

Chatham News + Record

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'SUFFERING FOR YEARS'

Mayor confronts Burlington board on PFAS discharges

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry walked up to the podium during the Burlington City Council meeting last week, she hoped the council would listen to — or, better yet, have a taste of — the issues she brought to the table.

With her water bottle and several cups in hand, Perry offered council members a sip of Pittsboro's drinking water. No one took her up on her



Perry

offer.

It's from the same source, the Haw River, which has been subject to several discharges of PFAS from industries in upstream communities like Burlington.

"We have high levels of PFAS in our blood-stream — higher than the folks in Fayetteville, below the Chemours plant where PFAS chemicals are made," Perry told Burlington council members last Tuesday. "We have some of the highest levels of PFAS in the country."

PFAS, also known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are "widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA also states these chemicals are likely human carcinogens, and they've been linked to increased risks of cancer and more.

Perry's appearance at Burlington's board meeting wasn't the first of its kind. She, along with other local water quality activists, went to Greensboro in December of 2021 to talk to its city council about similar

See **BOARD**, page A6



A section of the Haw River.

CN+R file photo

POMPOMS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Special Olympics N.C. cheerleading competition shines at Seaforth

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Dance moves, high kicks and joy were in abundance at Seaforth High School on Saturday for the annual Special Olympics North Carolina statewide cheerleading competition.

The event marked the first time Special Olympics N.C. held an event in Chatham County, and the first time the statewide cheerleading competition had been held since 2019, due to COVID-19.

More than 120 athletes representing 18 teams and 14 counties across the



intellectual or physical disabilities competed using routines they had rehearsed since February. Each one received raucous applause and plenty of smiles.

state were present for the competition. Athletes of all ages with

'Strut our stuff'

Emmie Stanley, 48, was one of the cheerleaders on the

Staff photos by Anna Connors

Seaforth High School in Pittsboro hosted the Special Olympics North Carolina statewide cheerleading competition Saturday. Athletes from 14 N.C. counties performed in the event.

New Hanover Shining Stars at Saturday's competition. She's been a Special Olympics athlete for more than a decade, but Saturday marked the first time she's competed in cheerleading.

"I'm so excited, we're going to do so good," she said before performing her routine. "We've all been practicing so hard and I'm just so happy to see everyone here smiling together."

Stanley said her favorite part about the Special Olympics was making friends and partaking in a spirit of sports-

manship through competition. Stanley's team has practiced biweekly since January for their performance. She says her teammates have become like family to her during that span.

"It used to be that athletes that had disabilities like me couldn't do anything," she said. "This gives us the opportunity to strut our stuff."

As she watches the other teams compete, she cheers loudly for her friends across the state who she knows have worked equally hard to perfect their routines.

One of Stanley's good friends is Stephanie Wilkerson, 31, a cheerleader on the Forsyth Cats. Wilkerson is also a longtime Special Olympics athlete. The statewide competitions are her favorite part because she gets to meet new people.

"I like cheer because it's a team effort," Wilkerson said. "Being at events like this gives me that good feeling. Everyone's competing, everyone likes each other, everyone is just bubbly and friendly."

The palpable positive energy on Saturday was felt by more than just the athletes. Wilkerson said her parents were equally upbeat on the drive to Seaforth on Saturday morning. They told her how proud they were that she was competing and encouraged her to "just have fun."

The hard work paid off for both Stanley and Wilkerson on Saturday as both went home with gold medals for their

See **OLYMPICS**, page A3

CHATHAM LITERACY'S 'SPRING FOR LITERACY'

Acclaimed novelist Lee Smith to highlight May event

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

Lee Smith wasn't exactly born a writer, but her journey to becoming one of the South's most beloved novelists began early enough.

Her first foray in putting pen to paper, and getting paid for it, was nonfiction: at age 9, she and some cousins wrote, and printed by hand, a newspaper called "The Small Review." It sold briskly and even occasionally caused a stir. One story criticized a neighbor for being too

grumpy, Smith remembers; another lamented a "mean" music teacher who "smelled bad" and would wrap poorly performing students' hands with a pencil.

"We got in a lot of trouble," she said.

Smith, who'll be the featured speaker at Chatham Literacy's "Spring for Literacy" event in May 17 (tickets are on sale now), grew up in the tiny coal-mining



Smith

town of Grundy, Virginia, nestled in the Blue Ridge mountains not far from the Kentucky border. As an only child to a teacher and a dime store owner, she says she was afforded plenty of time to read.

"And I was encouraged to read, a lot, and given a lot of time to write," said Smith, 78, a N.C. Literary Hall of Fame member and New York Times best-selling author of 15 novels, four short-story collections and a memoir.

Surrounded by storytellers

She describes herself as a child as

"deeply weird." Her first novel, composed at age 8, was written on stationery she borrowed from her mother. Smith was surrounded by natural storytellers and gravitated toward that herself: in her father's Ben Franklin store, she'd watch, out of sight, and listen to shoppers talking — paying close attention to character, scene and dialogue.

The solitary nature of her upbringing was, she realizes now, a blessing.

See **NOVELIST**, page A7

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA
• The **Chatham County Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 3, at the George Moses Horton Middle School multipurpose room.
• The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 3, at the courtroom at town hall. The meeting will also be livestreamed onto Zoom.

