School were interviewed by WRAL about their involvement in theatrical performances through JMArts.

Cheryl Chamblee, artistic

#### director of Chatham Arts Council, said sitting in on interviews with students was a highlight of helping organize this event.

"Chathamites, and particularly young Chathamites, speak so beautifully about the power of the arts," Chamblee said. "I'm really excited for that to broadcast to folks across our region."

Money raised from the fundraiser will be used to help uplift full-time artists and promote arts education in schools.

Chatham Arts Council has previously used some of the funding from the event to build its Chatham Artists-in-Schools Initiative, which brings artists to schools to foster a personal connection to academic lessons for students through artistic immersion.

Chamblee said the initiative and other arts education programs are important for fostering community and the promotion of social and emotional wellness.

#### **Still hurting**

Policies like lockdowns and mask mandates have largely gone by the wayside and events like concerts have once again become commonplace. But that

See ART, page A7

## ANDREW

Continued from page A1

family to both receive the scholarship. Especially because, in his words, they look "very similar on paper."

Both Andrew siblings participated in DECA —

which prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools — acted in shows through JMArts and were varsity athletes. While they're both clearly well-rounded students Brady said he made an effort to differentiate himself from his sister in interviews, essays and campus visits.

"Though we may look similar and do similar things," he said, "I wanted the Morehead Foundation to be aware that we are distinct individuals."

Angie Brady-Andrew, the mother of Brady and Lindley, said both her children are leaders, but in different ways. Lindley is more of an outgoing and vibrant personality, while Brady prefers to speak softly and carry a big stick.

"His application was able to really hone in on his personal strengths," Brady-Andrew said. "But just like she has in so many other ways as a big sister who loves her little brother, she mentored him through it."

The sibling love also brings the best out of Brady. He calls Lindley his "biggest inspiration."

#### Leading role

But it took more than just the motivation of his sister to get Brady where he is today. He says it "took a village" of mentors, teachers and peers supporting him along the way.

"All three of my schools — Siler City Elementary, Chatham Middle and Jordan-Matseen him break out of his shell and become a leader.

"As a freshman, he played the Mysterious Man in 'Into the Woods," Pate said. "He was nervous and uncertain, but he really committed to the role."

The commitment he showed paid off. As a senior, Brady is now cast as the leading role of Lord Farquaad in JMArts' production of "Shrek the Musical." Pate said rehearsals have proven her casting decision to be correct because his performances are "one of the highlights in the show."

On and off stage, Pate said Brady is consistently willing to challenge himself. It's that determination that makes him such a role model to his cast members, and peers throughout J-M.

"He doesn't coast on his past successes," Pate said. "He is always looking for an opportunity to step up, learn more and meet new challenges, which I think makes him special.' The Morehead-Cain Scholarship comprises four major subject areas: scholarship, leadership, physical activity and character. Pate said Brady is the embodiment of all four categories. Usually, someone fits one or two of the categories better than others, but Brady matches all four. "He's kind of the gruy

"He's kind of the guy that people look to in class to set the tone," Pate said. "He is a real self-starter and he's just a real delight to have in class because he's so engaged in the learning process."

As part of the application process, students are allowed one recommendation. Brady's recommendation came from Pate — he chose her because she's become like a "second parent" to him. She said part of writing her recommendation involved talking to Brady's teachers, coaches and church members.

Everyone, from all facets of his life, had glowing things to say, Pate said.

"He's worked really hard," Brady-Andrew said. "Him receiving this scholarship was just validation for all that he puts into everything he does and for him being such a good kid."

### Christina L. Fisher Agent, REALTOR® 919-656-9933 christina.fisher@allentate.com Allen Tate 114 Russet Run, Ste. 110, Pittsboro, NC 27312

I am a lifelong resident of NC, born and raised in Granville County (Butner, NC). As a two-time graduate of UNC-CH (1990 & 1997), I was a corporate technical trainer and then small business owner in Siler City. I have personally bought and sold wooded land, pastured land, single-family, multi-family, and farm property. I would love to help you with your real estate needs as a seller's or buyer's agent. Allen Tate is the largest privately owned real estate company in the US and was founded in 1957. Our local office is in the Mosaic across from Northwood High School in Pittsboro.



thews — all really did something right," he said. "I'm so thankful for all of my teachers because each of them did something for me that was beyond their job description that helped me get to this point now."

One of those mentors was Rose Pate, president of JMArts. She said through his time in the theater program, she's

#### Lifelong learner

From freshman year to now, Brady's biggest area of growth has been communication. Nowadays, you can find him winning DECA competitions with confident business proposals or splitting the sides of audiences in his comedic theatrical performances.

That brimming confidence is evident for more than just the crowds; it also comes through in one-on-one conversations.

Brady said he believes strongly in continuing to build those interpersonal skills because of his big future goal: learning. He believes people learn the most from one another and by effectively communicating ideas. It's one of the reasons he's excited about engaging in the Morehead-Cain program.

"Any constraint on tuition or monetary constraint is lifted," he said. "And so I'm excited to really dive into things I'm passionate about and build new passions along the way."

While he isn't quite sure what he'll be studying at Carolina, Brady said he looks forward to exploring a variety of topics and experiences through the Morehead-Cain Scholarship.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.

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# VIEWPOINTS

## **GUEST COLUMN** | GREG LEWIS How I see the role of the EDC as a Small Business Owner

I spend my days, nights and weekends managing the Yolo Entertainment Group, which operates the Sycamore at Chatham Mills, 39 West Catering, and the event venues Forest Hall and The Studio (formerly the Jov of Movement). I am a proud small business owner, and as the chairperson of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, a big believer in Wolfspeed and VinFast's plans for Chatham County.

The Chatham Economic Development Corporation exists to attract and retain businesses that provide quality jobs and real investment in our communities. The EDC works with the county and towns to accomplish this goal. I believe that the EDC's work is beneficial to our community, and even to small businesses like my own. By recruiting these companies to Chatham's megasites, the EDC brings new opportunities to our local business ecosystem.

VinFast and Wolfspeed were recruited to Chatham's megasites, areas that the county specifically designated for industrial development. These sites were identified over 10 years ago as part of a long-term plan to balance Chatham's tax base. The tax revenues generated by large operations like VinFast and Wolfspeed will help to even out the tax base that is currently supported by residential taxes and relieve some of the burden felt by taxpayers.

The incentives that you hear about associated with Vin-Fast and Wolfspeed are not a check handed over to them for locating in Chatham County. These companies must meet investment, hiring and performance measures set in the agreement and pay all of their applicable taxes. Then, only if these requirements are met, they receive a portion of their property tax revenues back,

creating the incentive to locate and be successful in Chatham.

The people that these jobs will bring to our area will have a positive impact on my businesses. I look forward to serving them in my restaurant, catering their events and hosting them in my event space. Other small business owners can expect a boon as well. VinFast and Wolfspeed employees will patronize more businesses than just my own, spending their time and money in Chatham, and spreading the word to others.

In addition to balancing the tax base, Wolfspeed, VinFast and the ongoing work of the EDC will bring more people and more dollars to our community. People will move into Chatham, sure. But many are already here and get in their cars to drive right back out of Chatham every day. They spend their lunch dollars, gas dollars and shopping dollars

elsewhere, not here. By establishing Chatham as a hub of employment and activity, the EDC has helped to reinvest in our downtowns and small businesses.

As these two big projects begin taking shape, citizens should know that the EDC is still hard at work. The Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site still has 1,400 acres of heavy industrial land available to prospective companies. In Moncure, at the Triangle Innovation Point West site, the EDC engages with potential users regularly. Located next to VinFast's plant, that site is a great example of the role of the EDC: what was formerly the Performance Fibers plant site will now see new life as a FedEx distribution hub. with space available for additional opportunities.

To be clear, the work of the EDC does not directly support small businesses and entrepre-

neurs. Chatham is fortunate to have hardworking small business support organizations like the Chatham Small Business Center at CCCC, the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, WEBB Squared, and many others ded icated to that important work, and the EDC often right alongside them, working together and cheering them on. Right now, we are convening these groups to determine how to best connect small businesses with these large projects. The goal of the EDC is to attract and support the companies and employers that can in turn support our small business ecosystem.

Many of us made the choice to move to Chatham because it felt well-balanced. It offered rural beauty, a thriving arts scene and the convenience of in-town living, if you wanted it. Wolfspeed and VinFast won't change that balance. They will help us find more of it.

REMEMBER WHEN

WE USED TO COUNT

UP AS THE CARS

## The country of baseball



Walking to his first baseball practice, my 7-year-old son clacked in his cleats across the parking lot to the field. He wore a cap on his head and a glove on his hand. He was ready.

ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN Hope Matters

usual get-to-know-you ques-

low parents. We made connections and caught smiles. The weather was perfect, the kids were laughing. I'd never been to this field before, yet it was like coming home. The poet Donald

In baseball, there are neither borders nor boundaries of time. The past is caught, then tossed to the next generation. The country of baseball resides 'wherever two or three are gathered.'

Neither one of us knew a

soul on the team. While he played catch with teammates in the outfield, I lobbed the tions back and forth with fel-

Hall wrote, "Base-

ball is a country all to itself." There are

neither borders nor

boundaries of time.

The past is caught,

baseball resides (to

phrase) "wherever

borrow a biblical

two or three are

then tossed to the

next generation. The country of



## Seeing the signposts along the road of life

gathered.

My son and his teammates divided into three groups to practice fielding and throwing. Their coaches kept them moving and passed along instructions: bend your knees, point your shoulder where you want to throw, keep your eye on the ball! Most importantly, they had encouraging words for each player. In the country of baseball, coaches, particularly of the young, teach not only the basic skills but a love for the game itself.

In an effort to appeal to younger generations, Major League Baseball has instituted new rules to speed up the game, like a timer between pitches. But the country of baseball lives in the heart, not just the mind. It evokes what the Greeks termed kairos, or "time out of time." This concept came from the ancient sport of archery. Kairos was that moment when the arrow thumped into the bullseye. In baseball, it's the crack of the bat.

As we gathered in the country of baseball that evening, I knew that there were tragedies around the world, from Turkey to Ukraine, and suffering in our own community. I remembered the first game after 9/11. The New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza homered in the eighth inning to propel the home team over the Atlanta Braves. I am a Braves fan, but that night it felt like the crack of the bat brought the country together.

Ping! My son's metal bat connected with the pitch. He froze, watching the ball sail into the air. His coach laughed, "Run!" My son took off toward first base like so many players before him. I cheered and, for a moment, we were all home in the country of baseball.

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



Long ago and far away, I worked for an agricultural supply and marketing organization operating in the two Carolinas. Most of my work centered around advertising and public relations and producing a monthly magazine similar to Progressive Farmer, as well as some smaller publications.

Movin' Around

Because our facilities were spread out from Ahoskie in northeast N.C. to Waynesville in the western mountains and as far south as Walterboro,

S.C., which is just next door to Savannah, Georgia, I spent considerable time traveling.

One of the benefits of that travel was getting to know the best local places to eat. I've always enjoyed putting my feet under the table and have consumed many a franchise cheeseburger or chicken leg, but the best places were and always will be the "mom and pop" places of the world.

So that I wouldn't miss any of those places in whatever locale I found myself at meal time, I devised a system of signposts along the way. Some were written in a little notebook I carried while others were committed to memory, which at that time was not all that difficult. Those signposts consisted of various landmarks -– an interstate exit, a certain shopping center or gas station or someone's pasture fence or silo. The system hardly ever failed.

Since those days, however, as I have grown older, I have come to understand that I — indeed, all of us humans — spend a lot of time on the road.

And I don't mean Interstate 95 or U.S. 64. Rather, I mean the road of life. And just like those exit signs or silos, there are signposts along the way that tell us where we are. Births. Deaths. Marriages. Graduation. Promotions. New homes. Moving. Babies – our own and those wonderful creatures known as grandchildren. The list is seemingly endless

Someone I know just reached one of those life signposts. And because he is, so am I.

I hesitate to call his name so as not to name him so I'll just tell you he's the first-born of my mother and father. And I won't go into great detail about the signpost other than to say he and George Washington share a birthday. And the significant thing about the day is he's 10 years older than me, and I was born in 1948.

There's another one between us. Most of the time that one is being held captive in the frozen tundra of New Hampshire, a nod to his long-ago fondness for skiing ... and not the kind you do on water. Distance and other life matters keep us all from gathering as much as I'd like but it's good when we do.

The good news is my oldest (can you do that when there are only two in the group, or would it be "older" I hesitate to call his name so as not to name him so I'll just tell you he's the first-born of my mother and father. And I won't go into great detail about the signpost other than to say he and George Washington share a birthday. And the significant thing about the day is he's 10 years older than me, and I was born in 1948.

but how do I do that since both of them are?) is only a few miles up the road from me. Or maybe I'm just a few miles down the road from him.

That proximity used to help us get together more than when he lived in Winston-Salem or Wilson or even Coleridge, hardly on the other side of Mars. But COVID-19 and its ugly tentacles put a damper of sorts on that, as it did for lots of folks. Hopefully, we'll all live long enough to get over that and get back to what we used to do. In pre-mask days, we'd have breakfast together (I always get stuck with the check), share Sunday lunches and other special occasions, enjoy Thanksgiving with the extended family — usually the one time a year when all three of us are in one place — and a belated Christmas and such other times as we can.

Funny thing about signposts; they change. When I was 7, I made a quarter shining his shoes before he went on a date and I would then usually plead with my mother to "make" (one of her favorite strategies) him let me go with him.

Never happened.

Today, that 10-year difference has morphed into about 15 minutes as we both pretty much travel many of the same roads in interests and tastes. He tells me from time to time that folks ask him if he and I are related, and he always wants to know why they ask. On occasion, he says, some think maybe he's me. I never apologize, just tell him to give them \$20 or so.

Now, as our respective vehicles travel the roads of life, I hope there are many more signposts for us along the way ... for both of us, like when it's my time for the one he's having now.

Did I tell you, as the Hollies once sang, he ain't heavy? He's my brother.

I love him.

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

# VIEWPOINTS

#### A Christian nation TO THE EDITOR:

In addition to the adventure of discovering a "new world," the North American continent was a magnet for freedom, especially religious freedom. So concerned were our forefathers of this freedom that they went a long way to separate church and state as our new nation developed into the United States of America. We were founded not only on freedom of religion but on freedom from religion!

Current political movements seek a change by merging government and politics with their preferred religion of Christianity, a Christian nation. This appears to be promoted by a Right aligned core of Republicans advocating for a churchstate; the same group who wants to adhere to the Constitution as written (originalism)! Not only would this approach be in direct conflict with our

Constitution but separates out all non-Christian religions. By this action, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and non-believers such as agnostics and atheists would be unwelcome. Are these change-makers looking to form a monolithic nationalistic union? Who would be next?

During the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the framers postulated that our government should not influence people towards or away from religion and wrote the finished document, the U.S. Constitution, that church and state be separate.

It is important that those in the extremes, Right and Left, help to set the guardrails that guide us to questions about our future. Questions should and need to be asked. People on the edges (Marjorie Taylor Greene, Bernie, etc.) explore possibilities; they help us see what we cannot even while their ideas are not entirely taken. Nader's

#### LETTERS

"Unsafe at Any Speed" did not get all he wanted, but safety in the auto industry improved because of the light he shined!

What do we want to be? What do we want to do?

These are times of questions and tests. Who shall stand up and debate or take a position to promote our founding principles? Are we blinded by bias or scared to speak out? Will hypocrisy and divisiveness flourish or will moderation craft the best offerings and take hold? Change can help us keep up with the times, but destroying our foundations leaves us tottering, unbalanced, and fractured as a nation.

Now is the time to shape our future by understanding risks and benefits.

Now is the time for the less outspoken to speak up and guide us to the best ideas of the Right and Left.

Now is the time.

Jim Vanderbeck Pittsboro

#### Seeking bipartisanship TO THE EDITOR:

I appreciate Mr. Philip Johnson's response last week to my column ("No, Senator Johnson, it's not a Ponzi scheme," CN+R, Feb. 16-22), in which I called for "ongoing and responsible policy analyses and debates to assure the continued solvency of Social Security and Medicare."

I think he and I agree it is vital, using his words, that there is "a retirement and medical program that will be sustainable and offer like benefits to what we currently have."

I also agree with Mr. Johnson's concern about the federal debt. In a recent Forbes article, the author aptly indicated that the debt "could negatively impact the U.S.'s position as a global political, economic and social power." She placed responsibility for the debt on "pretty much every administration.'

I agree that we are in a period of "disunity," but I hope it is not "fanciful" to be optimistic about efforts to safeguard the economic and healthcare secu rity of American workers and retirees. In signing the 1983 Social Security Amendments, President Reagan gave cause for such optimism: "Each of us had to compromise one way or another. But the essence of bipartisanship is to give up a little in order to get a lot.<sup>3</sup>

We all should be concerned if we can't find ways to work together to address essential issues facing our state, nation and world. I remain optimistic that we can. Keep in mind the bipartisanship we have seen with passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and the CHIPS and Science Act as well as in the support of Ukraine. Let's join in expecting our elected leaders to act responsibly in word and action. **Dennis Streets** 

Pittsboro

## Don't ask; don't tell



One on One

The University System's Board of Governors? Or some other entity?

lor?

Who owns the

University of

North Carolina

at Chapel Hill?

The faculty?

The Chancel-

**UNC** Chapel

Hill's Board of

Trustees?

The question is at the heart of a controversy about a new school the UNC Chapel Hill's Board of Trustees has directed the university to organize and put into operation — and do it quickly.

The university at Chapel Hill already has a number of schools, each headed by a dean. For instance, it has a distinguished School of Arts and Sciences, which itself includes numerous departments such as English.

Some schools, including the School of Government and the School of Data Science and Society, have been recently established but only after years of planning and coordination.

A proposed new school at UNC-Chapel Hill has gained national attention and stirred up controversy on the campus and across the state. Things began on Jan. 27 when its board of trustees adopted the following resolution: "Now therefore, the UNC-CH Board of Trustees requests that the administration of UNC-CH accelerate its development of a School of Civic Life and Leadership, potentially nested within an existing college or school, pursuant to the University of North Carolina Policy Manual, Code, and any other applicable University policy, including the development of a school with a goal of a minimum of 20 dedicated faculty members and degree opportunities for undergraduate students at the University."

The action, though criticized by academic leaders on campus and at other universities, was quickly praised by The Wall Street Journal on Jan. 28.

"Progressive politics has dominated elite universities since before the term woke was coined. But one university is trying to revive the academic ideal of a campus as a haven for free inquiry and debate. On Thursday the University of North Carolina board of trustees voted 12-0 to create a new school committed to free expression in higher education.

"UNC will establish the School of Civic Life and Leadership and plans to hire professors from across the ideological spectrum to teach in such academic departments as history, literature, philosophy, political science and religion. These disciplines have become enforcers of ideological uniformity at most schools. Board Chair David Bolick and Vice Chair John Preyer tell us that the idea is to end 'political constraints on what can be taught in university classes.'

"Rather than replacing current professors or creating faculty turf battles, UNC plans to create

ty, Mimi Chapman, asserting a primary role of the faculty in curriculum, said, "They're trying to insert themselves into the running of the campus and the development of the curriculum."

The contemplated 20 new professors would, presumably, include enough conservatives to ensure those views will be represented in the new school.