OTHER
• The public is invited to “Reclaimed from the Flames,” a free program at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at the **Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro** commemorating the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the Chatham County Historical Museum following a fire that devastated the upper part of the courthouse in 2010. The Museum will be open from noon to 4 p.m. as part of Pittsboro’s “First Sunday” event. At 2 p.m., Grimsley and Taylor Hobbs, Pittsboro-based architects who rebuilt the courthouse, will talk about the reclaiming and restoring process of the building. For more information, visit chathamhistory.org. The fire broke out on March 25, 2010, on the upper floor of the courthouse, which was built in 1881, causing the bell tower to fall and upper floor to collapse. Renovation was completed on April 20, 2013. The program may be live-streamed. Visit www.Facebook. Chatham county historical museum from 1:45 to 2 p.m. for instructions to access the presentation via Zoom. Slots will be open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. Firefighters will also discuss the fire. Light refreshments will be served while they last. The Historic Courthouse (919-542-6222) is located at 9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro.
• The **Goldston Public Library** is excited to announce the Goldston Book Club, Monday, April 10, and every 2nd Monday of each month, from 2 to 3 p.m. Individuals who are interested in joining a book club can stop by the Goldston Public Library. For the month of April, the Club is reading Dreamland by Nicholas Sparks. For more information about the Goldston and other Chatham County Book Clubs, visit the following link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/library/adult-services/book-clubs-book-club-kits>.
• In recognition of Women’s History Month in March, **Chatham Community Library** will host a virtual film screening of Storming Caesars Palace (2022). This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening is available now. Visit <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/storming-caesars-palace-watch-page-chatham-community-li>

brary. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window.
• The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) of the **Chatham Community Library** announces a Teen Poetry Contest. Local teens in grades 6-12 are encouraged to submit an original poem using any poetic form. Submissions will be accepted through April 15. Participants should email their submission to Kathleen Pierce, Youth Services Library Assistant and TAB advisor. TAB members will judge the submissions. Three \$25 gift cards to McIntyre’s Books in Pittsboro will be awarded. Prizes for the Teen Poetry Contest are sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library. For more information, individuals may visit the Chatham County Public Libraries website www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact Youth Services at youth.services@chathamlibraries.org.
• Applications available for **Horton High School Alumni Association** Scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year. Descendants of a Horton High School alumnus or attendee of Horton High School are eligible to apply. High school graduates, college students and graduate students are encouraged to apply. Application is on our website: horton-highalumni.com Click: Scholarship - Deadline for application is June 1, 2023 - Text Helen Dark at 919-548-4578 with your questions.
• **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 (although 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.
• **Chatham County Parks and Recreation** invites the community to step into spring with The EGGstreme Spring Fling. This epic Easter egg hunt will take place on Saturday, April 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Carolina Community College’s Main Campus located at 764 West Street, Pittsboro. Community members are invited to enjoy many different activities that The EGGstreme Spring Fling has to offer. There will be balloon twisting, hula

hoops, glitter tattoos, and multiple other community organizations hosting other spring-themed activities, including the Maple View Mobile Ice Cream Truck. Starting at 11 a.m., there will be field games including a sack race and water balloon toss. Participants will have a chance to win a prize during these games. The egg hunts will begin at noon and will wrap up the event. The egg hunt will be tiered into age groups: under age 3, ages 4 to 6, ages 7 to 9, and ages 10 and older. Community members are encouraged to bring their own baskets for the egg hunt.
• 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 Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission fee. The museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the Circle, 9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro. We follow state/local mask and distancing guidelines. More info at 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 with Chatham County.
• **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.
• **Alcoholics Anonymous** — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.
• **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.
• **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.
• **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill.

SCOUT NEWS
• **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets at 7

p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.
• **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
• **Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney’s U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

Community Champions Week

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne and Assistant County Manager Carolyn Miller accompanied volunteer driver Alan Reid on a Meals on Wheels route on March 21 from the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro as part of Meals on Wheels America’s ‘Community Champions Week.’

2023



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

Events Offered

April

- 18 Archery
- 24 SilverArts Intake
- 28 T-Shirt and Pocket pickup
- 29 Track & Field

May

- 1 Golf
- 1 Basketball Shoot
- 1 Cornhole
- 2 SilverArts Open House & Reception
- 2 Swimming
- 2 Tennis—Women’s Singles/Men’s Doubles
- 3 Cycling
- 3 Tennis—Men’s Singles/Women’s Doubles
- 4 Women’s Bocce
- 4 Horseshoes
- 4 Fun Walk
- 4 Tennis—Mixed Doubles
- 5 Disc Golf
- 5 Football/Softball Throw
- 5 Bowling
- 8 Croquet
- 9 Pickleball—M/W Singles, M/W Doubles
- 9 Table Tennis
- 10 Pickleball—Mixed Doubles
- 11 Men’s Bocce

How did you LAND here?



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CURRENTLY FOR SALE

Residential 4377 N Old US 421 (Siler City) 4 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$530,000 4301 Amberwood Rd (Haw River) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$600,000 321 Miles Brand Rd (Pittsboro) 4 Bdrm, 3,5 Bath \$600,000 82 Williams Pond Rd (Pittsboro) 5 Bdrm, 4 Bath \$650,000 Land 170 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$125,000 188 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$125,000 1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000 108 Spring St (Apex) 3.670 acres \$150,000 821 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 13.829 acres \$180,000 955 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11.566 acres \$185,000 1277 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12.550 acres \$195,000 1049 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11.548 acres \$200,000 1223 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12.737 acres \$225,000 1544 Roberts Chapel Rd (Goldston) 17.632 acres \$225,000	1710 Roberts Chapel Rd (Goldston) 17.643 acres \$225,000 5663 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 1.771 acres \$325,000 893 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 24.938 acres \$325,000 00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36.000 acres \$350,000 37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) 0.996 acres \$350,000 0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000 351 Blufftonwood Dr (Pittsboro) 7.618 acres \$360,000 Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000 5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3.584 acres \$625,000 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 \$1,500,000 00 Alston Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 176.000 acres \$2,288,000 00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33.662 acres \$3,366,200 Commercial Unimproved 58 Buffalo Lake Rd (Sanford) 6.70 acres \$650,000
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CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

Residential 47 McLaurin Rd (Siler City) 2 Bdrm, 1 Bath \$500,000 Land 800 Southwind Rd (Siler City) 10.511 acres \$200,000 889 Old Stone House Rd (Chapel Hill) 6.461 acres \$225,222 373 J C Corner Rd (Pittsboro) 7.382 acres \$275,000 143 Oldham Estate Drive (Pittsboro) 3.820 acres \$350,000 Tract 2 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000	1406 Jessie Bridges Rd (Siler City) 25.500 acres \$400,000 147 Oldham Estate Dr (Chapel Hill) 12.591 acres \$499,000 0 Hamlets Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 42.804 acres \$1,200,000 12190 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 15.158 acres \$1,894,750 0 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 75.430 acres \$9,051,600 Commercial Unimproved 10681 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 3.97 acres \$1,500,000
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Visit & Subscribe to Eric’s YouTube channel for a variety of fun & informational videos



Lazy Real Estate Agents: Please Check M/S Docs, Darn it!