But there is a problem. The UNC System's board meeting last Friday (Feb. 24) took action that would make it difficult or impossible for UNC-Chapel Hill to recruit a diverse faculty for the new school.

As described by Fox News on Feb. 24, the UNC System board "moved against encroaching woke culture and voted to ban diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) statements and politically preferential hiring.

According to Fox, the board stated the university (including UNC-Chapel Hill) "shall neither solicit nor require an employee or applicant for academic admission or employment to affirmatively ascribe to or opine about beliefs. affiliations, ideals, or principles regarding matters of contemporary political debate or social action as a condition to admission. employment, or professional

## Get off the voter ID merrygo-round



JOHN HOOD John Locke Foundation

North Carolinians want their election laws to include a photo ID requirement. They've made this clear many times. In 2018, a large majority of voters chose to add such a requirement to the state constitution.

Critics of voter ID know full well they represent a small minority of North Carolinians. They don't care. Defining the policy as "voter suppression," they proclaim it a waste of resources and a violation of the

civil right to cast a ballot. They are wrong about that. They are wrong at every level of analysis.

Voter ID doesn't suppress the vote, for starters. Most scholarly studies of voter ID conclude that it has little to no effect on turnout in general, or on variations in turnout among partisan, racial, or ethnic groups. For example, a 2019 paper in the Atlantic Economic Journal found "no evidence that strict identification laws affect overall turnout or black turnout" and found a small reduction in Hispanic turnout only within one version of the authors' model. Even when researchers find a turnout effect, it's usually quite small. In South Carolina, implementation of voter ID "decreased turnout in the 2014 general election by 0.19%," wrote the authors of a Political Research Quarterly study, while having "no

discernible racial impact."

## D.G. MARTIN

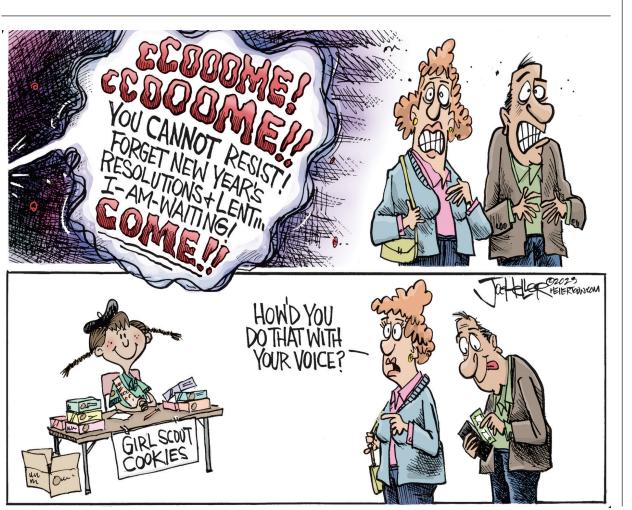
a discrete program with its own dean and at least 20 new professors to build a syllabus free from ideological enforcers. Students will be able to choose the new classes to fulfill university core requirements. Those who aren't interested can stay in the existing courses.'

Faculty leaders were stunned that they had not been consulted. The chairperson of the faculadvancement.

If UNC-Chapel Hill is to recruit the new school's faculty "across the ideological spectrum," it will have to inquire about prospective faculty members' connections something the system's board of governors has now prohibited.

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

The university at Chapel Hill already has a number of schools, each headed by a dean. For instance, it has a distinguished School of Arts and Sciences, which itself includes numerous departments such as English. Some schools, including the School of Government and the School of Data Science and Society, have been recently established but only after years of planning and coordination.



Nor 15 voter ID intended to suppress legal votes. Most states and many foreign countries employ some version of the safeguard, including most European democracies. To accuse the likes of Norway and the Netherlands of engaging in voter suppression is preposterous.

Now, if the introduction of a voter ID law doesn't significantly reduce turnout, then basic math tells us there can't be rampant impersonation fraud in our election system! Otherwise, the number of ballots cast would go way down (because lots of illegal votes would be blocked). Based on this fact, critics say there's no point in having ID laws.

They're still wrong. Impersonation fraud is very rare but does occur on occasion, such as someone casting a ballot on behalf of a recently deceased relative. Also very occasionally, elections are settled by just a handful of votes. In 2017, partisan control of the Virginia House of Delegates had to be settled by drawing lots because the two candidates in the pivotal district each got 11,608 votes.

Besides, the best case for voter ID isn't about impersonation. It's about residency. A just-released study by scholars at the University of California-San Diego and the University of Alberta estimated that some 6.1 million Americans are registered to vote in more than one state. Most of these registrations are probably accidental. Folks relocate and don't notify their former state. And only a tiny number actually attempt to vote multiple times, obviously an illegal act. But a far larger share — the authors estimate more than 300,000 in 2020 — engage in "cross-state strategic voting."

Think of a college student who could either cast an absentee ballot in his home state or vote in person where he's enrolled. Think of a wealthy couple with residences in multiple states. These conditions shouldn't allow people to choose which place to vote based on where they think their votes are more likely to tip the outcome. They should vote where they're truly domiciled. How can we tell? The possession of an ID card issued by the jurisdiction is a pretty good tell. In our state, the law already requires you to register your vehicle and get a North Carolina driver's license if you live and drive here for more than a few weeks. And it's not too much to ask non-drivers to get a photo ID if they want to vote here.

Indeed, having a photo ID is handy in many other ways, so providing them is a valuable public service!

Lastly, ID laws don't deny anyone the right to vote. They serve merely to establish the identity and residency of those casting ballots. Let's stop the litigation merry-go-round. Let's enact a reasonable ID law and move on. Enough already.

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).



Drone photo by Bill Oestereich/Chatham Park A bird's-eye view of a part of the 7,068-acre Chatham Park development north of downtown Pittsboro.

## Pittsboro to hold hearing on system development fee increase

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town's board of commissioners is expected to significantly increase Pittsboro's system development fees after a public hearing March 13 — a move that could raise the maximum "tap-on" fee the town imposes on new home construction up to nearly tenfold.

The rationale: the town can't raise usage rates quickly enough to support costs needed to pay for growth in its water and wastewater utility services infrastructure.

The town's rates and existing SDF fees have been too low for too long, officials said, so the cost of expanding capacity has to be supported by new development, according to town officials.

System development fees (SDF) are one-time payments made by developers to municipalities during construction to connect to water and sewer systems. The fees help pay for the connection, as well as to fund projects the town will need to take on to improve existing infrastructure to handle more residents using town facilities.

Pittsboro Town Engineer Kent Jackson and his staff worked with North Carolina engineering firm Freese and Nichols to create a Water and Wastewater Development Fee Update Report for Pittsboro. According to Jackson, the report is designed to determine the maximum fee the town can impose on a single tap-on unit.

"The town has had this fee since 2018," Jackson said of the town's existing fee schedule. "The law requires a update at least every five years, so that's what triggered this."

The proposed maximum SDF recommended, according to the January report, is slightly over \$39,000 for both sewer and water use — the current rate is \$4,200 — with current the water use rate being \$5.51 per gallon for water use and \$6.16 per gallon for sewer.

"The board of commissioners will take into consideration what the maximum is, and they will take into consideration public feedback, consumer feedback and they will have a range of which to set the fee up to that maximum," Jackson said.

Commissioner Kyle Shipp told the News + Record that SDFs are a tool the town can use to ensure developers are the ones paying the price of incoming growth — not current residents. The town has two main ways of raising revenue to utilize for projects on the water and wastewater facilities in town, according to Shipp: raising usage rates for everyone, or raise the SDF for new development to tap into Pittsboro's infrastructure. "Everyone that's been here using the current plant is not, in theory, who needs the additional capacity, but the development and developers need additional capacity," Shipp said. "So the way to keep rates from increasing, and to put the cost of this on new development, is to increase the system development fee.' Shipp said the town currently charges a maximum of \$4,200 in SDFs per service unit for a new connection into the water and wastewater system. Surrounding municipalities like Apex charge between \$12,000 and \$15,000 in SDFs per service unit, and Shipp said the town will have to increase the SDF in order to complete a laundry list of renovations and projects costing around \$530 million. "We're going to have to land somewhere near other municipalities in terms of SDFs," Shipp said. "It's an economic reality that we have to be near our neighbors, and I think we can be higher than some of our neighbors because we have more cost than them and more growth ahead." The SDF update report showed the projected growth for the town, with the population expected to increase from a current population of 8,566 people to over 50,000 residents by 2042. However, the Pittsboro water treatment plant and the wastewater facility are already nearing full capacity, according to Shipp. "In a perfect world, we would've raised these rates five or 10 years ago," Shipp said. "We're just really behind that curve now ... in our situation, like, it's not possible to go from 5,000 people to 20,000 people and have those 5,000 pay for it — it just doesn't work.'

## PROJECTS

Continued from page A1

with the incoming development and growth.

"Chatham and Randolph are growing quickly — as fast as any other part of our state," he said. "With that growth, we need to make investments in our water and sewer infrastructure in order to continue serving both residents and new businesses. I am glad to see this money coming into our communities to ensure clean water is available for every resident, and so that we keep pace with the needs of new industries locating here." In Chatham County:

• Pittsboro will receive \$17.9 million for two drinking water projects to add new treatment processes to control emerging contaminants. Pittsboro's water treatment plant will get \$5,680,000 for additional PFAS treatment facilities and \$12,244,000 for UV-OP treatment facilities.

The town will also receive \$10.5 million for a regionalization wastewater transmission system improvement project converting the wastewater treatment plant into an equalization pump station and force main to a lift station in Sanford.

• Siler City will receive \$900,00 for two projects: \$500,000 for stormwater utility and another \$400,000 for its sewer system.

The nearby town of Liberty in Randolph County received \$12,900,000 in funding for two projects.

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry said the town's infrastructure improvement projects are crucial to moving forward with a potential merger with the city of Sanford's water and wastewater system.

"When you think about the fact that we only have a \$9 million a year budget for everything in the town, it just becomes more exponential that we have all these millions to spend on this one particular project," Perry said.

Commissioner Kyle Shipp said grants received by the town would

also go to establishing treatment plans for PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane, two unregulated compounds that continue to pollute the Haw River and, in turn, Pittsboro's water supply.

While he is happy the town is receiving funding, Shipp said he wishes Pittsboro didn't have to ask for funding in the first place.

"We believe these projects will allow Pittsboro residents to have some of the best quality in the country and we are very fortunate to have that. However, it is unfortunate that this funding is required at all," he said. "These are costs that the citizens of Pittsboro have borne, and now, the citizens of North Carolina are assisting with the cost to remove contamination from the water that shouldn't be there in the first place."

Perry shared similar sentiment to Shipp and also added she thinks the funds will help to alleviate the town from the constraints of its current water and wastewater capacity.

We have no sewer allocation to give out, and in a sense, we are in a position of not being able to approve any future projects," she said. "As far as the long-term is concerned, there are various ideas about how that (Sanford) force main can be enlarged and how the receipt of water can help us dispose of more wastewater. So really, in a sense, it's going to solve the immediate problem whenever it [Sanford Force Main] gets installed in two to three years, but it will certainly help to resolve problems in the future.'

Siler City's \$900,000 to help evaluate and address miscellaneous issues in its stormwater and sewer system.

Town Manager Hank Raper said the town applied for the grants from NCDEQ to help fund some engineering studies to develop strategic plans to tackle the issues brought by incoming growth.

Some of the money will help fund an engineering study of all the town's sewer assets, which will help lay out the top priorities for future staff and commissioners.

"They'll be instrumental in helping us create a public utilities capital improvement plan," Raper said. "We're already working ... to do a rate study, so that's helping to look at projected population growth and the utility needs to meet that projected growth demand. Having the sewer AIA done helps us identify the prioritization of what the sewer needs are and what needs to be addressed."

The remainder of the funds Siler City received was given as a part of the local assistance for stormwater infrastructure investments program, which was established to help municipalities find weak points in stormwater infrastructure.

Raper said this would be the first time in Siler City's history that the town received funding from the state to analyze its stormwater facilities.

"We currently do not have any mechanisms in place for evaluating and ranking the stormwater needs within our city," he said. "We certainly know there's a need for it as the town develops and grows ... that creates additional challenges from an infrastructure standpoint that we need to plan for when it comes to growth and development."

Siler City received the maximum allocation for each grant, Raper said, and he believes it gives the town a chance to get ahead in preparing for a population boom.

"We want to make sure that when we're spending the public's money, that we're doing it as efficiently and effectively as possible," Raper said. "So having this as a tool in our toolbox to evaluate our system and identify where needs are puts us in an absolute best position to spend the money wisely."

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

## HEALTHY STOMACH, HEALTHY YOU.

When it comes to your gut health trust the **Digestive Specialists** of Pinehurst Medical Clinic.

ninehustmedical con

Jackson said residents have a unique opportunity to provide input on the SDF report through the 45-day-long public comment period and the public hearing on March 13.

"Take advantage of the opportunity to review and make comments," Jackson said. "Take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the public hearing and to make sure they have as complete of understanding as they want or need to have."

The SDF Update report is available online for residents to view during a 45-day-long public input period, where people can provide feedback on the report. Residents can access the report at https:// pittsboronc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2639/Pittsboro-System-Development-Fee-UpdateReport\_Public-Comment?bidId=.

The public hearing on the SDF updates will be held during the board of commissioners' March 13 meeting. Residents will be able to attend in-person or on Zoom. March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month and with over 10,000 colonoscopy procedures performed annually, our <u>experts are prepared to s</u>erve you.

**Pinehurst Medical Clinic** GASTROENTEROLOGY & ENDOSCOPY

PINEHURST | PITTSBORO

SANFORD

## **NEW INTERIM MANAGER** Faison brings breadth of municipal experience

#### BY TAYLOR HEEDEN News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Larry Faison has spent most of his working life in public service, and now, he's bringing his experience to Pittsboro to serve as the town's interim manager.

"This opportunity advances my desire to continue providing public service," Faison told the News + Record. "My time in Pittsboro has been as exciting and professionally invigorating as my prior two interim assignments in the towns of Kenly and Brevard, and I enjoy having the opportunity to continue meeting my desire to provide public service."

Faison is the second interim manager Pittsboro has hired since former Town Manager Chris Kennedy initially hired July 2020 — unexpectedly resigned last August. Hazen Blodgett was named interim manager last August, but his contract expired at the end of January.

Faison just wrapped up a temporary tenure at Brevard as its city manager, and prior to that, he served as the interim town manager in Kenly from October 2021 until June 2022. Prior to that, Faison worked full-time as the city manager of Monroe from October 2014 to July 2021 and Spring Lake from October 2007 to June 2009. He also served in the U.S. Military in the Army Reserves, where Faison commanded company-, battalion-, and brigade-sized units.

"The portfolio of services and operations that I have managed include airport operations, aquatic center, economic development, electric, finance, fire services, garage, gas, golf, IT, parks and recreation, police, solid waste, stormwater, streets, tourism, urban planning, water, and wastewater," Faison said. "I have served as a manager or assistant manager in communities ranging in population from 1,500 to 75,000 residents with varying community factors, including those experiencing explosive growth,

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## ART

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doesn't mean artists aren't still hurting.

"If you haven't worked, or worked substantially less, for two years — we're still not whole," Chamblee said. "Not even close."

Issues artists faced during the pandemic weren't pandemic-specific, Chamblee said. Rather, they were exacerbated by an extreme situation.

McCombie said she still sees attendance below pre-pandemic levels. There are also fewer advanced sale tickets, which affects the venues artists can play and the draw they may have in a given area. Those recovery pains are part of why she said it's important to support the arts now.

"We feel really passionate about employing other artists," Mc-Combie said. "When you support the arts — and when you support anyone who is trying to make a living in the arts — your dollar goes so far.'

While the arts industry is recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, Big Night In serves as an opportunity to tell the story of the arts, showcase their impact and raise money for arts programming throughout the region. To date, the fundraiser has raised \$615,000 for Triangle arts programs.

Last year's event alone raised more than \$250,000 and when this year's event airs on March 9, fundraiser organizers will look to top that total.

"We came together because of the pandemic to do this, but we should still keep doing this," Chamblee said. "Artists don't see county lines, so we should work together to support the artists and



Courtesy of Chatham Rabbits

Austin and Sarah McCombie strive to bring the history of Chatham through their music. The duo, known as Chatham Rabbits, will perform for Big Night In for the Arts on March 9.

audiences in our midst."

#### Stand-out performance

McCombie said she was reminded, as she and her husband recorded "Hinges" at Bynum Front Porch, of the power of local art. The duo moved away from Bynum three years ago, but that didn't stop former neighbors from waving and honking in congratulations as they witnessed what will air on WRAL next Thursday.

"The location is just so Chatham," she said. "It's so recognizable for the people that live here, and I'm happy we can provide a callback to where we're from in our performance."

Chamblee said watching the recording of the performance was "beautiful and uplifting."

While the other participating areas — Durham, Orange and Wake — may be more populated and urbanized than Chatham, Chamblee and McCombie said Chatham's unique arts scene makes it stand out from the pack.

"Chatham has been making a name for itself in the arts for a number of years," Chamblee said. "I don't have the numbers on this, but we must have one of the highest rates of artists per capita anywhere."

The art that stems from Chatham has often been passed down for generations. The milling communities of the past shared their traditions of quiltmaking and banjo picking with their children, and those art forms still thrive in the county today. Those traditions have also been reshaped and adapted with the rise of the Latino population in the county.

"It's this really beautiful cross-section of deep southern cotton mills, farming and agriculture, and mixing that with the heritage and culture of people from El Salvador, Guatemala, Venezuela, etc.," McCombie said. "That's something unique to Chatham in my experience.'

Each participating arts scene has unique offerings for Big Night In. Chamblee and McCombie each said making the event happen was a collaborative effort that they were proud to showcase.

"Each of us brings a multitude of things to the table," Chamblee said of her peers at the other arts councils. "We've been planning this since the summer and I think all that work will be reflected on-screen.3

This year's event also includes a Triangle-wide watch party. In addition to the WRAL broadcast, Big Night In sponsors will be invited to The Mayton in Downtown Cary, with tickets starting at \$75. The event will air via livestream or on WRAL at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 9. Donations made for the event can be split across all four counties or given to one arts council. For more information visit bignightin.org.



Staff photo by Anna Connors

Bea Allen, 9, poses for a portrait with her mom, Belle Boggs, at their home. The two run a blog together on Substack called 'Frog Trouble Times.'

#### 2023 Events Offered

April

May

## SPIRIT

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ten stories on the importance of learning Black history, making a local impact on climate change and adjusting your mindset to stop making excuses.

Their wide-ranging prose serves as a time capsule, both of their time together and the state of the world.

Bea says their ideas for their weekly topics come from whatever piques their interest at the time.

"We sometimes pick certain unusual animals that most people don't know about, then write about it," she said. "Or if we get ideas for really good crafts, we put that in the blog. As a sneak preview of an upcoming Frog Trouble Times story, Bea and her mom shared about a recent experience going to the landfill. On a recent trip, they noticed most of the recycling isn't properly sorted. Being the pondering journalists they are, they thought about how bad that is for their nearby streams and how to spread the word. The post will share better ways to recycle for their community and alternative ways to dispose of waste like composting, which Boggs and Bea are both passionate about.