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



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

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

ADVERTISING
JASON JUSTICE
jjjustice@chathamnr.com
Advertising Specialist
advertising@chathamnr.com

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

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

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‘IT’S LIKE HAVING YOUR HEART RIPPED OUT’

Moncure residents express frustration, fear at plans for their community

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

MONCURE — Lisa Palmer, like many of her neighbors, grew up in Moncure and has lived there all her life. Now, at 71 years old, she fears for the future of her beloved community, and the land she grew up on. “How am I going to pay my taxes?” she said. “I don’t want to pass away anywhere except my home.” Her home holds the memories of her loved ones — holiday dinners with her parents, after-school playdates with friends and bringing her son home for the first time. But Moncure is on the fast track to change.

‘This is my town’
It’s a fear felt by many in the area as threats of development loom large. The once close-knit rural town faces an uncertain future due to economic development opportunities. Namely, VinFast, which is planning a more than 1,700-acre electric-car manufacturing facility at Triangle Innovation Point in Moncure. The company plans to invest more than \$4 billion and create 7,500 jobs at the site. Along with the facility, N.C. Dept. of Transportation has provided plans that show the state taking 27 homes, five businesses and Merry Oaks Baptist Church to make way for roadway improvements through eminent domain. Those plans will also take pieces of property of several more residents. “It’s like having your heart ripped out,” Palmer said. “This is about more than just me,

this is my town. It hurts. It’s like seeing the death coming.” Palmer voiced her concerns along with dozens of Moncure residents Tuesday at a community engagement session held at Moncure School for the small area plan hosted by county staff and consultants.

‘Deliberate and well-informed’
The evening took place in two parts: one-on-one feedback sessions with consultants and county staff for residents to ask questions and provide feedback on specific issues; then a presentation from consultants about the current status of the small area plan and next steps. Plan Moncure, the small area plan created to address development related to VinFast and other potential adjacent investments, has entered its second phase. Last Tuesday’s community engagement session aimed to gather feedback from residents about what they want the future of Moncure to look like as developments unfold. The lead consultant on the project is White & Smith LLC, which contracted with the town to help develop the Unified Development Ordinance, Recode Chatham. Plan Moncure is a project under the Recode Chatham umbrella. The consultant team gave a presentation to attendees last Tuesday about the existing conditions within Moncure and some of the guiding questions the team is using for the next steps of the plan. Phase one of the project focused on understanding the existing conditions of the community through data and

demographic research. This includes things like population growth projections, transportation impacts, stormwater management changes and more. The second phase, focused on community engagement, looks to understand land use, important historic and cultural sites, infrastructure needs and environmental concerns (a full copy of the presentation is available at chathamnewsrecord.com). At the Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting in February, where White & Smith shared a similar presentation to the one given to residents, the consultants said they’re on track to present a final draft of recommendations to commissioners by July. “We wanted our response to VinFast to be deliberate and well-informed,” said Tyson Smith, land use attorney and mediator for White & Smith. “There’s a lot of things we can’t control, but to the extent we can control things, we want to hear from the community about what they want it to look like.” Smith said that includes feedback on issues like zoning, subdivision rules and environmental regulations. Designing the small area plan was triggered as soon as VinFast announced they would be located in Moncure last March. A condition in the 2017 UDO, Plan Chatham, said that once a tenant was found for Triangle Innovation Point in Moncure, a small area plan would be designed.

‘Ignored for years’
While the goal of the event was to gather community input, some Moncure resi-

dents felt frustrated by the event. Kay Hinsley, a Moncure resident who lives near Merry Oaks Baptist Church, called Tuesday’s meeting “a waste of time.” She said the presentation from White & Smith did not leave ample time for questions from the audience. “This community has been ignored for years,” she said, standing up in front of the crowd of more than 50 residents before the conclusion of the presentation. “Spend your time trying to learn how to make us an equal part of Chatham County.” Hinsley was frustrated because attendees at the presentation were encouraged to write their questions on notecards, rather than ask them aloud in the community forum. Consultants said written comments and questions will be recorded and synthesized throughout the next steps of the project. “This tells us nothing,” Hinsley told the News + Record after the presentation. “They say this about gathering input, but they don’t really want it.” She said she’d like to see amenities like parks, libraries or grocery stores brought to Moncure so people don’t have to commute as far for work and recreation.

Feeling bearish
Other residents, including Palmer, expressed skepticism that VinFast would make it to Moncure at all. Recently, the company announced it would delay the rollout of vehicles until 2025. Company executives and local officials have assured the public plans for the facility are still happening. Three VinFast sales exec-

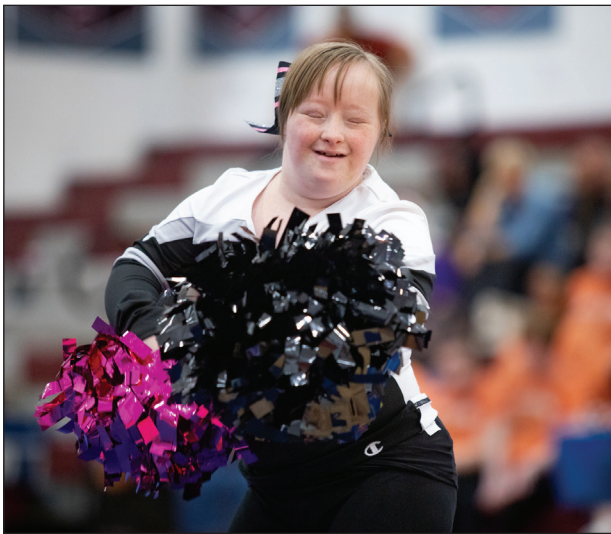
utives have also announced they are leaving the company. The company also said it was changing the pricing plan on its vehicles, and stock prices show a bearish market for the EV manufacturer. Each announcement stokes further skepticism from the residents in Moncure. Still, for Palmer at least, the meeting wasn’t a total wash. She walked to the various tables, meeting with county staff and expressing concern that her property would be taken due to development. Kimberly Tyson, subdivision administrator with the Chatham County Planning Department, assured her, however, that this was not the case. “Just say no,” Tyson told Palmer. “You don’t have to sell your property if you don’t want to.” Palmer said she appreciated the work of the consultants and staff to gather feedback. She said the interaction with Tyson made her day. Her concerns over the future of her town, however, remain. She said she worries that despite the community’s best efforts, the current community is going to be priced out of Moncure. “Growing up, I was babysat by all of Moncure,” she said. “But I worry the essence of the people I knew growing up and know now will be destroyed. I have to stand up for this town.” For more information about the small area plan visit www.recodechathamnc.org/plan-moncure.

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

OLYMPICS

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respective teams.

‘Get back out there’
Special Olympics decided to come to Seaforth after President and CEO of Special Olympics North Carolina Keith Fishburne reached out to longtime friend Jason Amy, the athletic director at Seaforth. “I say ‘yes’ to everything,” Amy said. “We said we’d help out and here we are.” SONC offers statewide competitions for 20 different sports. Fishburne said they attempt to hit every county in the state with various events, but Chatham was especially appealing given its centrality for many teams. He called the facility at Seaforth “top-notch” and



Staff photo by Anna Connors

An athlete dances and shakes her pompoms for the crowd at the Special Olympics at Seaforth on Saturday.
hoped to host future competitions in the county. Throughout the day, students and staff from Seaforth volunteered to aid with logistics like ushering teams into prac-

tice facilities, ensuring the schedule was followed and helping with the awards ceremony. “Our hope is by volunteering with us, they’ll see our mission and want to come back in some capacity,” Fishburne said. “That’s good for us, but it also gives the students some leadership authority.” Chatham County schools and organizations have been prominent advocates of SONC, especially this year. The Chatham County Sheriff’s Office raised more than \$1.5 million for SONC with their annual torch run, the fourth most money in the state. The Sheriff’s Office also raised more than \$23,000 for SONC through its Polar Plunge in February. Next Tuesday, April 4, Seaforth will also be hosting a Unified Sports Day for Special Olympics athletes from across the county to compete in various sports. After three years of not being able to host a statewide competition,

Fishburne said he was grateful to be able to bring people together in such a positive way. For many Special Olympics athletes, he said the isolation of the pandemic caused them to lose confidence and be more hesitant to show their skills. “Competitions like this really boost their confidence,” Fishburne said. “It assures them that it’s OK to get back out there.”

Pure fun and joy
Some of the people most responsible for boosting athletes’ confidence are the coaches. They volunteer their time with the Special Olympics to teach the routines, bond with the athletes and get them ready for competition. That also includes picking out costumes, helping with makeup and accessories and more.



Staff photo by Anna Connors

A cheerleader on the Cabarrus Shine smiles and shakes her pompoms for the crowd during her team’s performance at the Special Olympics Saturday.
It’s a big task that involves a lot of time, energy and love. But for those like Holly Watt and Susan Fisher, coaches of the Harnett Hawks, it’s all worth it. “There’s just pure fun and a joy that all the athletes have while performing,” Fisher said. After assisting with her team’s performance on Saturday, Watt and Fisher beamed with pride in their athletes. “They were nervous, but they pulled it off,” Watt said. She said the hardest part of the routine was getting all the Hawks in sync. But on Saturday, that didn’t seem to be an issue. One of the athletes on the team is non-verbal, according to Fisher. She was in charge of holding up signs that read “Go Hawks” and “Pink and White” — the team’s colors. During practice, the coaches had been handing her the signs to hold up. But during the actual performance, she didn’t need the help and picked up the signs by herself, showing them to the crowd with a big smile. “That was just like a huge plus,” Fisher said. “Seeing them have that aha moment, I was just so happy.”

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VIEWPOINTS

On becoming ‘Pop-Pop,’ the best job ever



BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

When my first grandchild Charlotte was born just over a week ago, my simultaneous reactions were: “It’s about time,” and, “I’m not ready for this.”

As “firsts” go — first date, first kiss, first child, first anything — the first grandchild is on a new level of singularity and uniqueness. Not as special as a first child (what could be?), but, and this is hard to fathom, in some ways better.

I gotta admit: becoming a grandfather is hard to beat. Of course, as I near my 60th birthday, being a grandparent is something I’ve ruminated about a lot, particularly in the months and weeks leading up to Charlotte’s arrival. Among other things, it got me thinking about my own connections with my grandparents, which really ran the gamut.

I never knew my maternal grandfather, who died about five years before I was born; my mom always told me I inherited his thick, wavy hair. I’m named after my paternal grandfather, a man I have many fond memories of. He introduced me to golf and the love of travel, and taught me about newspapering. I share a birthday with my paternal grandmother, who, on her

deathbed, extracted a promise from 14-year-old me that I’d pursue a career in journalism. And my maternal grandmother, the woman whose husband died young, younger than I am now, passed away on the eve of my leaving for college.

Grandma Penny’s death, in August 1981, left my grief-stricken mother with a double whammy of loss: I said goodbye to my mom from the parking lot of the funeral home, driving away to start my freshman year at the very moment she was saying goodbye to her own mother.

Of the three grandparents I knew, I spent the most time with my paternal grandfather. I loved each of my grandparents, of course, but he’s the one I’d give anything to spend another hour with, partly in recompense for being dismissive during a few occasions when I should have been pestering him with questions about his own life. Then, even though I was aware of his incredible life and accomplishments, he seemed to be an old man who liked to talk about the past. Now I realize his age allowed him to accrue valuable experiences and wisdom — more wisdom to share than I was capable of receiving back then. As I said, I’d do anything to have an hour with him now to absorb what I refused to 35 years ago.