### Chatham County SENIOR (SGAMES \$ SilverArts

#### SAVE the DATE April 28 — May 11, 2023

#### Early Bird Registration March 3 -17, 2023 **Registration Deadline: March 31, 2023** Register Online: http://torch.ncseniorgames.org

For More Information: Liz Lahti, 919-542-4512 ext. 228 liz.lahti@chathamcountync.gov

- 18 Archery 24 SilverArts Intake 28 T-Shirt and Packet pickup
- 29 Track & Field
- Golf
- Basketball Shoot Cornhole
- 2 SilverArts Open House & Reception
- , Women's Singles/Men's Doubles Cycling
- 3 Tennis—Men's Singles/Women's Doubles
- Women's Bocce
- Horseshoes Fun Walk
- Tennis—Mixed Doubles
- 5 Disc Golf Football/Softball Throw
- Bowling Croquet 9 Pickleball-M/W Singles, M/W Doubles
- 9 Table Tennis
- 10 Pickleball—Mixed Doubles 11 Men's Bocce

## **ROTARY INFO BLITZ** CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

Have you been wanting to know more about the Pittsboro Rotary Club?

#### Join us for an Info Blitz Session:

- March 1
- March 15
- March 29

Meet Us at 11:30am at Postal Fish Company. Please be our guest at our 12 Noon Lunch Meeting.

#### **RSVP by emailing:** RotaryOfPittsboro@Gmail.com





#### A cacophony of crafts

Looking through the archives of the blog, which began April 2021, the most common segment you'll find is the abundant variety of crafts Bea does. She's built cardboard dollhouses with functioning elevators, made her own vases that look like their cat, Julius, and even finger-woven an adjustable jump rope.

When asked where she learned her talents, Bea says "I taught myself," with a grin of pride. She says the instructions she reads in books or YouTube videos aren't helpful enough — she prefers honing her skills through good ol' fashion trial and error.

It helps that her mother used to be a K-12 teacher who was used to having crafts around. In fact, it was one of those crafts that first inspired her to make Frog Trouble Times. As a fifth grade teacher,

Staff photo by Anna Connors

#### Bea Allen, 9, sits with her mom, Belle Boggs, at their home in Pittsboro.

Boggs had her students make a newspaper.

"Making it was often kind of cacophonous," Boggs said. "But it made me feel better that at the end of the day we had this thing that reminded me of all the things we did."

Parents, grandparents and students all loved having something handmade to show off their work in the class, Boggs said. So when her children got old enough to write and craft, Boggs began making newspapers with them, too.

Those newspapers, the pre-digital versions of Frog Trouble Times, were distributed to grandparents, friends and even some local bestselling authors like Jill McCorkle (who happens to be close friends with Boggs). With some rave reviews from their early audience, the Frog Troublers looked to expand their reach in the digital space and soon started posting their weekly adventures on Substack, an subscription-based electronic newsletter service.

#### One for the books

The other hot topic on Frog Trouble Times, and some of the most popular posts, are the duo's book recommendations.

When she counted last March, Bea had 103 books on the shelves in her room. Not a single one is unread. That doesn't even count for all the books she's read from the local library or her grandparents' basement bookshelf.

"I don't mind at all sharing a love of reading with my children is a dream come true," Boggs wrote in a blog post. "One of my biggest parenting goals, as they get older, is to make sure that they don't lose it."

That love isn't limited by genre either. They both read everything from old comics and graphic novels to poetry and nonfiction.

"I like pretty much everything," Bea said. "I really like mythology, but the problem with mythology is that I've read all of it."

Like any good writer, Bea has a constant hankering for a juicy story

- a trait she shares with her mom. It's that intense love of stories, and the ways they can connect with people that shines through in every post on Frog Trouble Times.

To subscribe to the blog, and read posts of past and present, visit frogtroubletimes.substack.com.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b\_rappaport

## OBITUARIES

#### EDWARD 'EDDIE' FLETCHER GAINES



January 14, 1947 ~ February 21, 2023

Edward "Eddie" Fletcher Gaines, 76, of Siler City, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Eddie was born in Chatham County on January 14, 1947, the son of Carl Roe Gaines Sr. and Laura Bell Stinson Gaines. He was a member of Rocky River Baptist Church. He spent 47 years working as a mechanic and wrecker driver for Welford Harris. Eddie loved to get out and go

hunting or fishing. He enjoyed tinkering with engines and John Deere tractors. Eddie cherished his family, especially his grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Elaine Teague Gaines; daughter, Cathy G. York; brothers, Victor, David, Hubert, George, and Carl Roe Gaines Jr.; and sisters, Cora Tillman, Kate Wilkie, Ruth Carty, Josephine Brewer, and Gola Hunter.

Eddie is survived by his daughter, Allison G. Loyd and husband Eric of Goldston; siblings, Myrtle G. Wilkie, Iola G. Phillips and husband Bruce, Joyce G. Wicker and husband Jack, and Homer Gaines and wife Toni; grandchildren, Casey and Maggie York; step grandson, Jake Loyd; and sonin-law, Barry York.

A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at Rocky River Baptist Church with Rev. Jim Wall officiating. The family received friends after the service in the church fellowship hall, and other times at the family home.

Memorials may be made to Rocky River Baptist Church, or to Bear Creek Baptist Church.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Gaines family.

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

#### MARTHA ELOISE 'ELLA' GAINES BROWER



April 26, 1934 ~ February 26, 2023 Martha Eloise "Ella" Gaines Brower, 88, of Siler City, passed away at her home on Sunday, February 26, 2023, surrounded by her loved ones. Mrs. Brower was born in Chatham County on April 26, 1934, the daughter of John T. Gaines Sr. and Mattie Hancock Gaines. Ella was a member of Loves Creek Baptist Church, where she sang in the church choir. She retired after many years as a

dental assistant for Dr. Blair. In addition to her parents, Ella is preceded in death by her husband, James "Jim" D. Brower Sr., grandson, Blake Hubbard, sister, Mary Lee Powers, and brothers, John T. Gaines Jr. and Oren, Bill, Alton and Fred Gaines.

She is survived by her daughter, Patty B. Hubbard and husband Jeff of Durham; son, James D. "Jimmy" Brower Jr. and wife Darlene of Ramseur; grandchildren, Derek and Kiersten Brower, both of Ramseur, Robert Hubbard (Maggie) of Nashville, Tennessee, and Lauren Hubbard Shelton (Shane) of Durham; great-grandchild, Sawyer Kate Shelton; and sisters, Louise G. McLaughlin (Buddie), Betty G. Stone (Dennis), and Frankie G. Bridges, all of Siler City.

The family would like to give a special thank you to everyone for their cards, flowers, prayers and visits during this time.

A private memorial service will be held to celebrate Ella's life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Loves Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Brower family. Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

#### RUTH CLARKE HOLLIDAY



Ruth standing at the top of the Eiffel Tower Greene and in Paris, June 1955. William L. Holliday.

Quite active, Ruth lived independently, driving herself on errands to church and visits until January, 2020, when a nighttime bedside fall left her with a fractured pelvis from which she recovered to walk again and return to her home at 308 W. Dolphin Street. After her 91st birthday, she weakened in a skilled nursing facility and brief hospice care.

She is survived by her daughters, Fabienne Greene Budd and husband Michael, and Pamella Kay Greene; brothers, Dean Clark (Nina), and Robert Clark and sister, Elaine Thain.

A quiet graveside service was officiated by Reverend Jim Wall Friday, February 24, 2023 at Oakwood Cemetery.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Holliday family.

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

#### **BETTY JEAN LINDLEY**

March 11, 1937 ~ February 19, 2023

Jean Lindley, 85, of Knightdale went to her heavenly home on Sunday, February 19, 2023.

Born in Chatham County, she was the daughter of the late Robert S. and Loney Ray McDaniel Binkley Sr. She graduated from Goldston High School in 1955. Jean wed her loving husband, Lester, shortly after he returned from serving in the Army and they moved to Raleigh. She was a financial secretary for many years at Calvary Baptist Church where she and Lester faithfully attended and served. Upon retiring, they attended Central Baptist Church in Wendell, where she also volunteered with the nursery. Jean was a loving wife, and mother who touched the lives of many people. She had a wry wit and a wonderful smile.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lester O'Neil Lindley Sr.; siblings, Elsie Brigham, Robert "Bob" S. Binkley Jr., Ashley "Possum" Binkley, Thelma Rives Estes, Earl, Pearl "Odell" Camilla Gilliland, Arvey Joe, Agnes Gilliland, and Larry.

She is survived by her children, Lester O'Neil Lindley Jr. of Knightdale, Gloria Jeanne Grayson (Terry); grandchildren, Jessica and Brooke; siblings, Wesley ("Wes"), Steve, and Donnie Joseph ("Joe").

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at Strickland Funeral Home & Crematory Chapel in Wondoll with Dr. Ed Pose, officiating ruary 26, 2023, at Asbury United Methodist Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Linda was the daughter of the late Tyre and Dorothy Rosser Williams. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Howard "Tommy" Weeks, son, Joey Weeks, grandson, Brad Weeks, and siblings, Jimmy Williams, Rebecca Williams Marsh and Johnny Williams. She retired from West Lee Middle School.

Survivors include her children, Kim Weeks Love, Lorrie Weeks Huffman, Beth Weeks Lees, and Ryan Weeks, all of Sanford; sister, Patsy Smith of Sanford; 12 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

## ROBERT CLARENCE

November 13, 1936 ~ February 24, 2023

Robert Clarence Covil, 86, of Laurinburg, formerly of Sanford, passed away on Friday, February 24, 2023.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Flat Springs Baptist Church Cemetery with Dr. Gary McCollough officiating.

Mr. Covil was the son o the late Clarence Vernon and Sarah Ellen Capps Covil. In addition, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Nell Dixon Covil. He retired from Belk Department Stores after a 42-year career managing stores in Havelock, Sanford and Jacksonville.

He is survived by his daughter, Deborah Covil McFarland of Deep River; sons Edward Covil of Red Springs, and G. Wayne Covil of Colonial Heights, Virginia; and four grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, you may donate to Flat Springs Baptist Church, 4148 Deep River Road, Sanford, NC 27330.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

#### HAROLD D. 'DREW' THOMAS

January 19, 1942 ~ February 24, 2023

Harold Delphus "Drew" Thomas, 81, of Cameron, died Friday, February 24, 2023, at his home.

He was the son of the late Joe Nessing and Nellie Burns Nessing. Drew was a veteran of the United States Army. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Surviving is his daughter, Kelli Thomas of Cameron; son, Jason Thomas of Fuquay Varina; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com.

#### PATSY COX MANSFIELD

May 28, 1941 ~ February 23, 2023

Patsy Cox Mansfield passed away on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at First Health Reid Heart Center in Moore County.

· Concerned • Compassionate

The family received friends Tuesday, February 28, 2023 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Swann Station Baptist Church. The funeral followed Tuesday, at 2 p.m. with Pastor Russell Blackmon presiding. Burial was Chapel in Wendell, with Dr. Ed Rose, officiating.

Flowers welcomed or memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.

The family of Mrs. Lindley wishes to express gratitude and appreciation to all who have remembered them during their time of bereavement.

in the church cemetery at Cameron Grove. Patsy worked for Lee County School systems until her retirement. She was pre-



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We offer an on-site Crematory with many options of Celebration of Life services, Traditional, and Green Burials. Call us to set an appointment to come by and learn more. ceded in death by her parents, William Garland Cox Sr. and Beulah Buchanan Cox; brothers, W. G. "Red" Cox Jr., Wilford Lee Cox, Johnny Cox, Bobby Gray Cox; and sisters, Helen Jewel Cox, Laurie Cox Lloyd, and Betty Jo Cox Lucas.

Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Larry Mansfield; son, Tony Mansfield of Emerald Isle; daughter, Hope Mansfield Argabright of Cary; sister, Polly Holt of Sanford; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com

#### JOSEPH THOMAS SMITH

April 10, 1950 ~ February 20, 2023

Joseph Thomas "JT" Smith, 72, of Sanford, passed away on Monday February 20, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Zion Hill Christian Center with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

#### LINDA FAYE WILLIAMS WEEKS

Linda Faye Williams Weeks, 81, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at FirstHealth Hospice House in Pinehurst.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb-

#### **BOBBY GENE HICKS**

February 13, 1941  $\sim$  February 22, 2023

Bobby Gene Hicks, 82, of Staley, passed away on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

The funeral was held on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Hickory Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Darrell Garner presiding. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Bobby was the son of Lewis and Hazel Hicks. He was a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church and retired from the furniture industry. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death

by his wife, Sherry Mabrey Hicks and son, Mike Hicks.

He is survived by his children, Lori Hicks of Staley, Jean Whitt of Staley, Tara Reynolds of Asheboro and Greg Hicks of Siler City; sister, Frances Ellis (Dink) of Bear Creek; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

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

#### ZOANN MCLAUGHLIN ADAMS



October 27, 1946 ~ February 23, 2023

Zoann McLaughlin Adams, 76, of Siler City, passed away peacefully in her home on Thursday, February 23, 2023.

Mrs. Adams was born in Chatham County on October 27, 1946, the daughter of David Keith and Martha Elizabeth Ligon McLaughlin. Zoann was of the Methodist faith. She was a past president of the

Siler City Merchant Association, as well as a former Director of the North Carolina Arts Incubator. She was an avid reader, and traveler. Zoann worked as an Office Manager at Spence Building Supply for 20 years. She loved and cherished her family. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, DK McLaughlin.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Sam P. Adams Jr.; daughter, Marti A. Canterbury and husband Steven of Newton; grandchildren, James Robert Canterbury, and Jesse Adams Canterbury; brother, Tom T. McLaughlin and wife Cynde of Greensboro; brother-in- law, James Adams and wife Jean of Siler City; sister-in-law, Peggy Davis of Asheville; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the N.C. Arts Incubator, 223 N. Chatham Ave., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

No services are planned at this time. Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Adams

family.

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

#### JACK JUNIOR HENSON



Jack Junior Henson, 87, of Siler City, went to his heavenly home on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Jack was born in Randolph County on December 31, 1935, the son of Carl W. Henson and Conie Cox Henson. He was a follower of Christ and a member at Moons Chapel Baptist Church. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Jack was Co-Owner of Brownie Lu's Restaurant for 45 years. He enjoyed

spending time with his family. He enjoyed some farming. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Dorothy "Dot" Moody Henson; infant daughter, Sherry Dawn Henson; and son-in-law, Danny Morris.

Jack is survived by his wife Dottie Gaines Henson of eight years; his children, Greg Henson and wife Pam of Siler City, Rick Henson and wife Connie of Seagrove, Vickie Morris of Liberty, Darlene Culberson and husband Van of Siler City, Lynda Pore and husband Mickey of Siler City, and Glynda McNeill of Ramseur; grandchildren, and great grandchildren, Emily Pellitt and husband Aaron of Bishop, Georgia, Jack Henson of Siler City, Brooke Little and husband Justin of Ramseur, Meredith Lambert and husband Anthony of Asheboro, Michael Morris of Liberty, Megan Daniels and husband Kevin of Liberty, Hagan Pore and wife Ashley of Bear Creek, Brennan Pore of Siler City, Zach McNeil and wife Morgan of Ramseur, Kyle and Wyatt Pellitt of Bishop, Georgia, Chandler Daniels of Liberty, and Ansley and Addison Little of Ramseur.

The family received friends on Monday, February 27, 2023 from 12 to 1 p.m. at Moons Chapel Baptist Church, 175 Moons Chapel Rd., Siler City. A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. at the church with Dr. Patrick Fuller and Rev. Jerry Foley officiating. Burial followed at Randolph Memorial Park in Asheboro.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Randolph or to Moons Chapel Baptist Church in Siler City.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Henson family.

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

#### **BETTY MARIE JOHNSON**



Betty Marie Johnson passed away on February 22, 2023, 21 days before her 90th birthday in Summerville, S.C., where she lived with her daughter, Kathy Jones, and her son-in-law, Bob for almost nine years. She was predeceased by her parents, Artna and Mamie Jones, her husband, Buck Johnson, and sister, Doris Lou Ellen Jones.

In addition to her daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Bob Jones, she is survived by four grandchildren,

Clint (Cassy) Jones of Summerville, S.C., Dawn Jones of Clearwater, Florida, Kim Jones (Ryan) of Lewisville, Texas, and Brandi Camelio (Randy) of Summerville, S.C.; sister, Lib Brown (Ricky); and niece Christy Brown of Ramseur. She is also survived by 12 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren. Extended family members and special friends include Chrissy Riddle, Dennis Johnson, Linda Evans, and Edwin Lee Thompson. Each of these hold special memories of her and her impact on their lives. She is also survived by her dog Abby, who she loved dearly and with whom she spent most of her days.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Chatham Memorial Park in Siler City.

Service and special music will be led by Rev. Eddie and Francis Willis, close family friends that she loved.

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

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Johnson family.

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

### **OBITS**

Continued from page A8

#### DORIS JEAN YOW HANCOCK

June 4, 1947 - February 24, 2023

Doris Jean Yow Hancock, 75, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, February 24, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital.

A graveside service was held on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Rocky Fork Christian Church Cemetery.

She was the daughter of the late Arlie Dewey Yow and Annie Mae Hughes Yow. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Hancock and brothers, Arlie D. Yow Jr. "JC" and Charles F. Yow. Doris worked many years at Static Control. She also provided in-home childcare for a number of years.

Doris is survived by a son, Terrance Miller of Sanford; daughters, Jimmie Jean Hancock Holt of Sanford and Shannon Michelle Miller of Harnett County; brother, Clarence Yow "Dink" Sue of Moncure; sister, Peggy Yow George of Sanford; seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

#### RICHARD FLOYD KOCHENBERGER

September 20, 1936 ~ February 21, 2023

Richard Floyd Kochenberger, 86, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, February 21, 2023, at Westfield Rehabilitation and Health Center.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

He was the son of the late James Otha Kochenberger and Hannah Wolfe Kochenberger. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Barbara Jo Kochenberger; and sisters, Margie Lober, Mamie Huckstep and Leona Kochenberger.

Surviving is his daughter, Tammy K. Toby of Bowling Green, Kentucky; sons, James Allen Kochenberger of Fuquay Varina, and Kurt Kochenberger of Braidwood, Illinois; sister, Diane Shanks of Belle, Missouri; brothers, Jimmy Kochenberger of Pennsylvania, Billy Kochenberger of Illinois, and Gale Kochenberger of Watseka, Illinois; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren,

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

#### RONALD ERIC PALMER

March 22, 1959  $\sim$  December 8, 2022

Ronald Eric Palmer passed away on December 8, 2022.

He was the son of the late Richard and Annie Palmer.

Memorial service was held Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Blandonia Presbyterian Church.

#### CLARENCE EVANS MCDOUGALD

December 20, 1961 ~ February 17, 2023

Clarence McDougald, 61, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, February 17, 2023, at his residence.

Funeral services were held Sunday, February 26, at 2 p.m. at Swann Station Baptist Church, with burial following at Cameron Grove Baptist Church.

#### JOSEPH THOMAS ('JT') SMITH

April 10, 1950 ~ February 20, 2023

Joseph Thomas "JT" Smith, 72, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, February 20, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

The funeral service was held Saturday at 2 p.m. at Zion Hill Christian Center with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

#### REBECCA LYNN HOBSON BOUCHARD

August 23, 1972 ~ February 24, 2023

Rebecca Lynn Hobson Bouchard, 50, passed away on Friday, February 24, 2023, at her home.

She was the daughter of Doris Taylor Hobson and the late Harvey Hobson. She worked as a Credit Manager at Core-Mark, Int'l. Rebecca was preceded in death by her father, Harvey D. Hobson and sister, Pam Hobson Davis.

She is survived by her mother, Doris Taylor Hobson of Sanford; a son Jonathan Taylor of Elkhart, Ind; daughter, Megan T. Cotthoff of Ft. Meade, Maryland; brothers, Harvey D. Hobson Jr. of Cameron and Kenneth Wayne Hobson of Sanford; sister, Debbie Preston of Sanford; five grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The graveside service will be held Friday, March 3, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Buffalo Cemetery with Rev. Randy Buchanan and Russell Taylor presiding.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

## PITTSBORO COMMISSIONERS Chatham Park rezoning to provide range of housing options

#### BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Town commissioners unanimously approved a rezoning request in Chatham Park at the board's meeting Monday at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

The action paves the way for multiple market-rate housing types in Chatham Park, just off Russet Run.

The 147-acre plot was rezoned from medium-density residential to multi-family residential. The approved conditional zoning request will also provide donated acreage Prior to approval by commissioners, Attorney Nick Robinson presented supplemental materials from the applicant, 15-501 East LLC. He told commissioners all standards in the town's Unified Development Ordinance were met and they did not receive any opposition to the rezoning from adjacent property owners.

"The proposed rezoning is more compatible with the higher intensity uses associated with increased traffic resulting from construction of Chatham Park Way and Grant Drive through the subject property," Robinson told commissioners.

It was not defined in the rezoning request how many housing units would be approved. Within the approved plot, however, there are four different sub-districts which each allow for a different number of units.

The portion of the property that runs adjacent to Chatham Park Way, which accounts for 52.5 acres on the land, allows for a maximum of 240 development units. The largest portion of the property, which runs from Grant Drive to Chatham Park Way and accounts for 64.6 acres, allows for a maximum of 646 development units. The two other sub-districts at the easternmost portion of the property will be donated to Pittsboro for the school and park.

A condition of the rezoning along allows for the construction of 10-foot multi-use paths along the roadways. Robby Oldham, also an attorney for the applicant, said the early streetscape design proposals in the request represent "complete streets."

"You're talking about

connectivity to Chatham Park Drive through multiple modes — biking, walking, etc. — alongside a 30-foot streetscape," Oldham said. "People talk about complete streets, this is as close as it gets."

Robinson added he believes the project will create a variety of housing options. While the developer does not plan to build traditional affordable housing, Robinson said adding to the housing stock in Pittsboro is key to the town's goal and "meets community needs."

Commissioner John Bonitz and Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin said they would have liked to have seen true affordable housing in the development, instead of market rate.

Under the current UDO, developers are offered optional incentives to build affordable housing, which the developer did not select for this project.

Commissioner Kyle Shipp said that since the incentives were passed by commissioners, no developer has taken the town up on its offer. Something he said he would like to see change as more rezoning requests and developments come before the board

"We spent a lot of time putting these incentives together, but obviously that doesn't mean anything if developers aren't opting to use them," Shipp said. "I feel like that's the true test, and maybe we, as commissioners and staff, need to reexamine those incentives to make them more desirable for future projects."

Despite the questions, all commissioners voted in favor of the rezoning.

#### Sanford Force Main Project

At Monday's meeting, commissioners also took action on the Sanford Force Main project, which would increase the town's wastewater capacity by connecting with the town of Sanford's water supply. The project would also lay more than 67,000 feet of force main pipes.

Commissioners approved a bid for the project from J.F. Wilkerson for \$39 million. The bidder had extended its offer until March 10, but town staff said they would need more time to bring together economic projections and revenue models for the project. The final approved motion accepted the bid, but also requested another 30-day extension on the project so the final bid would send a letter of intent to J.F. Wilkerson

on April 10.

"I have no interest in declining bids," Shipp said. "It just seems like we need more time for staff to assemble materi-

als here."

#### **Other business**

Commissioners approved a \$6,000 repair along Industrial Park Drive

A potential skate park may be coming to Pittsboro in McClennahan Park. Artisan Skateparks has raised more than \$100,000 and offered to pay up to \$200,00 for a project first proposed to commissioners in 2011. The project is anticipated to cost more than \$400,000 total.

Katie Keller, Pittsboro Parks & Recreation director, said since the initial proposal, the project has been "overlooked." Commissioners shared their interest in continuing to pursue the project. They suggested funding for the skate park be considered in the town's fiscal year 2024-2025 budget. No action was taken on this item.

The next scheduled meeting of the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners is at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 13, at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center. For more information visit pittsboronc.gov.



### 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM Piney Grove United Methodist 2343 Piney Grove Church Rd.

It's time to join us again and give the Gift of Life. Easily schedule your appointment on www.redcrossblood.org and get a Quick Pass to save time at the Drive. Please understand that appointments made online have priority.

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

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# CLASSIFIEDS

#### **REAL ESTATE**

LAND - 3.74 acres in desired Bear Creek area of Chatham County. New Survey - Soil Test for 3 bedrooms, wooded very private. Come build your dream home. Call Realtor Cin-dy Dameron, 919-548-3548 with Realty World Carolina Properties. M2,9,16,23,4tp

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

#### RENT

MH for RENT - Recently renovated 1999 4BR/2BA D-W on 2 acre private lot in Sanford. \$1,000/mo + \$1,000 dep. No pets. No smoking. For ques-tions, call (972) 754-7105. M2,9,2tp

#### RENTALS

128 LOFTS - Newly Renovated in Historical Building down-town Siler City. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, open floor plan, separate laundry room. \$40 application plan fee, each Adult. Seen by appointment. EHO, call Realtor Cindy Dameron at 919-548-3548, with Realty WorldCarolina Properties. M2,9,16,23,4tp

#### RENTALS. 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 ac cepted. 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 opportu-nity, 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

#### PETS

HELP NEEDED Grooming, caring for small dogs, and light housekeeping. Must be orga-nized, dependable and reliable.

#### Call 919-770-6356 F23,M2,2tp

accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

#### **HELP WANTED**

**CHATHAM COUNTY PART-**NERSHIP for Children seeks an Early Childhood Programs Manager to provide oversight and direct support/coordina-tion of Smart Start program services and the NC Pre-K pro-gram in Chatham County. For more information and to apply go to: http://www.capabilitycompany.com/posprofiles/ posccpcecm.shtm. F23,M2,2tc

PART-TIME, Retired Perfectionist, needs Handyman/ Carpenter, at Old Farm Place and Retreat - \$12.00 per hour; 910-773-0722 F9,16,23,M2,4tp

HELP NEEDED, Grooming, caring for small dogs, light housekeeping. Must be organized, dependable and reliable. Call

919-770-6356 F23,M2,2tp

#### 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**

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **REBECCA D. ROUTH** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 1st day of February,

2023. Joshua A. Lee, Executor of the Estate of Rebecca D. Routh 122 S. Chatham Avenue P.O. Box 629 Siler City, North Carolina 27344 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 629 SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 27344 (919) 663-2850 F9,F16,F23,M2,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 

HAVING OUALIFIED as Execu-

of SHIRLEY

**NORTH CAROLINA** 

**CHATHAM COUNTY** 

Palm Harbor, Fl 34684 F9,F16,F23,M2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** FILE NO: 2023 E 000061 All persons having claims against LARRY WELDON YOUNG, SR., LARRY W. YOUNG, SR., deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 9th day of February, 2023 LARRY W. YOUNG III, Administrator CTA 240 WALTER BRIGHT RD SANFORD, NC 27330 F9,F16,F23,M2,4tp

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims gainst CLIFTON THOMAS WHYBURN. deceased. of Hamilton County, OH are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before May 12, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 9th day of February 2023. Kay Paul Whyburn, Exec.

c/o Clarity Legal Group PO Box 2207 Chapel Hill, NC 27515. F9,F16,F23,M2,4tp

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

TO all persons claiming an in-terest in: 1989 - 16' - Fiberglass - Checkmate - CHK38447J889 1990 - 75HP - Mercury -0D013096:

JASON WELCH will apply to SCDNR for title on watercraft/ outboard motor. If you have any claim to the watercraft/ outboard motor, contact SCDNR at (803) 734-3699. Upon thirty days after the date of the last advertisement if no claim of interest is made and the watercraft/outboard motor has not been reported stolen, SCDNR shall issue clear title. Case No: 20211221950908 F16,F23,M2,3tp

#### CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA

#### **CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified on the 5th of January 2023, as Administrator the Estate of JULIE SUSAN WHITE, deceased, late of Cha-tham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of May 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebt ed to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 16th day of February

W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the

Estate of Julie Susan White 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 F16,F23,M2,M9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 57 All persons having claims against LARRY WAYNE BINKLEY, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are

asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of February, 2023. Susan Meece, Executrix 1968 Harold Andrews Rd. Siler City, NC 27344

F23,M2,M9,M16,4tp

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY

James D. Ayres qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on February 8, 2023, in File 22 E 430 as Executor of the Estate of **RUTH JEANNE** AYRES, 500 Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before May 23, 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.

Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont

Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 F23,M2,M9,M16,4tc

#### **EXECUTOR'S NOTICE TO** CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against the estate of **DELORES LADD** of Chatham County, NC, who died on December 22nd, 2022, are notified to present them on or before June 1st, 2023 to Diane Elaine Ladd, Executor for the Estate, c/o Alexander, Miller, Schupp & Hamilton, P.L.L.C., P. O. Box 3200, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3200, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Alexander, Miller, Schupp & Hamilton, P.L.L.C. P. O. Box 3200 Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3200 F23,M2,M9,M16,4tp

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executors of the Estate of RUTH FITTING, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 23rd day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 23rd day of February, 2023

BRIAN R. KEYES, CO-EXECU-TOR

ESTATE OF RUTH FITTING LUISA WHITE, CO-EXECUTOR ESTATE OF RUTH FITTING c/o Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC

501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514, F23,M2,M9,M16,4tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** FILE NO: 23 E 20 All persons having claims against **CLARISTINE BRYANT**

**AKA CLARISTINE MATILDA** DANIEL BRYANT deceased. late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit

#### **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.

#### **Town of Siler City**

The following item will be considered by the Siler City Planning Commission on Monday, March 13, 2023. The hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Siler City Court Room of the Siler City Town Hall at 311 N. 2nd Ave. The item will also be heard by the Town Council for Siler City on March 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Siler City Court Room of the Siler City Town Hall located at 311 N. 2nd Ave.

LEGISLATIVE HEARING R23-0301. Conditional Rezoning of two tracts from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Mobile Home Conditional (MH-C), tracts totaling 6.00 acres ±, addressed as 215, 217 219, and 221 George Hudson Road (parcel numbers 69433 and 95708), and being the properties of Liberty Hill, LLC, represented by Jose Guevara. R23-0302. Conditional Rezoning of two tracts from Residential 10 (R-10) to High-way Commercial Conditional (H-C-C), tracts totaling 1.61 acres ±, addressed as 1114 and unaddressed Greensboro Avenue (16484 and 16447), and being the properties of JK Scott, LLC, represented by Kate Scott, DVM TA23-01. Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance to Section 148.f.3.a. amending the requirements for swimming pools. The proposed items are avail-

able for review by contacting

tiste@silercity.org or 919-726-

8626. All persons interested in the outcome of the item are

invited to attend the legisla-

tive hearing and present com-ments, testimony, and exhibits

Jennifer C. Baptiste at jbap-

#### FUK SALE

FOR SALE - 2018 KX 71-3 Super series excavator with thumb. Has 18 and 24 inch buckets. F16.23.M2.9.4tc

#### AUCTIONS

#### **RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTION-**

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

#### **AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HAR-**

**RIS** 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

**RETIRED SECURITY GUARD/** COACH - will watch property, animals. Caretaker to hook up RV and watch property. 110 30 amp. Very quiet, no parties Reliable, 919-828-4247. F23tfnx

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

#### RAINBOW WATER FILTERED

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

#### **AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS**

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

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

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card GRACE STROHM late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May. 2023. or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 1st day of February, 2023.

Traci S. Mabe, Executrix of Estate of Shirley Grace Strohm 733 Ward Road Staley, North Carolina 27355 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 629 SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 27344 (919) 663-2850 F9,F16,F23,M2,4tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** FILE NO: 23 E 40 All persons having claims against JOAN S. RAMIREZ, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make

immediate payment This the 9th day of February, 2023. Melissa R. Johnson Executrix 236 Beachers Brook Ln Cary, NC 27511

F9,F16,F23,M2,4tp

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 50

All persons having claims against MARIE ELIZABETH LANG, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 9th day of February, 2023.

Lynn Ellen Lang, Executrix 3546 Birkdale Lane

#### **CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified on the 27th day of January 2023, as Administrator of the Estate of WILL BERNARD WILLARD JR., deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of May 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 9th day of February 2023. W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Will Bernard Willard, JR 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 Attornevs: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 F16,23,M2,M9,4tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** File: 23 E 78

The undersigned, having qualified as co-executors of the Estate of **LUCILLE HUNTER**, late of CHATHAM County, NC do hereby notify all persons. firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 17th day of May. 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This, the 16th day of February, Miles M. Hunter and Michael Hunter, Co-executors of the Estate of Lucille Hunter c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205 Durham, NC 27705 F16,F23,M2,M9,4tc

#### **CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA**

Payments and claims should be presented to Robert Gilleland, Attorney, P.O. Box 1045, Sanford, NC 27331-1045.

F23,M2,M9,M16,4tp

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

HAVING QUALIFIED as Admin-istrator of the Estate of **KIM** SAMIULLAH WILLIAMS, late of Chatham County, North Caroli-na, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery This the 16th day of February, 2023 Mary Farrar, Administrator of the Estate of Kim Samiullah Williams 15 Springdale Drive Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee Attorneys at Law Box 629 Siler City, North Carolina 27344 (919) 663-2850

F23,M2,M9,M16,4tc

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against CLARA LOVITZ GLEISS-NER aka Clara L. Gleissner (hereinafter "Clara Lovitz Gleissner") of Chatham Coun-ty, North Carolina, who died on the 13th day of December, 2022, are notified to present them to Truist Bank, Executor of the Estate of Clara Lovitz Gleissner in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before May 30, 2023. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Clara Lovitz Gleissner. Those indebted to Clara Lovitz Gleissner are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. Dean P. Broz, Atty for the Estate

the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of February,

#### 2023. Yolanda Bryant, Executrix

14130 Angelton Ter Burtonsvville, MD, 20866 F23,M2,M9,M16,4tp

#### **NOTICE OF HEARINGS**

on the above referenced item. These are separate hearings: Interested parties may submit evidence and written comments. Written comments or evidence on these applications can be submitted by email to jbaptiste@silercity.org. Individuals desiring to speak must sign up by calling 919-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

Ġ

### 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



726-8626 before 12:00 p.m. on or before the scheduled public hearing date.

The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission



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of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Tammy Thomas at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344. or tthomas@silercity. org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Tammy Thomas al tthomas@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue. Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. M2,M9,M16,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000121 All persons having claims against WENDELL WITHER-FOON BALLOU, JR. deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of June, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of March, 2023. Steven Ross Hamm, Adminis-

trator 603 6th Avenue, NE

Conover, NC 28613

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CONSTRUCTION, Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-HUGE TRUCK. AND FARM MACHINERY AUCTION. FRIDAY MARCH 3RD, 9 AM AUCTIONS WORLDNET ANNUAL WINTER AUCTION OVER 1000 LOTS SCAL3965F, SCAL1966 WORLDNETAUCTIONSLIVE. COM ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE 1533 MCMILLAN Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet ROAD, GREELEYVILLE SC 29056 843-426-4255

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

M2,M9,M16,M23,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000110 All persons having claims against THOMAS HOWARD JONES deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of June, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of March, 2023.

Randy J. Shepherd, Executor

1081 Fearrington Post Pittsboro, NC 27312 M2,M9,M16,M23,4tp

#### **REQUEST FOR BIDS - The Park** at Briar Chapel Pre-Engineered Building

Chatham County Parks and Recreation is seeking bids for the grading, concrete, electrical, plumbing, and construction of a pre-engi neered building based on the specifications provided within the document. SCOPE OF SERVICES: Extend the attached Dog Park parking with gravel to the Dog Park fence, move cement parking stops to the graveled parking area. Grading/fill; the building location slopes from front to back about 1 foot over 60 feet, concrete, electrical, plumbing and construction of a pre-engi neered building. For additional details, please reach out to purchasing@chathamcountync.gov or 919-545-8364. Sealed bids will be accepted by mail or delivery until 2:00 PM, March 21, 2023. Vendors must submit one hard copy

with all attachments, including signatory pages. A public bid opening will take place sharply at 2:00 PM in the Chatham **County Agriculture and** Conference Center, 1192 US-64 Bus, Pittsboro, NC 27312. If not delivering to the bid open location, the hard copies must be sent to one the following address: Michele Peluso, Chatham County Procurement Manager Chatham County Finance Office, 12 East Street (physical delivery), Pittsboro, NC 2731 OR P.O. Box 608 (postal delivery), Pittsboro, NC 27312.

It is mandatory that bidders attend the site visit that will he held at The Park at Brian Chapel: 1015 Andrews Store Rd. Pittsboro, NC, 27312, on March 10, 2023, at 1:00 PM. All inquiries relating to this request must be received by March 13, 2023, by 5:00 PM. An addendum, if questions are submitted, will be posted March 14, 2023, by 5 PM. Requests must be in writing and addressed to: Michele Peluso, Chatham County Finance Office, P.O. Box 608; Pittsboro, NC 27312; or by fax to 919-542-4261; or emailed to: purchasing@chathamcountync.gov. This solicitation and others can be located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: https:// www.chathamcountync.gov/ government/departments-programs-a-h/finance/bid-proposal-opportunities Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, age or disability. M2,1tc

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**TOWN OF PITTSBORO** 

The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom and at Chatham County Agriculture Center to consider the following item: 1. A legislative Public Hearing for the Town of Pittsboro Water and Wastewater System Development Fee Update Report. The Town of Pittsboro is updating the Capital Improvement Plan for public infrastructure needs, prompting a re-evaluation of the current water and wastewater system development fees. NCGS Chapter 162A, Article 8 defines a system development fee as a "charge or assessment for service imposed with respect to new development to fund costs of capital improvements necessitated by and attributable to such new development, to recoup costs of existing facilities which serve such new development, or a combination of those costs The purpose of the public

hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the System Development Fee Update. The complete System Development Fee Update Report is on file at the Town of Pittsboro Engineering Department lo cated at 287 Fast Street, Suite 221A, and on the Engineering Department webpage under at https://nc-pittsboro.civicplus. com/159/Engineering. Please give reasonable notice to the Pittsboro Engineering Department at (919) 533-5480 if accommodations for

individuals with disabilities or impairments are required. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software, and in person. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www. pittsboronc.gov. Please sign up with the Town Clerk, Carrie Bailey by 4:00 p.m. on March 13. 2023 if you wish to participate. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk. Carrie Bailey, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at cbailey@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on March 13, 2023. M2,M9

PLEASE SEND DIGITAL CERTI-FICATION OF ADVERTISEMENT TO THE ENGINEERING DEPART-MENT.

### NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PRO-CESS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA LEE COUNTY, IN THE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE the LEE COUNTY CLERK OF COURT IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LEVI CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE 23 SP 08

BRIDGETT LEANNA MITCHELL: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: PETITION TO SELL MINOR'S INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than APRIL 17, 2023, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This, the 27th day of February, 2023

DEIRDRE M. STEPHENSON Attorney for Petitioner 1518 Elm Street Sanford, NC 27330 M2,M9,2tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - MAYOR'S TERM EXPANSION The Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:30pm in the meeting room of City Hall located at 311 N Second Avenue to consider increasing the term of office for the Siler City Mayor from two (2) years to four (4) years beginning after the next municipal election in November 2023.

The public is invited to attend the hearing to express their viewpoints. Persons having auestions or wishing to submit written comments may do so by contacting Town Clerk Kimberly Pickard at 919-742-4731, kpickard@silercity.org. M2,M9,2tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

FILE NO: 22 E 505 All persons having claims against WILLIAM BERNARD WILBORN deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina. are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of June, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 2nd day of March, 2023.

Joyce H. Elmore, Executrix 908 Bonlee Carbonton Rd Bear Creek, NC 27207 M2,M9,M16,M23,4tp



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#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### Wren Memorial Library sets March events

SILER CITY — Wren Memorial Library in Siler City is excited to host programs and events for the Chatham County community throughout the month of March.

#### **Maximizing Social Security**

Community members interested in retirement planning, are invited to join Knox Hughes, chartered retirement planning counselor, for a workshop on Maximizing Social Security at Wren Memorial Library to learn all about how to maximize social security benefits. This workshop is free and open to all on Monday, March 6, from 6 to 7 p.m., but seats are limited. Those interested in attending should contact the library at wren@chathamlibraries.org or 919-742-2016.

#### **MyPlate for Kids**

A presentation and food demonstration on My-Plate for Kids from registered dietitians with the Chatham County Public Health Department is set for Monday, March 13, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. This workshop will be hands-on for both adults and kids, so families are welcome. The event is made possible by the Chatham County Libraries Food Literacy Center Grant.

In partnership with the Chatham County Public Health Department and the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center, Chatham County Public Libraries received a \$17,000 grant to purchase a mobile teaching kitchen and curriculum to advance food literacy programming at all library branches. The Food Literacy Center grant is made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

#### **A Prepared Pantry for all Situations**

A presentation and food demonstration on pantry readiness from Registered Dietitian Tara Gregory from the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center is set for Monday, March 27, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. It's made possible by the Chatham County Libraries Food Literacy Center Grant, as outlined in the previous event listing.

Wren Memorial Library is located at 500 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City, and may be contacted at wren@chathamlibraries.org or 919-742-2016. Information about all Chatham County Library branches can be found at www.chathamlibraries.org.

## MANAGER

Continued from page A7

concerns related to coastal management, urbanization, and agriculture.'

During his tenure at Monroe and Spring Lake, Faison fell out of favor with both boards and was ultimately fired from his position. He said each of the municipalities terminated his contract because of a "difference in policy direction over personnel concerns."

Nevertheless, he's still thankful for the time he spent in those communities.

"Simply put, I entered employment in these communities expecting to make a difference, and I have no regrets about the time I spent serving these communities or the contributions I

made," Faison said. "Although each of these communities has a history of instability, I was humbled to have the opportunity to be employed by each and accepted their situations as a challenge and opportunity for professional growth."

Leadership in both of those municipalities was "divisive," according to Faison, and both boards had split votes when it came to his termination. Despite his frustrations with elected officials there, Faison said he was most thankful for the residents who continue to love their community.

"I was, and continue to be, inspired and encouraged by the strong community spirit found in both of these communities,' he said. "I hope this spirit will be a lasting catalyst for community leaders and that a few

bad actors will not be allowed to be destructive and further divide their communities.'

Faison said after his termination at Monroe, he decided to retire from full-time municipal management and move into becoming an interim manager for towns needing those services.

Now in Pittsboro, Faison says he's prepared for the challenges he will have to tackle as Pittsboro's interim manager.

"Every community has its own personality with differing qualities and characteristics, he said. "While there are some similarities across the board, a manager's effectiveness leverages on appreciating and responding to these differences. As such, I expect my experience in Pittsboro will differ from others, as each has a unique scope, resource

availability, and environmental issues." characteristics.'

One Pittsboro faces is its water quality issues. The town recently filed a suit against over a dozen PFAS manufacturers alleging the companies knew PFAS could pollute waterways when used, and failed to alert downstream communities. In addition to the lawsuit, the town also has a laundry list of projects to upgrade its water and wastewater facilities.

"Each community I have worked with has had some form of an environmental issue or utility consolidation, merger, or capacity concern,' Faison said. "I will apply my experiences and lessons learned to the concerns in Pittsboro and work on advancing options, strategies, and solutions to address these

Faison said his job as the town's stand-in manager is to ensure current projects continue in a timely manner, as well as ensure day-to-day town operations are running smoothly.

"As Pittsboro has many opportunities, ongoing projects, and initiatives underway, my role as the interim manager is to foster stability within the organization and facilitate the team's success in current and future projects or policy initiatives," he said. "I look forward to contributing to the town's initiatives in any form that I can."

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

## INDICTED

Continued from page A1

told the News + Record they had suspicions that something was amiss in her department's operation. One — who spoke on the condition of anonymity — said it was common knowledge Davis was pocketing government funds meant to help those who needed emergency housing or other kinds of aid the Housing Authority was supposed to provide.

"She never cared," the woman, who now is housed in Lee County, said. She and others ultimately contacted law enforcement for help.

"We've been waiting for this day," she said when she learned of Davis arrest.

#### Fraud and identity theft

The 19-count indictment, which was filed on Feb. 13 in U.S. District Court in Greensboro but unsealed Friday, paints a picture of widespread and persistent corruption within the agency tasked with securing affordable housing for Chatham County residents in need. The charges include wire fraud, program fraud and identity theft, and involved Davis' friends and family members and at least two other former employees of Durham Housing Authority and one other current HUD

employee.

listed as victims or witnesses in the case, as well as her co-defendants. The News + Record

reached out to the CCHA's board members listed on the organization's website, finding that at least one was deceased and one no longer served on the board.

Aaron Hall, who said he left the board in 2018 but is still listed as a board member on CCHA's website, said Davis' arrest "certainly solves a lot of questions" he had while serving.

"A lot of the initiatives that I was trying to move forward, she just always made it seem like there was a lot of red tape," he told the News + Record. "Now I see why."

Hall said that in discussions on the board about subjects such as affordable housing, it seemed that Davis gave the impression that "the encumbrances to moving forward ... were coming from the outside, based on what she was saying. But now it looks like it was coming from the inside.'

Hall said the situation makes him feel "terrible."

"Because we weren't serving anybody," he said. "People were lining their pockets. They get in position where they're supposed to be serving others, and then they become what they say they abhor.'

#### 'Innocent until proven guilty'



Davis

everyone to know, for the sake of the employees and partners, we're doing what's right for the agency. So don't rush to judge just because you read something in the paper. Let it play out, because they are innocent until proven guilty.'

#### 'She never cared'

A number of other people who spoke to the News + Record on the condition of anonymity said they knew Davis' family members were awarded contracts for work they never performed. One local nonprofit executive said a staff member "called it years ago," indicating suspicion about Davis.

One woman, a domestic abuse survivor, was moved into housing in Siler City provided by CCHA funding. She told the News + Record that she and others in similar circumstances "had to fend for ourselves" while Davis took funds intended for their caregiving. "Our 'welcome package' included one bottle of dish detergent, a bottle of laundry detergent, and a multi-purpose cleaner," she said. "That's it. There was no staff on site and she hired her brother to supposedly do the inspection on the house, which he never did. The trailer that we lived in had mold and consistently flooded. She never cared. We were never allowed to see our family for overnight visits, even on holidays. The majority of the women [in the program] left when they realized we weren't receiving any help to get on our own feet.

investigating Davis.

#### **Davis reaped more** than \$200,000

Court records say the contracts cited in Davis' indictment were largely a pass-through back to her. For example, in late June 2016, the CCHA, under the direction of Davis, allegedly awarded a bogus contract to one individual for \$800. The federal indictment states that person transferred \$700 back to Davis. Prosecutors provided multiple additional examples in the court records of similar fraudulent efforts. In some cases, the contracts were allegedly awarded to individuals with no background in housing issues, such as a friend and cosmetologist of Davis.

In one instance, the contract was so hastily put togetner with little federal oversight that a friend of Davis was awarded money, even though his own name was misspelled on the invoice. Authorities say Davis received a kickback of \$3,700 on that contract out of the \$4,000 that was awarded to the typographical error-filled bill. Investigators pulled the cell phone location records of at least one individual to help build the case that they were not present in Siler City at the time of work that was purportedly performed under the contracts. All told, the Justice Depart-

ment says Davis reaped more than \$200,000 in the illegal scheme over the course of more than eight years.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of North Carolina, investigators from the FBI and the HUD Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation.

The charging documents state that, at some point, Davis became aware of the HUD/FBI interest and made efforts to stymie the investigation. Her relatives were concerned about the federal pressure and allegedly communicated with each other that, "we family...don't mess with that." In a text message with a co-conspirator, charging documents say Davis told them, "You can tell them I'm the big fat aunt you don't f\*\*\* with." Prosecutors used that evidence to also indict Davis on charges of obstruction of justice, in addition to the wire fraud and identity theft.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of North Carolina, which is prosecuting the case, late Saturday referred News + Record to information laid out in charging documents.

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne told the News + Record on Monday that although Chatham County government supports the mission of the Chatham County Housing Authority, and members of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners appoint board members to the Authority, the Authority is not part of Chatham County government but instead is a separate legal entity.

issues are resolved."

Officials from HUD which employs two of the defendants named in the indictment, did not respond to requests for comment. A lawyer for Davis was contacted but did not respond.

According to its website, CCHA's purpose is to "(oversee) federal funds to help qualified low-income residents with their rental payments. The authority also works with some families in the rental subsidy program to develop a five-year plans (sic) to become self-sufficient and help others in the program become homeowners through subsidized mortgages."

The CCHA homepage prominently features a quote from Davis: "When we all work together to give residents the tools they need to become safe, healthy, and self-sufficient — the entire community wins."

A short biography of Davis on the CCHA website states as executive director, she is responsible for "ensuring that the housing authority complies with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws."

Prior to working for CCHA, Davis worked at the Durham Housing Authority and the Gaston Housing Authority.

Davis had her first appearance in front of a federal judge at a Greensboro courthouse on Friday and was ordered released pending her arraignment Thursday in Durham. Her criminal trial is tentatively set for April 10. The domestic abuse survivor who spoke to the News + Record said she was just one of many who left programs under Davis' supervision "because they got frustrated because they weren't getting any help.' "They would leave, or they would get kicked out for some weird reason,' she said. "She [Davis] would change the locks on our doors or whatever. It was just a mess. We knew she was taking money from us."

According to the indict ment, between 2017 and 2020, the CCHA received more than \$10,000 a year from HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program also known as "Section 8" — which assists low-income families, the elderly and the disabled with housing in the private market. As the executive director of the CCHA, Davis had the authority to select winning bids from among proposals received for contracts for services that would be paid for with the HUD funds, the indictment stated.

All told, the Justice Department says Davis — who's still listed as CCHA's executive director on the housing authority's website, and still employed by the agency — awarded illegal contracts to at least 13 friends and relatives. According to charging documents, those friends and relatives would submit "no-work" contracts to Davis, who would ultimately award them. The co-conspirators filed both their own bids and also competing bids in the false names of other individuals, knowing that the dummy bids would not win the contracts.

#### 'Solves a lot of questions'

Davis was released after her arrest on Fridav on the condition she surrender her U.S. passport, not travel outside N.C. without the approval of her federal probation supervisor, and avoid all contact with 20 people

Current CCHA board member Natasha J. Elliott, the executive director of Central Piedmont Community Action, told the News + Record on Tuesday that the board was aware of Davis' indictment and "assessing that at the moment."

She said HUD had not given the board any guidance about Davis' work status, and that Davis was still functioning as CCHA's director and working from home.

"The operations of the agency are ongoing as they have been," Elliott said

Elliott said as a governing board, she and her fellow board members had no involvement in the office's day-to-day operations, and up until the indictment, they weren't aware of allegations involving Davis or the office.

"I can't stress enough, these are allegations," Elliott said. "I've been at an agency where you have disgruntled employees and disgruntled clients who can say anything, and you can be sued for anything, and that doesn't necessarily mean it's true."

The board and its legal counsel are doing "due diligence, to make sure that we're doing what's right for the residents of Chatham County," she said

"Clients who receive vouchers don't have anything to worry about,' Elliott said. "We're continuing to operate as we have been. And, you know, I just want

Donations of items provided for the women in the program were kept locked away by Davis, the woman said, inaccessible to those they were intended for. Some residents were bribed to do work on the housing, the woman also said, because funds allocated to hire contractors had "disappeared."

Their troubles were exacerbated when some of those women left and applied for housing in other counties - only to be told they couldn't get housing vouchers because Davis had allegedly already claimed them.

She and other women in the program eventually contacted the FBI in late 2020, only to find out the FBI was already

As such, Davis is not a Chatham County employee.

"The Chatham County Housing Authority's mission in providing assistance for affordable and safe housing to residents of Chatham County fills a critical need," LaMontagne said. "We trust that the Authority will continue this important work while these internal

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### Chatham's inaugural '6 Over 60' class is honored at event, PAGE B5

# SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH 2 - 8, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

## **Knights' run led by Harvey brothers**

BY SHELBY SWANSON News + Record Correspondent

As she watched her sons enter the locker room at halftime, Lisa Harvey sat down with a sigh.

"They've got the toughest defense we've seen all year," she said.

She was referencing Washington County, which built a 29-24 lead over the No. 3 seed Chatham Charter boys basketball team at the break thanks to its tenacious defense. In the last two years, the Knights hadn't lost a game at home.

But on Saturday night, in the third round of the 1A state tournament, that streak looked like it was ready to break.

Insert the Harvey brothers. Senior Adam Harvey and sophomore Beau Harvey who have played together since they were in 3rd and 1st grade, respectively — ultimately led a fourth-quarter comeback to take down the Panthers, 56-49. The win extended Chatham Charter's undefeated record to 34-0 and moved the Knights into the fourth round of the state playoffs, where they played No. 2 Wilson Prep on the road Tuesday night (game occurred after press time).

Adam, a senior guard, ended with 19 points to lead the team. Both brothers combined for 28 points — 12 of which came in the fourth quarter — to account for half of the Knights' offense on the night.

"The Harvey brothers are really important to our team because they make everyone around them better," head coach Jason Messier said. "You get the ball in their hands and they're going to make some free throws. They're going to put other people in the right positions to be successful."

After the Knights cut their deficit to three points by the end of the third quarter, Adam Harvey, at the direction of the Chatham Charter coaching staff, took over the game.

On myriad slashes to the rim, he continued to find success inside — earning layups or trips to the free throw line. The senior said that he made a deliberate effort in the second half to get back to Chatham Charter's style of play by refusing to settle for jump shots. "When we're winning all these games, we're taking it to the basket and shooting limited threes," he said. "In the second half, we really took it to the basket."

Finally, with a narrow lead in the game's final minutes, Messier said the team's game plan was to pull the ball out and run the clock. This was a task that Beau, at point guard, largely took on as the team's "quarterback."

"He did a fantastic job," Messier said. "It's gotten to the point, as he's matured throughout the years, he calls the offense."

With 30 seconds remaining in the game, the Knights led 55-47. The game was clearly in their control as Adam stepped to the line yet again. Still, that didn't stop Lisa Harvey from launching into her normal ritual. Her earrings — two teardrop-shaped basketballs with her son's numbers written on them — shook as she motioned a cross across her chest and clapped her hands together. She then pulled out her phone to record as her son extended Chatham Charter's lead with a

See KNIGHTS, page B4

Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Charter senior Adam Harvey scored a game-high 19 points Saturday in the Knights' win over Washington County in the third round of the 1A state playoffs.

## BOYS BASKETBALL Northwood reaches Elite 8 for 4th straight year



BY DAN E. WAY News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Northwood basketball coach Matt Brown insisted that Terry Sanford was a formidable opponent. Yet his Chargers mowed through the Bulldogs in the third round of the state playoffs Saturday like a combine racing through a wheat field, advancing to the Elite 8 with a combining 57 27 victory.

## Women's basketball is entering a golden age



I've been a fan of women's basketball since covering my first game as a sophomore back at UNC. But I have to say, the quality of play, especially at the college level, has hit new heights over these past few years.

### Hospital's Maternity Care Center seeks 'Baby-Friendly' status, PAGE B7

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood freshman Chad Graves (15) throws down a dunk while sophomore Isaiah Blair (2) jumps in celebration behind him.

with a convincing 57-37 victory.

Bringing in the sheaves for No. 1 seed Northwood (27-2) was junior shooting guard Drake Powell, a 2024 UNC-Chapel Hill commit, with a game-high 21 points. Tower of Power Kenan Parrish finished with nine points for the Chargers, but the 7-foot center haunted Terry Sanford (14-12) with rebounds at both ends of the court and thunderous blocked shots.

Northwood played No. 13 seed Franklinton in the fourth round of the N.C. High School Athletic Association 3A state tournament on Tuesday (the game ended after press time). That matches last year's tournament trail success. The 2022 version of the Chargers was a No.

See **ELITE**, page B4

## GIRLS BASKETBALL Walden, Chatham Charter's scoring leader, saving her best for last

#### **BY SHELBY SWANSON** News + Record Correspondent

News + Record Correspondent

Chatham Charter senior Tamaya Walden, in the words of her head coach, Jeff Patterson, "just makes things go."

That was definitely the case Saturday night as the Knights' point guard poured in 27 points to help her team defeat Vance Charter 64-27 to earn a spot in the fourth round of the NCHSAA 1A state basketball tournament.

Walden was also a vocal leader on defense, organizing the team's zone coverage and full-court pressure. She was crucial in initiating traps that continued to plague Vance Charter throughout the game and helped turn steals into fast break points.

"She takes us as far as we can go," Patterson said. "But she's at the point now, she believes in her teammates, she's trusting her teammates. This is why we're on this journey now is because of her leadership."

At first, the Knights' nerves got the best of them. Chatham Charter struggled to find its rhythm on offense and held a narrow 15-10 lead after the opening quarter.

See **LEADER**, page B5



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Charter senior Tamaya Walden scored 27 points Saturday in the Knights' 64-27 win over Vance Charter.



**JEREMY** 

VERNON

Sports Editor

That was never more clear than Sunday afternoon, as ESPN's College

Gameday hosted its second women's show at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City, Iowa, for the matchup between No. 2 Indiana and the No. 7 Hawkeyes. After 39 minutes of hotly contested action, Iowa found itself down two points, 85-83, with less than five seconds remaining. Backed against the wall, the Hawkeyes turned to their star player in Caitlin Clark, who caught the inbounds pass, turned and launched what ended up being the game-winning 3-pointer as time expired.

Clark is the epitome of the growth of women's basketball over the past several years. In the 2000s and 2010s, the game was often dominated by taller players who controlled the front court like Lisa Leslie, Britney Griner, Elena Delle Donne, Tina Charles and Breanna Stewart. But now, Clark and a talented group of guards are ushering in a new era defined by perimeter play and PLENTY of buckets.

Clark, for her part, is averaging 27.2 points, 7.4 rebounds and 8.2 assists per game this season, including her 34-point outburst against Indiana on Sunday. This past December, she tied Delle Donne for the fastest college women's basketball player to reach 2,000 career points, doing so in just 75 games. She also has over 700 career assists, and leads all Division-I women this season with 8.4 assists per game.