So now life’s inextricable flow has given me a granddaughter. And she’s made me a grandparent, and it’s a rare and



Charlotte Anne Horner

wondrous chance to forge something special. “Pop-Pop” is the name I chose for my new role; Lee Ann, the new grandmother, is “Mimi.” Of course we’ll go by whatever Charlotte prefers, but I’m hoping she’ll cherish me and dig the name. I plan to do all in my power to earn her love and to just be there for her.

My love for her was instantaneous and profound. If you’re a grandparent, you know. If you’re not, it’s difficult to imagine, even if you’re already a parent.

Lee Ann and I had our first

child (Zach, who’s Charlotte’s dad) when we were 28 and 29, respectively. Zach will be 31 this year. Late bloomers, all. Many of our same-age contemporaries have multiple grandchildren, some of whom are in high school or college. The common refrain from our friends now, as Lee Ann and I share adorable photos of this gorgeous girl, is: “Didn’t we tell you how great this would be?”

Yes. Could I imagine this depth of love for a child not my own? No. It’s in a different realm than your

own children. Maybe it’s time, maturity, the thought of a legacy. I don’t know, and won’t try to explain. All I do know is that the very instant I walked into Sarah’s hospital room and caught a glimpse of the back of Charlotte’s head, I was transformed, transfixed, and, in a very positive way, transmogrified.

Our best friends in Kansas had their first grandchild, also a girl, named Mckenna, last month. We had commiserated with them for a long time, wondering whether “it” would happen — and here we are, suddenly, sharing a steady stream of pictures in a text thread and in Snapchat posts. As we plan an extended summer trip with them, we wonder: “How are we going to last 10 days without seeing Mckenna and Charlotte?”

I admit I was slightly perplexed at the number of “here’s a picture of me just staring at Mckenna” photos we got from our Kansas friends.

Now I get it. I’ve spent hours and hours holding Charlotte since she came home from the hospital, staring at her beautiful face and noticing how she’s changing from day to day. Lee Ann is busy, extremely so, with support chores for Charlotte and Sarah and Zach. She’s in her element as Mimi, taking on her dream role with abandon.

Me? I have the easy job of having Charlotte stare back at me, her blue eyes shining, exploring, curious.

Best job ever. I promise.

Blowing in the wind not just a song title



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

All the cars are yellow. Trucks, too. Yours, mine, everyone’s. No matter what color they started out as or where you find them — driveway, highway, or car lot — they’re all yellow now. So is the inside of my head. Mother Nature can be a tricky lady. Nowhere in the world is she any more lovely than she is in North Carolina in the spring.

The Dogwood blooms, azaleas, the Bradford Pear trees, and all the rest — easy on the eyes.

But nowhere is she any more irritating than her current yellow calling card: the pines and hardwoods in all their radiant itchiness, dusting any and everything that moves or doesn’t.

Not only are the vehicles yellow but so, too, is the outdoor furniture ... and the front porch, the back porch, the gas grill, the leftover winter woodpile, the dog. About the only thing that isn’t yellow is where dog rolls around on the front porch in his resting, wiping it clean.

Too bad I can’t get a wash cloth in his paw to take care of the cars.

I guess pollen is part of the Great Design of how things — in this case trees, shrubs, flowers, and so on — create the next generation. It would be a rough thing if humans and animals had to do that the same way.

Dust and unsightliness aside, the big problem with pollen for me and thousands of others is the itchy eye issue, especially if you wear contacts. Eyes itch and water and turn red. They look like Georgia road maps.

You’ll see folks going along who suddenly will shriek with pain, bend over, close their eyes tightly and start flailing the air like someone gone mad, all because a grain — or hundreds of them — of pollen has landed in their eye and parked under a contact lens. It’s not easy to drive in that condition or position.

Some time ago I got interested in the further study of this annual spring event so I did a careful 10-minute search of the internet. Saw a picture of a grain of pollen. Looks like a miniature sweet gum ball, sort of a porcupine egg.

No wonder it’s a pain in the wazoo — or more accurately the eye or nose or sinus or throat.

Fortunately, the Great Designer makes the breeding of plants occur over a short period of time and the result is well worth the agony. Guess that’s more of the understanding that many times many good things often are birthed in great pain and agony.

I’m going to do my best to remember that the next time I bend over and flail my arms in the air because a spec of oak tree pollen has decided to call my left eye home, even for a brief period of time.

If that happens to you, try to hang on and remember 1) it’s for a short time, and 2) the view is worth it.

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.



Thistle Dhu: satire for April Fools’ Day



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

North Carolina is the birthplace of miniature golf. Like Ohio mistakenly claims to be “first in flight,” Tennessee makes false claims on putt-putt. Don’t be fooled.

Shipping magnate James Barber built the first course in Pinehurst in 1916. But his true genius was to christen his green Thistle Dhu, which is pronounced “This’ll do.” Frustrated by the insane effort to whack a tiny dimpled ball into a hole a few hundred yards away? Put the same ball a

mere 10 feet from the hole. This’ll do.

Barber not only gave us an activity to do on beach vacations but an application to other sports. After all, preseason expectations are hard. Just ask Coach Hubert Davis. So, lower the goal. It’s much easier to dunk at eight feet. Heck, make that seven.

This motto applies to other areas of your life. For instance, are your Facebook friends posting pictures of made-from-scratch recipes using all-local ingredients? You can use that same phone to order pizza that is delivered to your front door. This’ll do.

Your neighbors reorganizing their garages as part of their annual herculean spring cleaning? You can finally throw away that rusted rake that is missing half its tines. This’ll do.

Social media influencers enticing you to spend hundreds of dollars on the latest fashion trends? You just ripped your own hole in your jeans by yanking that old rake from the dark recesses of your garage. This’ll do.

Your own dearly beloved training for the Tar Heel 10-Miler race later in April? You walked your dog around the block. Twice. This’ll do.

Other dogs sit on command and then prance on the leash in perfectly syncopated steps with their owner? Your four-legged best friend uses the bathroom in the grass. Most of the time. This’ll do.

And do other parents on your 5-year-old’s soccer team already have their kids enrolled in a variety of culturally diverse, eco-friendly, soul-enriching summer camps? You have an outdoor adventure club just beyond the backyard grass that you haven’t yet mowed. It’s called the woods.