The junior's game is the perfect mix of creative and deadly. Her handles in isolation bring to mind a prime James Harden, while her pull-up 3-pointers from just inside half court are reminiscent of Stephen Curry.

Clark is just one of several college guards who figure to be the next wave of WNBA greats. Among the other perimeter players who have shined over the past few years are UConn guards Azzi Fudd and Paige Bueckers, who are both recovering from knee injuries at the moment. As far as younger professional players, the New York Liberty's Sabrina Ionescu, the Dallas Wings' Arike Ogunbowale and the Indiana Fever's Kelsey Mitchell are all guards under 25 who are inspiring the next generation of young hoopsters.

See GOLDEN, page B4

#### SCORES

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

#### **Girls basketball**

Chatham Charter 65, Pamlico County 25 Chatham Central 51, Washington County 31 Seaforth 60, Nash Central 28 Northwood 59, Lee County 30

#### Boys basketball

Chatham Charter 91, East Wake Academy 38 Chatham Central 78, Oxford Prep 32 Seaforth 57, Granville Central 47 Northwood 76, West Johnston 23

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

#### **Girls basketball**

Western Alamance 61, Northwood 55 Chatham Charter 58, Roxboro Community 39 Seaforth 48, Eastern Wayne 24 Chatham Central 55, East Columbus 42

#### Boys basketball

Chatham Charter 75, North Edgecombe 36 Northwood 60, Westover 44 East Carteret 61, Seaforth 60 Washington County 83, Chatham Central 63

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25** 

#### Girls basketball

Chatham Charter 64, Vance Charter 27 Seaforth 57, St. Pauls 55 Falls Lake 76, Chatham Central 63

#### **Boys basketball**

Chatham Charter 56, Washington County 49 Northwood 57, Terry Sanford 37

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

#### **Boys tennis**

Seaforth 9, Northwood 0

#### Girls soccer

Carrboro 3, Northwood 0 Jordan-Matthews 6, Southern Lee 1

#### Softball

Chatham Central 7, South Davidson 0

**SCHEDULES** 

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

#### Girls basketball

Chatham Charter vs. Southside (6 p.m.) Seaforth at Beddingfield (6:30 p.m.)

#### SCORES AND SCHEDULES Boys basketball

Northwood vs. Franklinton (6 p.m.) Chatham Charter at Wilson Prep (6 p.m.)

#### Baseball

Northwood vs. Lee County (6 p.m.) Seaforth at Eastern Randolph (6:30 p.m.)

#### Girls lacrosse

Northwood vs. Union Pines (5 p.m.)

#### **Girls soccer**

Northwood vs. Asheboro (6:45 p.m.) Woods Charter vs. Raleigh Charter (6 p.m.)

#### **Boys golf**

Seaforth vs. Cedar Ridge, Orange and Chapel Hill (1 p.m.)

#### Softball

Seaforth at Chapel Hill (6 p.m.)

#### **Boys lacrosse**

Seaforth vs. East Chapel Hill (6:30 p.m.)

#### Boys tennis

Jordan-Matthews vs. Carrboro (4:30 p.m.)

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

#### Baseball

Seaforth at Southeast Raleigh (3:30 p.m.) Chatham Central at Asheboro (7 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews at Trinity (7 p.m.) Chatham Charter vs. Ascend Leadership (6 p.m.)

#### **Boys tennis**

Northwood at Lee County (4 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Union Pines (4:30 p.m.) Chatham Charter at Research Triangle (4 p.m.)

#### Softball

Northwood at Northern Durham (6 p.m.) Chatham Central at Lee County (6 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews at Eastern Randolph (6 p.m.)

#### **Boys lacrosse**

Northwood vs. Carrboro (6:15 p.m.) Seaforth at Orange (7 p.m.)

#### **Girls soccer**

Seaforth at Western Alamance (6:30 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews at North Davidson (6 p.m.) Chatham Charter vs. Ascend Leadership (4:30 p.m.)

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

#### Softball

Northwood at East Chapel Hill (4 p.m.)

#### Baseball

Seaforth vs. Providence Grove (6:30 p.m.)

#### **Boys tennis**

Northwood at Carrboro (4:30 p.m.) Chatham Charter vs. Clover Garden (4 p.m.)

#### **Track and field**

Jordan-Matthews at Asheboro (4 p.m.)

#### **Girls lacrosse**

Seaforth at Carrboro (6 p.m.)

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 3

#### Softball

Northwood vs. Northern Durham (6 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Chapel Hill (6 p.m.) Chatham Charter vs. Oxford Prep (4:30 p.m.)

#### **Girls lacrosse**

Northwood vs. Pinecrest (6 p.m.)

#### **Boys lacrosse**

Northwood at C.E. Jordan (6 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Hunt (6 p.m.)

#### Baseball

Northwood at Lee County (7 p.m.) Chatham Central at Southern Wake Academy (5:30 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews at Morehead (7 p.m.)

#### Girls soccer

Seaforth at Cary Academy (4 p.m.) Woods Charter vs. East Carteret (5 p.m.)

#### **Track and field**

Woods Charter at Reagan Invitational (TBD)

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 4

#### **Girls basketball**

Regional championships (TBD)

#### **Boys basketball**

Regional championships (TBD)

For scores and more information about basketball

## GIRLS SOCCER Woods, Jordan-Matthews and Seaforth lead talented group of girls soccer teams

BY JEREMY VERNON News + Record Sports Editor

Among the spring sports starting this week across Chatham County, the one expected to see the most competition between local teams figures to be girls soccer.

Last season, three Chatham County teams — Woods Charter, Jordan-Matthews and Seaforth — all won at least 10 games, and all three teams are expected to have similarly successful seasons in 2023.

Arguably the top team in the area this spring will be Woods Charter, who made it all the way to last year's 1A state final before losing to Christ the King, 3-0. The Wolves finished the year with an overall record of 19-1-2, which included 16 wins of five goals or more.

Leading Woods' charge toward the state finals last season was forward Leyla Noronha, who returns for her junior season in 2023. Noronha paced the Wolves with 50 goals last spring to go with 14 assists. Her 50 goals were the most by any Chatham County



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

#### The Woods Charter girls soccer team reached the 1A state final last season before falling to Christ the King, 3-0.

girls soccer player last season by a wide margin.

Woods also had two other players — now seniors Lucy Miller and Chloe Richard — who has at least 20 goals in 2022. The pair combined for 45 goals and 24 assists for the Wolves last spring. One player the Wolves will have to replace from last year is former goalkeeper Jana Matthews, who had a goals against average of 0.65 in over 1,200 minutes player last season.

Of Woods Charter's two ties last season, one came against Jordan-Matthews, which won the Mid-Carolina Conference in 2022 with a 13-4-3 overall record and a 10-0 mark in league play. The Jets have finished each of the past six seasons with a record of .500 or better.

The Jets' conference title in 2022 was the program's first in over a decade.

Jordan-Matthews only lost one senior over the offseason to graduation

— Emma Wieber. Among several impact players returning this spring are senior Maricarmen Landa and sophomore Jessica Parroquin Vallejo, who combined for five of the team's eight goals in their win over James Kenan in the first round of the 2A playoffs last year.

Jordan-Matthews won its first game of the 2023 season, 6-1, over Southern Lee on Monday afternoon.

In 10 conference games last season, the Jets outscored their opponents by an average of 7.1 goals per game. Jordan-Matthews finished first in the conference standings by three games over Seaforth and Graham, who were both 7-3 in league

play.

The Hawks were 11-8 overall in their first season as a program in the spring of 2022. Coached by Giovanni Viana, the Seaforth girls put together a solid showing before falling to South Granville in the first round of the 2A state playoffs.

Seaforth's unquestioned leader on the field is sophomore Caitlin Erman, who had 39 of the team's 87 goals on the season. Last season as a freshman, Erman scored at least three goals in a game on seven separate occasions.

The Hawks opened the 2023 season on the road Wednesday against Western Alamance. They are next in action this upcoming Tuesday against Apex.

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



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## BASKETBALL Central girls, boys teams both had successful seasons

#### **BY JEREMY VERNON** knew it would be the last News + Record Sports

Editor

As she stepped off the court at Falls Lake High on Saturday, Chatham Central's Lynda Burke

time she did so as the girls' head basketball coach

Despite a furious second-half comeback from her Bears, Burke's team couldn't overcome

a potent Falls Lake offense, falling 76-63 to the undefeated Firebirds in the third round of the 1A state tournament. The game was Burke's final as the leader of the team; she plans on retiring from teaching and coaching at the end of the school year.

"I was very emotional in the locker room, as were my girls," Burke said. "I've been lucky to have a very successful career here, but it's not about the wins and losses for me. It's more about teaching them to be young ladies who can be successful in the world."

The 2022-23 Chatham Central girls sent their head coach out on a high note. At 17-10 overall, the Bears won their most games in a season since going 22-4 under Burke back in 2018-19. That said, Central has had a record of at least .500 or better in each of the last seven seasons.

This year's Central team had an up-anddown start to the season, going 6-4 in its first 10 games before rattling off eight wins over the final 12 games in the regular season. The Bears suffered a narrow loss to Bartlett Yancey in the Mid-Carolina Conference tournament semifinals, but they didn't let that faze them. Five days later, Central won its first playoff game, 51-31, over Washington County.

In the second round, Burke's team hit the road and upset higher-seeded East Columbus, 55-42.

"I felt like at the beginning of the year, we weren't quite working as a team," Burke said. "As the year went on, we just came together and realized it didn't matter who scored for us. I think almost every night for us, we had at least three or four girls who were always around seven or eight points. No one dominated for me."

In their loss to Falls Lake in the third round, the Bears were led by sophomore Karaleigh Dodson, who had 20 points to pace the team. Dodson averaged a double-double during the regular season and was one of two Central players, along with senior Jaylee Williams, to average at least 10 points per

7 p.m. - Friday Night Dance (fee required to attend) iellow starters Kalley the Bears next season Green and Olivia Brooks will likely be Dodson and 4 



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central junior Katherine Gaines (24) dribbles past a screen set by teammate Kailey Green during the first round of the state playoffs.



**Chatham Central junior Devonte Johnson 9.3** points and 3.4 assists per game for the Bears this season.

will graduate over the offseason, Burke expects the team's next coach to have plenty of talent to

current junior Katherine Gaines, the only other non-senior starter this season besides Dodson.

9 a.m. - <u>Strong & Fit w/Olivia</u> Visit our website at game. "I feel like the talent work with. 10 a.m. - Beginning Quilting; Shuffleboard www.chathamcoa.org While Williams and we have coming back will Leading the charge for See SEASON, page B4

## Council on Aging Weekly Activities Calendar

Monday, February 27

- **Eastern Chatham Senior Center**
- 8:15 a.m. Body Conditioning w/Jackie (Full)
- 9 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Liz (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)
- 10 a.m. Geri-Fit Part 2 w/ Jackie (Full); NC Prevent Blindness Retinal Screening
- 11 a.m. <u>Bingocize</u>
- 2 p.m. Table Tennis 3 p.m. - Gym Orientation
- 6 p.m. Caregiver Virtual Support Group

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 10 a.m. Cornhole; Bingo
- 2 p.m. Strength & Tone

**Tuesday, February 28** 

- **Eastern Chatham Senior Center**
- 8:15 a.m. Body Conditioning w/Jackie (Full)
- 9 a.m. 3G's Men's Group
- 10 a.m. Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joe
- 10:30 a.m. Gym Orientation
- 11 a.m. Music w/Grateful Hearts 1 p.m. - Rummikub

#### 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; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering
- 2 p.m. Fitness Room Orientation

#### Wednesday, March 1

- **Eastern Chatham Senior Center**
- 10 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom); Coffee & Games w/Chatham County Sheriff's Department
- 11 a.m. Bingocize (Full)
- 1 p.m. Open Art Studio; Games/Cards
  - Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 10 a.m. Bible Study
- 1 p.m. Birthday Party for February and March Birthdays
- 2 p.m. Crafting w/Kathryn (Yarn-Wrapped Monogram Letters)
- 3:30 p.m. <u>Basic Quilting Classes</u>

Thursday, March 2

- **Eastern Chatham Senior Center**
- 8:15 a.m. Body Conditioning w/Jackie (Full)
- 10 a.m. Crafts & Chat; Chair Volleyball
- 11 a.m. Nutrition Education w/Ann Clark
- 1 p.m. Bridge
- 1:30 p.m. Line Dancing
- 3 p.m. Gentle Yoga w/Liz
  - Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee & Conversations
- 10 a.m. Music Jam Session; Bocce & Horseshoes
- 10:30 a.m. Mental Health Discussion w/ Tammy Curry, **Theraputic Alternatives**
- 1 p.m. Book Club
- 2 p.m. <u>Tai Chi</u>
- 3 p.m. <u>Thursday Social</u> (Movie "Glory Road") Friday, March 3 **Eastern Chatham Senior Center**
- 8:15 a.m. Body Conditioning w/Jackie (Full)
- 10 a.m. Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie
- 11:15 a.m. Cornhole & Shuffleboard
- 1 p.m. Card Games/Euchre
- 1:30 Zumba Gold Intro
- 3 p.m. Jukebox Live! (Dance Music)
- Western Chatham Senior Center

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## ELITE

Continued from page B1

6 seed in the 3A tournament that got derailed by No. 2 West Carteret in the fourth round. The 2023 team is setting its sights on a ticket to the Final Four.

"We'll see what we can do," Brown said, not hazarding any predictions. "We're just thankful and blessed to be able to go on, to practice and play one more game.

Parrish echoed the sentiment.

"We're all really focused on just one game at a time," he said. "We try not to look ahead or overlook any teams because anything can happen in the playoffs."

Powell doesn't expect to change things up for their next foe.

"We focus on us and let them adjust to us, stay consistent," he said. Consistency was the

stock in trade Saturday. The Chargers jumped out to an early lead in the first period and never looked back. They amassed impressive runs throughout the game.

The Bulldogs didn't have an answer, failing repeatedly to tally more than two consecutive scores

Credit Northwood's inhospitable defense on its home court. On one Terry Sanford possession at 3:15 of the first period. senior power forward Max Frazier and Parrish pounded successive, booming blocks against hapless Bulldogs shooters. To say they owned the paint could be an understatement. At 4:45 of the second period, point guard Carlos Craig, Terry Sanford's leading scorer, managed to penetrate the defense for a shot, but found himself surrounded by four Northwood players under the boards awaiting the rebound. And so it went.

Terry Sanford came into the contest looking like a giant-killer. The Bulldogs had already outperformed their No. 25 seed designation, squeezing past No. 8 Scotland and No. 9 South Central in the first two rounds.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Drake Powell scored 21 points in the Chargers' 57-37 win over Terry Sanford on Saturday in the third round of the 3A state playoffs.

"I think they really did challenge us. They're really a well-coached team," Brown said. "They play very hard. They're disciplined, they're really good at what they do and we were concerned with their shooters as well as their bigs inside. Every year we have to play them, and it's been tough every year."

The Chargers control of the boards was so dominant that Terry Sanford was limited mostly to outside shots.

"That's what we do. We've tried to do that the whole year and we've been pretty successful at it," Brown said. "We've got guys committed to get rebounds. We did a pretty good job on the boards tonight.'

Parrish was a large part of that defensive shield.

"I just play to my strengths," he said. "Obviously I'm tall and I've got long arms, so I try to stay in front of my man as much as possible, and I know they can't go over me vertically so that's what I focus on.'

Are all those rebounds and the blocked shot prowess the result of a super skill set, a fiery competitive nature, or a blend of both? Ask Parrish.

'I just try to attack boards as much as possible, and I don't like people scoring on me," he said.

Going into the contest the Chargers game plan was to work on transition and defense, go to the shooters on offense and stay patient.

'We knew they were going to sit in the zone," Powell said. "My teammates hit me some, I hit them, just sharing the ball," Powell said. "Yes sir, just another day."

Terry Sanford drew first blood when Te'Jon McDaniel-McCormmick drained a 3-pointer 23 seconds into the game. But Northwood went on a three-minute, 14-0 tear that culminated at 3:39 when junior power forward Jake Leighton drilled a 3-pointer from the corner to make it 14-3. The period ended with the Chargers ahead 18-8.

In the second period, Northwood went on a three-minute, 11-0 run, capped at the 1:33 mark when Powell converted a pair of free throws for a 33-12 lead. Prior to the big run junior shooting guard Griffin Hobbs made a dandy shot from under the basket while eluding blanket coverage at 6:41. During the run Leighton came up with a nifty steal and passed off to junior point guard Ashton Elliott for the score at 2:15 and a 28-12 lead. The Chargers then went into the locker room with a 33-17 lead.

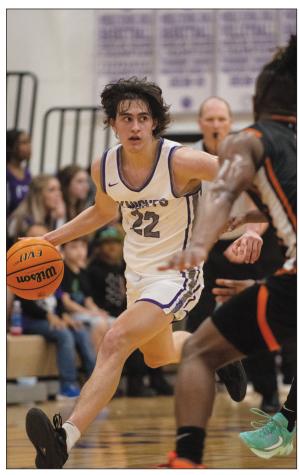
Powell stung the nets for a 3-pointer at 7:15 as the Chargers opened the third period with a 9-2 run before slowing the pace in a ball control scheme to burn time off the clock. Leighton pulled down a rebound and hit a layup at 4:25, Parrish assaulted the rim with a huge dunk at 3:50, and Leighton ended the run with a sparkling turnaround jumper at 2:55. Powell ended the frame with another trey from well beyond the paint and a 45-24 lead.

The Bulldogs were unable to narrow the deficit in the final period. In fact, Northwood collected a 24-point lead, its largest of the game, when Elliott hit Frazier for an alley-oop dunk that electrified the crowd and pushed the gap to 49-25 at 6:45. Elliott got a steal and went coastal at 3:45, and, leading 55-34, Brown pulled the starters from the floor shortly afterwards to steady applause from an appreciative crowd.

Putting a punctuation point on the Northwood win, freshman Chad Graves ended the game on a very literal high note when he hit a slam dunk.

#### What's next?

Northwood hosted No. 13 Franklinton in the fourth round of the 3A state tournament on Tuesday (the game occurred after press time). If victorious, they will play either No. 2 E. E. Smith or No. 3 Northern Nash in the east regional championship on Saturday.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

this," Lisa Harvey said.

"I just want it so bad for

The Knights played on

the road Tuesday night

the 1A state tournament

Prep, which entered the

game with a 24-7 record

in the fourth round of

against No. 2 Wilson

(game occurred after

press time). If victori-

ous, Chatham Charter

would play Saturday in

the east regional finals

Bertie or No. 12 seed

a neutral site.

against either No. 1 seed

Northampton County at

**Chatham Charter sophomore Beau Harvey** leads his team in both assists (4.9) and steals (4.1) per game while also shooting 43.6% from **3-point range.** 

them."

What's next?

## **KNIGHTS**

Continued from page B1

foul shot.

Soon, the buzzer sounded and the Knights' win was realized, lifting them one step closer to redemption after losing in last year's 1A state final. In the words of Adam Harvey, the Knights "want it bad," and his mom knows just how true that statement is.

"I feel like they have worked all of their middle school and high school years towards

With 30 seconds remaining in the game, the Knights led 55-47. The game was clearly in their control as Adam stepped to the line yet again. Still, that didn't stop Lisa Harvey from launching into her normal ritual. Her earrings – two teardrop-shaped basketballs with her son's numbers written on them - shook as she motioned a cross across her chest and clapped her hands together.

## GOLDEN

Continued from page B1

junior, Boston averaged 16.8 points and 15.2 rebounds per game while shooting 53.2% from the field. She is considered the odds-on lavorite to be the No. 1 pick in the 2023 WNBA Draft. Whether the future sees players like Boston, or those like Clark, have more success remains to be seen, but it's going to be fun as hell to watch both players start their professional careers over these next few years. And it will be even cooler watching the players who spring up over the next several years, inspired by today's best, as they continue to push the game to new heights.

#### SEASUN

Continued from page B3

allow someone to take over and be successful," Burke said. "I have some good sophomores who gave a lot of good quality minutes this year and some juniors, too."

#### Central boys fall in second round

Not to be overlooked this season was the Chatham Central boys team, which amassed an impressive 16-9 record before falling to Washington County in the second round of the 1A tournament last week, 83-63.

The Bears dominated Oxford Prep in the first round but could not stop Washington County's offense from racking up points throughout the night. The Panthers went on to lose to Chatham Charter, 56-49, in the third round.

In the loss to Washington County, the Central boys were led once again by sophomore Reid Albright, who totaled a game-high 25 points to go with nine rebounds, six assists and four steals. The only other player in double-figures in that game was senior Brandon Toomer, who had 13 points.

The 16 victories claimed by Chatham Central this season were the most the program has had since going 22-6 back in 2019-20. The Bears have an overall record of 105-75 since Burke took over ahead of the 2015-16

eason.

The Central boys will graduate a handful of players over the offseason, including Toomer who averaged 12.3 points per game this season. That said, the Bears will welcome back their top scorer in Albright (19.8 points, 10.0 rebounds, 4.8 assists per game) as well as junior Devonte Johnson (9.3 points, 3.4 assists per game).

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



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central senior Kailey Green attempts a shot in the first round of the state playoffs. The Bears reached the third round before falling to undefeated Falls Lake.

Now, all this talk about guards isn't to say that front court players have lost any of their luster. Arguably, or maybe not so arguably, the best college basketball player in the entire country right now is South Carolina senior Aliyah Boston who is averaging 13.3 points, 8.9 rebounds and 1.9 blocks per season.

Standing at 6-foot-5, Boston is an incredibly dominant player who can turn it on in the biggest of moments. Playing in last year's NCAA Tournament as a

## **Central Electric** sponsoring two youth to attend basketball camp

Central Electric awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships annually to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore, or Randolph counties. A young man will be selected to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a young woman will be selected to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh.



To be eligible to apply, the student must be in the sixth or seventh grade during the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must provide their own transportation if selected to attend.

Scan the QR code or visit CEMCPower.com for more information or to apply. The deadline for applications to both camps is March 31.



## CHATHAM'S '6 OVER 60' AWARD Inaugural class recognized by Council on Aging, News + Record

#### **CN+R Staff Report**

PITTSBORO — Friends and family members saluted Chatham's inaugural "6 Over 60" class Friday, recognizing residents who have made meritorious contributions to the county.

During a luncheon event held at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center — culminating the celebration of "Chatham Loves Seniors" month — those honorees selected from a group of more than 20 nominees expressed their thanks and their love for the county.

"6 Over 60" is a project of the Chatham Council on Aging and the News + Record. Jimmy Lewis, the COA's grants and communications specialist, hosted the event. Mountaire Farms provided the meal.

### Those honored, and what they said:

• Diana Hales, former Chatham County commissioner. "We are very, very rich in this county because of the people who live here. And what I knew when I saw the inaugural class — other than Marylou [Mackintosh], I knew every one of the honorees because I've worked with each of them — I think its says a lot about Chatham County, that people willing to stand up and do. We're a county of doers."

• George Greger-Holt, retired educator and chairman of Chatham Drug Free. "When I retired, I told people I'm retired from the school district; I'm not retired from the community. I still live here. And so I've continued to do what I did. Maybe a few less things than I did when I was in school ... But I'm appreciative of this and humbled by this award. And we've got a lot of work still left to do. So let's keep doing it."

• Marylou Mackintosh, tireless community volunteer. "I want to thank my good Lord for giving me the strength and energy to carry out how He wants me to serve. I want you to understand that being a volunteer is a very special thing. Being a volunteer means giving of yourself without asking anything



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Honorees in the inaugural '6 Over 60' project included, from left, Mary Nettles, George Greger-Holt, Diana Hales, the Rev. Dr. Carl Thompson Sr. and Marylou Mackintosh. Not pictured is Genevieve Megginson. '6 Over 60' is a joint project of the Chatham Council on Aging and the News + Record.

in return. Each and every one of you right now you are volunteers, whether you know it or not. When you give that stranger a smile, or a 'hello,' you're volunteering and sharing your love with that person. And you might be lifting them up more than you realize. So being a volunteer and being recognized does not mean you have to do a lot of great things. You can be a volunteer every day of your life."

• Mary Nettles, president of the Chatham Community NAACP branch and of the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham. "At a very early age, I was around 60 and older people who were very involved throughout their lifetimes in promoting equality for all people. Through many organizations, including the NAACP and the CRC-C, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to shine the light on Chatham's racial disparity and working toward reconciliation among all residents of this amazing county.'

• The Rev. Carl Thompson Sr., who was the top vote-getter among all nominees. "Let me just say how much I appreciate the people that I've had the honor of being awarded along with ... It's like a homecoming with some of you, when we get together to talk about the old days and things that have happened. And that's exciting. I'm just very appreciative of the folks that I'm sharing this award with and the work you've all done."

Honoree Genevieve Megginson, the executive director of the Chatham County Partnership for Children, had a previous work commitment and was unable to attend.

Karen Howard, chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, also spoke. She said the honorees didn't take the opportunity to rest of their laurels, but rather to set an example for Chatham's younger generations and to help build a strong and resilient community.

Council on Aging Director Ashlyn Martin and News + Record Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III also spoke.

## BLACK SENIOR ATHLETES HOPE WELCH Love of people attracts Welch to Senior Games

BY JIMMY LEWIS Chatham County Council on Aging

The desire to connect with people has carried Hope Welch through a number of stations in her life.

So when Chatham County Senior Games pickleball ambassador Bill Alston started to extoll the virtues of pickleball to the Siler City native, Welch was intrigued by the welcoming nature of the sport. Although she didn't enjoy the common relative of pickleball — that of tennis — it didn't stop her from picking up a paddle and getting to work.

"You can catch on real good, once you get used to it," Welch said. "The only problem I had was (keeping) score. Now, I'm showing others how to play it."

A 1971 graduate of Jordan-Matthews, Welch used her time in high school to remain active, playing sports such as basketball and softball while experimenting with track. In Chatham County Senior Games, she has added cornhole, basketball shooting and the softball throw to her repertoire.

A N.C. Dept. of Transportation highway maintenance retiree, Welch remains active through pickleball and her flexible part-time schedule at Food Lion in Siler City.

"When I get to work at Food Lion, one or two people will see me and say, 'You've been to pickleball already!" she said. But physical activity



Courtesy of the Council on Aging

#### Siler City's Hope Welch stays connected to the older adult community via pickleball and participation in Chatham County Senior Games.

is something Welch has never had a problem with. After graduating from Jordan-Matthews, she served in the Army from 1973-1976. Her last year was spent handing out instructions in a not-so-subtle manner as a drill sergeant.

At the same time, she maintains that the depiction of drill sergeants on television isn't entirely accurate.

"There are ways you can say things to be positive and not have an attitude," Welch revealed "It made me responsible. I didn't have my mind made up as to what I was going to do."

Welch, whose mother previously attended activities at the Chatham County Council on Aging, had her love of people instilled from family. She prefers introducing others to pickleball and Chatham County Senior Games at their own pace.

## LEADER

Continued from page B1 "Coming in from last

game, where we didn't play as well, we wanted to make sure that we didn't play like we did last game, especially in the nrst quarter, " senior cap tain Lilli Jones said. "We didn't work together or communicate well (last game). We just weren't doing what we were supposed to." After accruing a 29-15 lead at halftime, Chatham Charter extended its advantage in the second half and continued to apply the pressure, especially to Vance Charter's ball-handlers

with traps up top. This defensive intensity allowed the Knights myriad fast break opportunities, especially for Walden. After a Walden steal and layup pushed the Knight's advantage to 20 points, Vance Charter head coach Brian How-

its loss at Seaforth at the end of the regular season. After the 57-14 defeat, Walden felt like the team was playing "timid" and "scared."

"It was our lowest scoring game of the season,' Walden said. "We didn't come in confident like we normally did. We expect ed Seaforth to play the way they did, but I guess it just shook us a little bit." Walden said that from that experience, the Knights learned to push through adversity and have confidence in each other. Patterson credits captains Walden and senior Lilli Jones for their leadership, especially late in the season, in which he said both players talked to their teammates a lot more about paying attention in practice. "I have a goal," Walden said. "I have a goal to get into regionals and possibly the state championship. If I have to be the mean captain for us to win, then I'll be the mean captain. After the Seaforth game, I just told myself, 'OK, I'm going to have to start doing this, this and this for us just to persevere through things." Walden's been on the Knights' varsity team for four years, and she's the highest scoring girls or boys basketball player in school history with 1,810 career points. Now, she's making history by carrying the Knights to their first Elite 8 in school history. "She's been playing like that all year," Patterson said. "I remember there's an old saying, back in I think '77, when Reggie Jackson was with the Yankees, he made a statement that he was the straw that stirred the drink. Well, she's our straw that stirs the drink.'



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Senior Tamaya Walden leads all active Chatham Charter basketball players, girls or boys, with 1,810 career points.

try and quell the run.

The Knights' success on the fast break continued throughout the fourth quarter, paving the way for a blowout 64-25 win.

This tenacity Chatham Charter displayed Saturday night hasn't always been front-and-center this season. Patterson said that the team really came together following



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## POLICE REPORTS

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE Two more arrested in connection with August 2022 robbery

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

With two arrests this month, all six people sought in connection with a robbery that occurred last August have been arrested and charged by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

On Feb. 22, Christine Riley, 23, of 874 Jack Bennett Rd., Chapel Hill, was arrested and charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon; larceny; second degree kidnapping; conspiring to commit armed robbery of a person; assault by pointing a gun; injury to personal property; and hit/run leaving scene with property damage. She was jailed under a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in court on March 6.

On Feb. 8, Daniel Noel Barber, 24, of 103 Winston Way, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Moises Carvajal for robbery with a dangerous weapon; larceny; second-degree kidnapping; conspiracy to commit armed robbery of a person; assault by pointing a gun; injury to personal property; and hit/run leaving scene with property damage. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 27. Barber was also arrested by Deputy Carvajal for true bill of indictment. He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 27.

Four other suspects were previously arrested.

On Sept. 13, Scott Delo Shreeman II, 25, of 874 Jack Bennett Rd., was arrested for robbery with a dangerous weapon; second-degree kidnapping; conspiracy to commit armed robbery of a person; assault by pointing a gun; injury to personal property; hit and run/ leave scene property damage; and all other larceny. On Sept. 14, Grayling Antonio Matthews, 31, of 403 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City, was arrested for robbery with a dangerous weapon; felony larceny; second-degree kidnapping; conspiracy to commit armed robbery of a person; assault by pointing a gun; injury to personal property; and hit/run leave scene of property damage.

On Sept. 14, Jaimarien Rayshaun Sellers, 18, of 211 E. Cardinal St., Siler City, was arrested for robbery with a dangerous weapon; larceny; second-degree kidnapping; conspiracy to commit armed robbery of a person; assault by pointing a gun; injury to personal property; and hit/ run leave scene of property damage.

A juvenile suspect was also arrested.

The charges stem from an incident at 874 Jack Bennett Road on Aug. 25, 2022, where the victim reported personal items stolen after being robbed at gunpoint by multiple people.

Investigators learned that the victim was robbed during a prearranged drug deal. The victim reported stolen items including \$2,000 worth of marijuana and THC vape cannisters, a cell phone, wallet, car and house keys, and a backpack.

## Local officials discuss legislative priorities for new year

#### BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Local elected officials from across the county gathered at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center on Monday morning for the annual Legislative Breakfast, focused on discussions about local issues with Chatham County's local legislative delegation.

The priorities of the county included addressing rural broadband, supporting construction and renovation projects at public schools and improving water quality. The county manager's office lobbied for Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54) and Sen. Natalie Murdock (D-Dist. 20) to push for these goals and more

during the current legislative session in Raleigh.

While education and town officials from Pittsboro, Siler City and Goldston were in attendance, the priorities shared were defined by the Chatham County government.

The legislative goal packet given to attendees contained 15 total goals. Many of the goals addressed were also aligned with goals from the North Carolina Association for County Commissioners (NCACC). Karen Howard, the chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, also chairs NCACC's legislative goals committee.

Each goal was briefly presented to Murdock and Reives by members of county staff.

#### Education

The N.C. General Assembly is the primary funder of public schools in the state. Chatham County urged for more funding for schools to aid with infrastructure and capital improvement projects. Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said this was especially important amid the impending growth to the county, which will likely bring in new families and create problems if Chatham County Schools does not expand capacity.

County staff urged supporting legislation that allows "equitable access to Needs-Based Public School Capital Funds." This legislation would eliminate the current five-year prohibition of receiving funds from the Public School Building Capital Fund. It would also allow for more funding to be used for construction, renovations and improvements.

Supporting this legislation was the second-highest legislative priority of the NCACC.

Another way to bring funding to public schools would be through the longstanding controversial Leandro Remedial Plan, which would allocate billions of dollars in state funding to public schools over the next five years. Murdock and Reives said, however, they were not optimistic that the funding would move forward in this session. The Republican-led N.C. Supreme Court is likely to strike

down any rulings in favor of releasing the funding to schools.

Even if Leandro were approved, Reives said the plan is now in need of an update. He believes the remedial plan, which was first crafted in 2017, no longer fits the changing needs of public education amid challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.

"We keep focusing on these things like the so-called 'Parents Bill of Rights,' but that doesn't address the issues in the classroom," Reives told officials at the breakfast. "We need to use our education dollars to help

kids." Murdock also said she was not optimistic about Leandro funding moving forward in its entirety. She said, however, that a recent financial forecast presented to the State Senate showed a more than \$3 billion budget surplus, and she advocated for those dollars to be put toward public schools.

#### Broadband

The top priority of NCACC, and high on the list for Chathamites, is removing the rural broadband barrier. County staff advocated for continued funding for broadband through state grants and loan money.

LaMontagne said breaking this barrier would include allowing more county involvement in broadband initiatives, including potentially leasing county assets to

See LOCAL, page B7



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## SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS Board hears city hall update, will convene in courtroom in March

#### BY TAYLOR HEEDEN News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Commissioners heard updates regarding city hall's renovations at the board's regular meeting on Feb. 20.

Town Manager Hank Raper said the commissioners' next meeting would be in the courthouse at city hall, marking the first time since 2020 the board will meet in its normal quarters.

But there's still work needed done around city hall, particularly in regard to the ADA-required ramp at the back of the building for the courthouse.

At the board's last meeting, commissioners heard a request from the Chatham County Courthouse and the Chatham Sheriff's Office to have an ADA-accessible ramp installed instead of the town's proposed wheelchair lift. Court administrators cited that court-goers were hesitant to use the lifts at the Pittsboro courthouse, and because of that, they wanted to install a ramp at the Siler City location.

The ramp, however, was estimated to cost the town over \$200,000, while the lift was expected to cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000. Raper said the town was able to find a more cost-effective alternative to a concrete ramp and the wheel-chair lift: a metal wheelchair ramp costing just under \$35,000.

Mayor Chip Price said he was glad the town was able to find a better solution for the ramp, but he was still wanting the county to pay for the ramp itself.

Raper said he brought the idea to the county during a recent manager's retreat, where he was told the only way the county could reimburse Siler City was if the Sheriff's Office requested it as a part of its budget for the next year, and subsequently approved.

That would mean "we're putting this off at least until next fiscal year," Raper said.

Mayor Pro Tem Bill Haiges said the town should consider asking the Sheriff's Office for reimbursement, especially since they're the ones making some of the requests.

"They're making the request of 'this is how we want it," Haiges said.

Commissioner Lewis Fadely agreed with Haiges, saying he believed reimbursement would make sense, especially since the courts are also asking for additional equipment.

"They want a single entrance with the X-ray machine and the metal detector there, so I think it's a reasonable basis," he said.

Commissioners will meet for their first meeting in city hall at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 6.

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



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## Chatham Hospital's 'Baby-Friendly' tag ensures maternity care is 'top notch'

Across the U.S., obstetric units in rural hospitals have been peril. More than 90 have closed since 2015, and by 2020, the American Hospital Association said half of rural community hospitals didn't provide obstetric care. In addition, a study of hospital administrators carried out before the pandemic found 20% of them said they did not expect to be providing labor and delivery services in five years' time.

At Siler City's UNC Chatham Hospital, staff are working to keep the facility open, running at full operation, and providing service at a high level. This week, we speak with Kristen Coleman, the manager of the hospital's Maternity Care Center, about its efforts to become designated as "Baby-Friendly."

A Siler City native, Coleman began work at the hospital in 2019 as the MCC's project manager/ unit manager. "Nursing in labor and delivery has always been a passion of mine, even in high school," she said. "To see this come back to my home community where there is a great need for the service is a dream come true. I personally try to speak with every person who delivers at Chatham and some of them I even know on a personal level.'

#### What does the "Baby-Friendly" hospital designation signify for Chatham Hospital, and why is it so prestigious? Why is it a worthy goal?

When we obtain this designation it supports the evidence-based practice care that we give at Chatham. There is a sense of pride from all staff as this is no easy accomplishment. This puts Chatham on a national list and further lets the nation know that we support baby-friendly in our hospital and are



Submitted photo

Kristen Coleman

#### - Discovery and Development. What was involved in passing the "Discovery" phase?

The Discovery phase was the easiest. We had to simply make the decision, obtain a letter from the CEO of hospital supporting the decision and collect our current data on breastfeeding at Chatham.

#### And what about the "Development" phase?

The Development phase was a little challenging with multiple steps; it took almost a whole year. This is where all the planning and thinking came in.

Charlotte Zuber-Patton, our lactation consultant, did the bulk of the work. We had to develop a multidisciplinary team, an overall work plan, breastfeeding friendly policies, a staff training plan, prenatal teaching plans, postpartum teaching plans, and a data collection plan.

#### What two phases remain, then, and what's the strategy and timeline for achieving them?

Dissemination and Designation are the two remaining phases. The Dissemination phase is where all the hard work from the Development phase is put into play. We will train all the staff and implement the plans and policies that we developed. We are still collecting data during this phase as well to show all of our hard work that we have been doing. This "Our patient satisfaction scores are consistently 99% and above. We strive for patient centered care that involves the nurse and provider listening to the patient's wishes for their delivery, including going above and beyond on expectations."

**KRISTEN COLEMAN,** manager of UNC Chatham Hospital Maternity Care Center

phase has to be completed in 10 months, so we should be finished with this phase by September 2023.