All together now: “This’ll do!”

What you need to do this spring is get out the lawn chair, (which is now more accessible since you got rid of that ugly rake). Set it up in the sun, and sit down with a notepad in your lap and pencil behind your ear. When the garage-cleaning and yard-mowing neighbors ask what you are doing, you tell them that you are working on a novel. You think best with your eyes closed.

Or, even better, say you are busy brainstorming the next recreational craze. James Barber may have been a shipping magnate, but he is remembered for what he did in the miniature. As far as legacies, Thistle Dhu, my friends, this’ll do.

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

What’s on your mind?

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

We're sliding towards single payer



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

North Carolina is about to become the 40th state to expand its Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act. The bill drew huge, bipartisan majorities of legislators. Republican leaders resisted expansion for years, arguing that the promise of permanent 90% funding from Washington was either implausible or fiscally irresponsible. They no longer feel that way. I still do. The federal government's current deficits are unsustainable. Either some future Congress and presidential administration will get serious about closing them — in which case states should expect that 90% Medicaid match to go away — or federal debt will reach economically ruinous levels. That said, North Carolina's Medicaid-expansion debate does illustrate that conserva-

tives and progressives may agree on a major health-care initiative while maintaining very different long-term goals. Virtually all conservatives accept that health plans with massive government funding and regulation — in the form of Medicare, Medicaid, and heavily subsidized exchange plans — are here to stay, but can coexist alongside a robust market for health plans that are substantially private in funding and control. Many progressives, by contrast, see this new Medicaid expansion as merely another step to their ultimate goal of a single-payer system. The next steps will be to lower the eligibility age for Medicare, for example, and to expand Medicaid coverage for long-term care. In my view, we've spent the past two decades sliding down the slippery slope to Medicare/Medicaid for all. It's time for conservatives to put on our spiked shoes and try to find a stopping place before it's too late. That means articulating a clear, attractive, practical

alternative that preserves the maximum amount of choice, competition, private innovation, personal responsibility, and fiscal restraint. Fortunately, we don't have to invent such a system from whole cloth. We can learn from the best practices of other countries. Contrary to popular belief, single-payer systems aren't standard among other industrialized countries. Many rely on a combination of government and private health care arrangements to extend universal access to basic medical services. Some of these systems are arguably more pro-market and less heavily subsidized than ours is. The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity (FREOPP) has just published its latest World Index of Healthcare Innovation. Its scholars use a wide array of data to rate health care systems on four criteria: quality, choice, technology, and fiscal responsibility. Switzerland won the top ranking in the 2022 index, as it

did in the previous two years. The Swiss system is based on competing private plans, not a government monopoly. In fact, only one of the six highest-ranking countries on the FREOPP index has a single-payer system. "Private insurance systems empower patient choice, and create room for insurers to organically evolve their benefit designs without having to wait for politicians or regulators to act," the FREOPP scholars write. "In addition, universal private systems tend to be more fiscally sustainable, because countries can means-test their subsidies and phase them out as one ascends the income scale." The United States doesn't just outspend the rest of the developed world on health care. We already spend more tax dollars on health care than most of our peers do. That's because we subject so little of our government subsidy to means-testing. Wealthy seniors and poor seniors get essentially the same Medicare coverage. And one of our largest subsidies —

excluding employer-sponsored health insurance from taxable income — actually benefits upper-income households more than lower-income households, since the latter face lower marginal tax rates and are less likely to be enrolled in group health plans in the first place. So, whether you agree or disagree with the North Carolina legislature's decision to expand Medicaid, it's time for serious thought about what happens next. At the state level, conservatives ought to fight for greater choice and competition among medical providers. At the federal level, conservatives ought to replace our current, inefficient system of tax subsidies with something fairer and fiscally sustainable. If we don't, the slope towards a single-payer system will only get slipperier.

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).



North Carolina in the 1950s



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Phillip Gerard's latest book, "North Carolina in the 1950s: the decade in motion," came out in early March. That might sound impossible because Gerard died last year on Nov. 7. But Gerard had already written the book's text as part of a series of articles in Our State Magazine. Those articles are the basis of a new series of books published by Blair/Carolina Wren Press that will follow North Carolina through the decades. The new book opens with a chapter titled, "Seabreeze: rhythm and beach music." The great beach music, so celebrated by whites, came from Blacks who were segregated into a few beaches just for Blacks. The music crossed all racial boundaries. Gerard reminds us about North Carolina's love affair with cars in the 1950s. His chapter, "Fast food and flicks-the drive-in craze," takes readers back to when a trip to a drive-in theater was the most popular family treat.

Of course, stock car racing gave evidence to North Carolinians' growing love affair with the automobile. Railroad travel was still important in the 1950s, but Gerard sadly reminds us that in 1968, "the last passenger train pulls out of Wilmington, and a way of life disappears down the tracks."

In 1955, WUNC-TV begins showing a test pattern and then providing the basis for a television network that serves the entire state. New UNC president William Friday begins 30 years of service that includes a "one-on-one interview show that takes full advantage of his warmth, frankness, encyclopedic knowledge of the state, and his talent for putting his guest at ease." In 1952, Hugh McRae Morton inherits Grandfather Mountain and its 4,500-acre surroundings. A born promoter and facilitator, he transforms the mountain into a popular tourist attraction.

Gerard describes how four North Carolina A&T students sat down at Greensboro's Woolworth's whites-only lunch counter, noting their quiet courage. Meanwhile, over in Winston-Salem, Tom Davis founded Piedmont Airlines. "From 1948 until 1989, when it is acquired by USAir and launches its last flight as Piedmont, it suffers just four major crashes. To the finish, the airline started by Tom Davis retains the stubborn loyalty of its employees and passengers."

Gerard details the struggle of the Lumbee Indian Tribe for recognition, including the legendary battle between a group of Lumbees and a swarm of Klansmen. Gerard writes, "Not only have the Lumbee routed the Klan — they have turned it into an object of ridicule." Perhaps the most transformative event of the 1950s was establishment of the Research Triangle Park. Today it seems so natural that a group of high-tech businesses would find a home in an area near three research universities. But the story of the Research Park is a complicated one. There are many heroes. Howard Odum, an academic, envisions a research institute. Romeo Guest, a businessman, envisions "a pragmatic engine for promoting business growth and coins the magic term: "Research Triangle." Guest met regularly with the business leaders who were key: Wachovia Bank's Robert Hanes and Archie Davis and the state's governor, Luther Hodges, whose contacts and tenacity were critical. The group of boosters bought 4,000 acres between Raleigh and Durham for just \$175 an acre.

The story of the state's wonderful art museum might never have happened if the state's arts commission had not hired Wilhelm Reinhold Valentiner in 1955 to be the first director of the North Carolina Museum of Art. Gerard concludes with a chapter on Gov. Kerr Scott, "a devoted Presbyterian, a lifelong student of the Bible and also a pragmatist with vision, who can see not just an ideal future but also what is possible in the here and now. Politics is the art of the possible, and he is gifted with the ability to make more things possible."

Like Scott, Gerard took on a seemingly impossible task, that of telling the story of North Carolina in the 1950s in a very small book. Maybe he did not accomplish the impossible, but he surely left this reader knowing a lot more than when he started.

Growing impatient for reading improvements



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

For more than a decade we've studied the problem exhaustively, we've talked about it almost incessantly, we've engaged the latest curriculum du jour, and have spent more than \$50 million dollars — yet we still can't solve the mystery of our children's reading proficiency. Our patience is wearing thin. Now the finger pointing has begun. We want to know who to blame. Two recent stories demonstrate the frustration, A March 11 editorial from The Washington Post was titled, "Cut the politics. Phonics is the best way to teach reading." The paper's editorial board minced few words in saying that people learn to talk by listening, but that's not how people learn to read. They are taught, and the trouble is that parents and educators can't seem to agree on the best way to do that.

The column says the approaches that we as a nation have been following aren't working. Reading scores demonstrate that too many can't read. Only one-third of 4th and 8th graders are proficient at reading. It is unacceptable and proof that we aren't teaching reading properly.

The WaPo editorial continues, saying the debate over "how to best teach children to read lends itself to a conclusive answer. That's phonics." The column launches into praise for the "Mississippi miracle," a program that resulted in their state's 4th grade reading proficiency jumping from 49th in the nation to 29th. Third grade reading proficiency rose to above 80%.

In North Carolina the data is deplorable. Pre-pandemic end of grade tests revealed only 57% of 3rd-graders were sufficiently proficient to be promoted to fourth grade. Last November the scores dropped to 47% proficient. In other words, 53% were not reading at grade level in grades 3 through 8. That's a failing grade no matter which scale you use.

In classic fashion, our state jumped on the latest fad and purchased a program called LETRS, language essentials for teachers of reading and spelling. It required 44,000 elementary teachers in our state to undergo 160 hours of training. You can just imagine how excited our already weary teachers were.

But despite all the money and the new training we are still not seeing dramatic improvements. And lawmakers, parents and our UNC Board of Governors want to know why.

In January the BOG stated the obvious, saying one essential step in the process is ensuring that our schools of education prepare prospective teachers to best teach reading. They cite a report from TPI-US, a nonprofit organization that consults on teacher preparation programs. It reviewed 73 courses across all 15 of our universities and reported only six of the 15 were "consistently practicing the new reading approach in all or most courses." The other nine need significant improvements in course content and faculty teaching. The UNC system governing board was clearly irritated and is threatening action if our universities don't turn things around, telling our schools of education they have four months to improve. Left unfinished was the "or else" part of the declaration.

We understood that the university can't teach children to read, but they can ensure that the teachers who do teach reading are properly taught to do so.

Here's my spin: This isn't nuclear physics. What worked when we were kids will work now. Remember learning our ABCs by singing the old familiar song, and we were also coached on what sounds letters make, along with rules like "i" before "e" except after c. A large part of our reading education focused on regularly reading out loud to a teacher, parent or volunteer. Whenever we stumbled trying to read a word we were constantly coached to "sound it out."

All of this process was reinforced by having vocabulary words to learn each week — both how to spell the word and what it meant. There was the test each Friday to make sure we had learned our words. And if we didn't pass the test, we might have to stay in during recess to focus on them more. Like construction, one level was layered over the one before. No wonder the process has been called "drill and kill."

It is just that: a process. One that worked then and works now. But for reasons hard for this layman to understand, we aren't following the tried-and-true plan. We don't need fancy programs, meetings, 160 hours of training or much else. We just need to execute the basics.

Educators need to understand that we are increasingly impatient. We want better results soon. It is priority one in elementary education.

Tom Campbell is a former assistant N.C. State Treasurer and was the creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that aired on UNC-TV until 2020. Contact him at tomcamp@carolinabroadcasting.com.

CCCC's Lindley gets Taylor Memorial Life Sciences Scholarship

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — When Gage Lindley first heard about a fairly new statewide scholarship, it didn't exactly rock his world.

On one hand, the Samuel M. Taylor Memorial Life Sciences Scholarship did mirror some of his lifelong interests. As far back as he can remember, Gage always loved animals; in fact, that's what first got him interested in pursuing life sciences at college. The money would certainly help, too; graduating debt-free was something he and his family considered during their college search.

On the other hand, Gage was already making a major transition from home-schooling to Central Carolina Community College, and the application required an essay, which seemed like more work at a fairly challenging time. Besides, what are the chances he could land a statewide award?

But he did. And how quickly things can change.

While only in its second year, the Sam Taylor Scholarship has already become a fairly big deal. Five scholarships were awarded last semester to North Carolina community college students enrolled in about a half-dozen life science programs, each winner receiving \$3,000 per year to cover tuition, fees and books. Gage was one of the five; the others were studying at Durham Technical Community College, Johnston Community College, Pitt Community College and the College of the Albemarle.

The awards ceremony was a pretty big deal as well, taking place during an annual meeting for the North Carolina Biosciences Organization, a bioscience trade association where the scholarship's namesake, Sam Taylor, served many years as president before passing away two years ago from pancreatic cancer.