Designation is the next step, but also the most nerve-wracking. In the Designation phase we continue to audit our practices, review the data and compare those results to the criteria for the designation. There is a readiness interview that is conducted over the phone to see if we are ready for the designators to come on site and assess, if we are not they provide us with the needed tools to become ready, we move on those task and then have the interview again.

Once the phone interview is successful and we are ready, they come on-site for an assessment. The on-site visit is a team that assesses the unit and all of our hard work, they compose a report and then it goes to an external review board to determine if we have fully implemented the needed criteria. All of this needs to be completed within eight months of moving into the Designation phase.

We hope to be Baby-Friendly Designated by summer of 2024.

#### How is your team involved in the work required to make it happen? And are there any lessons or experiences gained from the work that have particularly made the Maternity Care Center better?

The bulk of the work is done by Charlotte, and We know there's been much discussion about the Maternity Care Center and its future, given staffing shortages and use. Can you share an update about the MCC's operation and what you think the future holds?

The Maternity Care Center will return to full 24/7 operations on March 25. We are very excited about this and hope patients will continue to use this much needed service that is close to home. The staff in the department are well trained and often run simulations in the department to assure that current practices flow well and are successful. I think the future is bright and my goal is to double our current number of deliveries by December

#### Why should expectant mothers feel confident about Chatham Hospital and the MCC?

All staff are trained in labor and delivery emergencies. Some staff have taken the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics course to better prepare, with a goal of all staff to be trained by 2024. This is a very intense course with hands-on activities and video training in emergency situations. Most of our providers also attend deliveries at UNC Main campus, with whom we have a great working relationship with.

Our patient satisfaction scores are consistently 99% and above. We strive for patient centered care that involves the nurse and provider listening to the patient's wishes for their delivery, including going above and beyond on expectations.

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giving top-notch care.

At this point, the hospital has passed two phases

LOCAL

Continued from page B6

broadband providers or creating public broadband infrastructure. "Large telecom compa-

## **County Mulch Sale**

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## Sales Begin Saturday, March 4

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Sales continue every Saturday, except for April 8, while supplies last. Estimated to continue through the middle of May.



For more information: (919) 542-5516 www.chathamcountync.gov/recycle have to be trained and know the ins and outs of the initiative.

nies restrict access to thispeopvaluable resource andsuppfoster an environmentforcewhere we are unable toso thdetermine who truly iscommon tonot being served," theThlegislative goals packetsion

reads. Chatham County officials advocated for legislation to remove barriers to broadband because they collectively viewed it as critical to healthcare, education and livelihood in the modern world. Reives, a Goldston resident, said he intimately understands the struggles of broadband inaccessibility in the region.

"Broadband has been an issue for 12 years now," Reives said. "I hope we can get past this 'private versus public,' because what it comes down to is we need rural electrification. If we don't get it, people don't have access to essential services."

#### Workforce

While not explicitly addressed as a goal in Monday's breakfast, the hot topic of the morning was workforce. Challenging topics like affordable housing, social services and improving local control all turned to conversations about Chatham's workforce.

Discussions of supporting the workforce were two-fold: ensuring strong recruitment and competitive salaries to bring

people to the county, then supporting that workforce with places to live so their tax dollars would come back to Chatham.

This came up in discussions of social services programs because, like many departments throughout the county, they find themselves short-staffed. Jennie Kristiansen, director of the county's Social Services department, said one way to combat this would be by strengthening behavioral health services to address the growing mental health crisis among N.C. youth.

"There's no easy answers when you talk about the complexities of mental health," Kristiansen told local legislators. "But anything to support workforce and behavioral health care, crisis services, etc. So flexibilities in how are treatment care is set up and managed would be tremendously beneficial."

Dr. Anthony Jackson, **Chatham County Schools** superintendent, also said funding to improve existing teacher and staffing shortages was a necessity for both aspects of the workforce problem. He said the district was in need of teachers to ensure the students coming out of CCS are prepared for the work environment, and ready to reap the rewards of the opportunities coming to

the county. Workforce necessities also emerged in discussions of future professional development and training for VinFast and Wolfspeed employees. Central Carolina Community College President Lisa Chapman lauded the planned Moore Center in Sanford, which will be used to train VinFast employees, as "a highlight of the southeastern United States" when completed.

ployees, as "a highlight of the southeastern United States" when completed. She said, however, there is still a need to support the new building and the community college at the state level to ensure its success.

"What's critically important to us is that we're growing our own talent," Chapman said. "So all of this training is happening with our local residents. They're a part of it, and they can benefit from it."

Reives said he understands the need to promote a good workforce to keep people in Chatham amid the opportunities coming to the region.

A full copy of Chatham County Government's 2023 legislative goals will be posted online at chathamnewsrecord.com 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

## Sheriff's Office Polar Plunge raises more than \$23,000 for Special Olympics

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

PITTSBORO — Making its biggest splash yet, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office's annual Polar Plunge, held Saturday morning, Feb. 25, raised more money than ever before due to the efforts of a record-setting number of participants.

With an enthusiastic crowd cheering them on, 15 teams comprised of 125 people leapt into Jordan Lake, raising money and awareness for Special Olympics of North Carolina.

The fundraiser generated more than \$23,000 in donations from individuals and businesses, well exceeding the event's goal of \$15,000. Sponsors donated various amounts and everyone taking the plunge pledged at least \$50 to participate.

Chatham County Sheriff's Office Special Olympics Coordinator Chris Cooper was extremely pleased with this year's Polar Plunge.

"Our goal was to raise money for an amazing cause, and our sponsors and Polar Plungers definitely delivered above and beyond our goal," Cooper said, also expressing his gratitude to Mark Jacobson Toyota, an event sponsor; Chatham County Schools; NC State Parks; North Chatham Fire Department; and FirstHealth EMS for their support.

It's not called a "polar plunge" for nothing. With Saturday's air temperature hovering around the 50-degree mark, and the water greeting plungers at Jordan Lake's Seaforth Beach no warmer, the experience was bracing, challenging and chilly; but it also came with great reward.

"Honestly, I don't think you can really prepare for it," said



Courtesy of Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Excited to take the plunge into 55-degree Jordan Lake, spirited plungers assembled for a pre-plunge group photo.

Lindsey Vickers, a freshman at Meredith College and a veteran of previous Polar Plunges while a student at Northwood High School. "You know it's going to be cold, but when you get in the water it completely shocks you. It's crazy, but it's also super fun." Vickers raised \$925 and organized and led her team, the Chatham Chillers, which donned Mario Kart themed costumes, complete with cardboard vehicles.

Welcoming the large crowd to Seaforth Beach was Special Olympics N.C. Athlete and loyal supporter Dani Kinert. "It's so awesome to see so many people here today helping out," she said.

Accompanied by Kinert, Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson and his wife Annette, per long-standing tradition, were the first team in the water.

"The support for this event has been incredible," Sheriff Roberson said, noting that it has grown larger every year, generating more participation and raising more funds. "This is one of our most fun events and one of our most important because it helps makes Special Olympics events possible not just here in Chatham County but throughout the state. This is a real community event. This isn't the Sheriff's Office raising money. This is the community raising money."

James Larkin, along with several of his co-workers from Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. in Raleigh, was among those who took the plunge. Larkin praised every aspect of the event. "First, the event itself and what it's supporting -- raising money for Special Olympics - is great and obviously a great cause," he said. "But second, the actual activity of jumping in the cold water is very exhilarating and good for you. And it's great fun to mingle and meet so many nice people."

Trophies were given to teams and individuals in a variety of categories, including a Youngest Plunger medal given to 5-year-old Adley Robinson; Oldest Plunger, 65-year-old Andres Perez; Best Team Costumes, the Chatham Chillers; Best Individual Costume, Dani Kinert; Top Team Fundraiser, Chatham Charter School;



Courtesy of Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Roberson congratulates the Chatham Chillers, winners of the Best Team Costume award for their Mario Kart garb.

Top Fundraiser Cool School, Chatham Charter School; Top Participation Cool School, Seaforth High School (15 participants); and Top Individual Fundraiser, Katie Scotten.

Saturday was the fourth Polar Plunge for Scotten, a 3rd grader teacher at Chatham Charter School. "I just obviously have a love for kids," she said, describing her ongoing interest in participating, "but I think any time you can give back to anything, especially a good cause like Special Olympics, it's a great thing to do. We have a great school community and it's so great to get so many people involved and raise money for a great cause."

# Chatham County Senior Games early bird registration begins March 3

From the Council on Aging

PITTSBORO — Chatham County athletes and artists 50 years of age and over will have the opportunity to put their skills to the test when the Chatham County Senior Games & SilverArts kicks off on April 29 at various sites throughout the county. Running through May 11, a total of 19 events will be offered, including archery, track and field, football throw, softball throw, fun walk, golf, croquet, disc golf, swimming, cycling, men's bocce, bowling, table

tennis, basketball shooting, cornhole, pickleball, tennis, women's bocce and horseshoes. Tennis, pickleball and table tennis events include singles, doubles and mixed doubles. College (Pittsboro), Buffaloe Lanes of Cary and Paddles Swim & Pickleball Club.

Also returning is Chatham County SilverArts, which encompasses creative expression in five areas of compe tition — visual arts, literary arts, performing arts, heritage arts and cheerleading. An Open House for SilverArts will be held at 10:30 a.m. on May 2 at the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City. Chatham County Senior Games was honored by North Carolina Senior Games in 2021 for having the highest

participation increase over a five-year period and followed with a record 262 participants in 2022. Athletes and Silver Artists will compete at the local level for the right to compete at the North Carolina Senior Games & Silver-Arts in September and October. A total of 53 local games, which include all 100 North Carolina counties, feed athletes and artists into the North Carolina Senior Games & SilverArts. Early bird registration runs from March 3 to 17, with regular registration beginning March 18 and closing March 31.

registration will be \$20. The registration fee will cover an unlimited number of events for participants.

For volunteer and registration opportunities, contact Liz Lahti at 2023 Chatham County Senior Games include Carolina Meadows, Humana, Chatham Parks and Recreation, Don & Marian Lein, the League of Women Voters and the Chatham News +

For 2022, Chatham County Senior Games sites will include Carolina Meadows, Carolina Preserve, Duke Center for Living at Fearrington, Eastern Chatham Senior Center, Siler City Country Club, Paul Braxton Gymnasium, Union Grove Church of Hillsborough, Cates Creek Park in Hillsborough, Central Carolina Community

Early bird registration is \$15, while regular

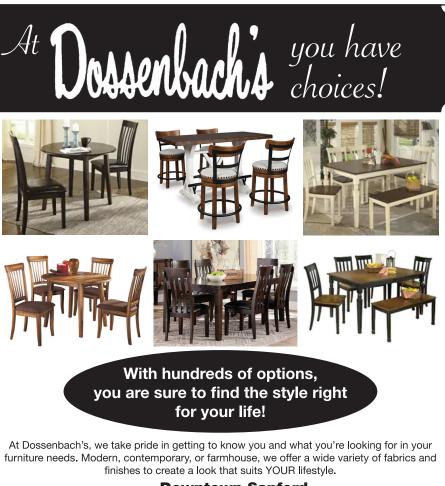
919-542-4212, ext. 228, or email liz.lahti@chathamcountync.gov.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro as well as the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City. Registration may also be found at Chatham County Parks and Recreation, Carolina Meadows, Duke Center for Living at Fearrington and Siler City Parks and Recreation. Gold sponsors for the

Record.

North Carolina Senior Games Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing year-round health promotion and wellness for adults 50 years of age and better. NCSG Inc. is sponsored statewide by the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services.

For more information on the Council on Aging, phone 919-542-4512 or 919-742-3975 or visit the Council's website at www.chathamcoa.org.





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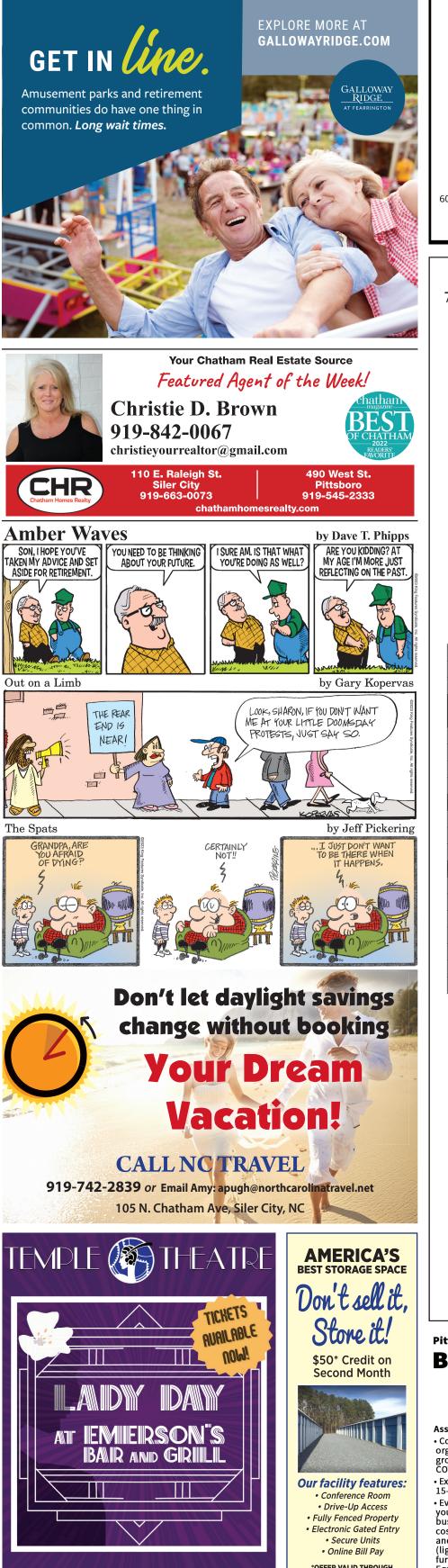
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#### **CATCHING SOME** PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo WAVES

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



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## **CN+R ENTERTAINMENT**



#### A Y C V U S R Q O N O S L E K

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

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Black Beauty	Kelso	Secretariat	Trigger
Buttermilk	Man o' War	Silver	

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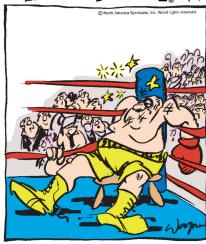
Dysport, Botox

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THE WAY I SEE IT, I WAS HOPELESS

WHEN MY WIFE MET ME. I'M SIMPLY JUST STAYING TRUE TO FORM.





"Hang on one more round ... I've got 12 more bags of peanuts!"

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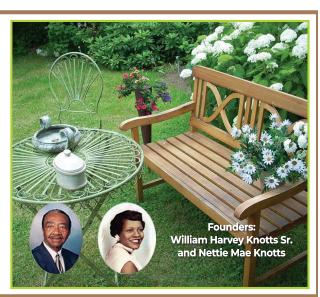


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#### **FAMOUS HORSES** Weekly SUDOKU **To-Do List:** Answer Carpentry NB Mr. Handyman<sup>®</sup> can help with that! Ceiling and Wall Repair οU Н (w s) 8 7 6 3 2 ✓ Tile and Grout ✓ Cabinetry 3 6 1 4 9 Т S Н ✓ Doors and Windows 2 1 5 4 9 Т Ρ ✓ Deck Maintenance 7 6 8 2 5 ✓ Garage Organization Ε M ✓ Shelving and Storage 3 9 4 1 8 ARIAT R 5 9 7 1 2 Mr. Handyman of Chapel Hill YDAR HXM and West Durham 6 8 7 5 3 TRIGGER CI ndyman 919.230.1230 9 4 3 8 6 ΰςςιβαες chd@mrhandyman.com 5 2 1 7 4 a neighborly company Mrhandyman.com OSLEK

## For when you're tired of lemonade



DEBBIE MATTHEWS The Curious Cook

tercream...) cream cheese is pretty low on my frosting fave list.

hard left.

it should

be a food

group (whole grains, lean

protein, but-

But I wondered if lemon cake, with its bright sourness, might be the perfect foil for cream cheese's tang and richness. So I set out to bake a lemon cake and test my thesis. Except.

Except it's Myer lemon season, and I couldn't help myself. So, instead of lemon, I used Myer lemons, which tastes

So, I had a Although I love frosting, theory, that and think it should be then took a a food group (whole grains, lean protein, Although I buttercream...) cream love frosting, and think cheese is pretty low on my frosting fave list.

> like a blend of lemon and tangerine. The cake turned out bright and delicious. It worked perfectly with cream cheese frosting.

> But I still don't have an answer for the whole conventional lemon/cream cheese icing thing. I guess my cake and frosting experimentation must continue

I do it all for you, Gentle Reader...all for you.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullcity. mom.



A Myer lemon cake.

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Day one

1/2 pound (2 sticks) butter, softened

1 vanilla bean, scraped

2 ½ cups granulated sugar, divided

5 large eggs, at room temperature

Myer Lemon Vanilla Bean Pound Cake

1/3 cup grated Myer lemon zest (6 to 8 Myer lemons) 3 cups flour  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking powder 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon kosher salt

3/4 cup freshly squeezed Myer lemon juice, divided

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

3/4 cup buttermilk, at room temperature

Directions: Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour two 8 or 9-inch cake pans. Line bottoms with parchment paper.

Cream butter, the vanilla bean innards you've scraped out, and 2 cups granulated sugar in bowl of electric mixer fitted with paddle attachment, until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. With mixer on medium speed, add eggs, one at a time, and Myer lemon zest.

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in one bowl. In another bowl, combine ¼ cup Myer lemon juice, buttermilk, and vanilla. Add flour and buttermilk mixtures alternately to the batter, beginning and ending with the flour. Divide batter evenly between the pans (approximately 3 cups per pan), smooth the tops, and bake for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Don't overbake — it will get very dry.

Combine ½ cup granulated sugar with ½ cup Myer lemon juice in a small saucepan and cook on low just until sugar dissolves. When cakes are done, allow to cool for 10 minutes. Remove cakes from pans and set them on cooling rack set over a tray or sheet pan; brush the lemon syrup over them, using most of it. Allow cakes to cool completely.

Wrap cakes very well with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.

Day Two:

Cut the cakes in half. Using a lazy Susan and bread knife will make the job much easier. Find a spoon or tool that is half as tall as the cake. Use it as a spacer under the knife, and cut all the way around the cake. Then while slowly spinning the lazy Susan, spiral cut all the way through until you have two layers of the same thickness. Repeat with other cake.

#### **Cream Cheese Frosting**

2 sticks butter, softened

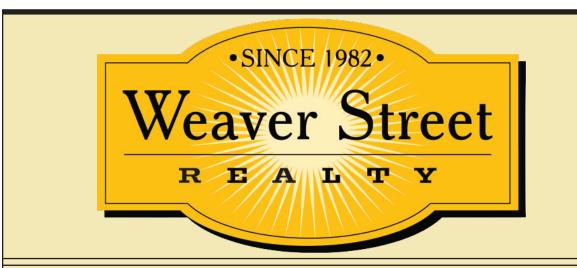
softened 2 pounds powdered sugar 1 1/2 teaspoon salt 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

2 8-ounce blocks of full-fat cream cheese,

Put all the ingredients in bowl of a stand mixer fitted with whisk attachment. Beat until smooth, creamy, and fluffy (4-6 minutes).

Evenly frost the tops of the layers as you build cake, leaving a 1/4-inch unfrosted border around edges so it doesn't ooze out. When all four layers are assembled, frost top and sides.

Refrigerate 2-3 hours to set up before serving. Serves 10-12.



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