Before he even left the meeting, Gage was making connections with influential people in the life science industry — and even was recruited for a job. It happened quickly and in an odd sequence of events.

"As they were announcing the

winners, I stood up and dropped my phone," Gage recalled during a phone conversation about his scholarship. "When I sat down, someone behind me picked up the phone, handed it to me and said she was a rep from Fujifilm. She offered me a business card and said that when I was interested in a job they'd like to receive my application."

Since then, life seems to have de-toured onto the fast track. Not long ago, Gage participated in a virtual career fair. Someone contacted him to see if he wanted to chat about careers and before Gage went offline, he was offered an entry-level job in biotechnology.

"I felt like I really didn't even know much about the industry at that point," he says. "I really didn't expect to get the scholarship. It was when I got to the North Carolina Biotechnology Center (where the annual meeting was held) that I realized how big a deal it was."

Not the typical student

Home-school is more common than it used to be, but maybe less for students interested in science. Gage did a lot of at-home experiments, which gave him an initial taste for the field of bioprocess technology that he eventually pursued, though his academic direction didn't come into focus until Gage began taking college classes as a home-school student. He did so through Chatham County Promise, an arrangement between CCCC and the local government that eventually funds up to two years of free tuition for county residents graduating public high school, private school and home-school. When he graduated from home-school last May, Gage was already attending the college.

"I had no idea where I was going to land or what I was going to do," he recalls. "I didn't know what options I had. I was going to do a general science degree so I had flexibility, but I definitely wanted to do something in a lab or research in biology."

As Gage's college advisor got to know him better, she realized how much he liked life science and suggested the field of bioprocess technology. He went to discuss the idea with Dr. Lisa Smelser, who directs CCCC's biotechnology program, and decided to sign up for

classes.

"And," as he says, "it's snowballed from there."

One of his foundational classes was BioWork, where students learn basic processes used in biotechnology, pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing companies. When Gage walked in the door and scanned the room, he found himself surrounded by older adults making a mid-career change. It wasn't what Gage expected, and it definitely isn't the typical college freshman experience, but he dug in — and thrived.

"It was definitely a surprise when I got to class," he said. "I was not expecting that, but I was comfortable with it. The person beside me, someone I did a lot of labs with, was older; he was already in a career and coming back to

class. It actually was a great experience. We were able to share life experiences."

His BioWork instructor, Dr. Brenda Grubb, remembers how well Gage worked with his lab partner, a machinist with 16 years of work experience, and she was impressed. Sometimes, younger students can get behind in this particular class and she often needs to "pull teeth," as she puts it, to keep them on pace. Gage was different.

Grubb says she had students who have been working for 15 years and were there to improve their lives and make a career change.

"But the few students who were 19-ish," she said. "They were brand new to this and trying to figure out what they wanted to do. Gage was a real superstar

See **SCIENCE**, page A9



Communities In Schools
Chatham County

Did you know a volunteer hour is worth \$30.00?

During the 2021-2022 year, CISCC had a total of 86 volunteers that served 3,612 hours serving students in Chatham County. This created \$108,360 in added value for our community.

THIS IS CIS!

BOARD

Continued from page A1

issues. Last week, Perry was joined by Clean Haw River co-founder Katie Bryant, and Perry gave a summary of what Pittsboro residents have endured for years.

"We have been suffering for years, drinking polluted water from your waste," Perry told to the board. "Several years ago we begged our upstream neighbors to clean up their discharges ... and still Burlington and its industries continue to discharge and endanger our lives with toxic chemicals."

Perry discussed several points in her allotted three minute comments, including citing three companies for their reported PFAS discharges.

"I understand that Elevate Textiles, Unichem and Shawmut have been identified as the three main sources of PFAS, yet what have you done over the last years?" Perry asked. "You have not announced further actions, and we have no communications from you."

Perry said Burlington should act swiftly to address pollution from its industries.

"Burlington should be acting with urgency," she said. "It should mandate Elevate and others to stop polluting my community. Industries such as Elevate should not profit off its use of PFAS when we downstream and our families' health suffer."

When Perry spoke at the Greensboro City Council meeting a year and a half ago, she and activists were invited to speak with council members during a brief recess. In Burlington's meeting last week, Perry was stonewalled. After her remarks, Perry hoped to get a chance to speak with council members and the town attorney about further communications. Instead, she said she was brushed to the side as the board went into closed session shortly after her comments.

She said the mayor did address her comments by telling the public the town attorney has been working with Pittsboro, but Perry said that wasn't the case.

"The mayor said their attorney had been handling all of this," Perry told the News + Record after Tuesday's meeting. "I told him [the mayor], 'I hope you'll communicate more directly with Pittsboro in the future.'"

Perry said while Greensboro has been more willing to work with Pittsboro, other upstream communities like Burlington and Reidsville have been less communicative with Pittsboro elected officials and staff. Pittsboro is currently in the process of litigating PFAS manufacturers, and the Haw

River Assembly is litigating the city of Burlington for its role in discharging PFAS from its water and wastewater facilities.

Burlington and Reidsville have both been the source of PFAS discharges, particularly from industries in those municipalities. Perry said while Burlington has had limited communication with the town, Reidsville has gone silent.

"Reidsville could essentially hold the key to understanding what's coming in," she said. "They have been very quick to protect their industries ... We've never even got Reidsville to return a phone call."

With some upstream communities like Burlington and Reidsville not communicating with Pittsboro and other towns, Perry said she wonders if residents in those towns even understand what their cities are doing to people living along the Haw River.

"Did the people of Greensboro or Burlington have a clue about what's happening here, what their municipality is doing to our municipality?" Perry asked. "I think if you start talking about water quality issues downstream, I think the ordinary person on the street is going to be responsive if they know what's going on."

Raising awareness is something activists in Pittsboro and surrounding areas are focusing on to help bring more policy changes regarding PFAS contamination. Perry said groups like Clean Haw River and the Haw River Assembly are working to take legal action against municipalities like Burlington to stop PFAS discharges.


Perry also said Bryant and other activists are planning to attend various city council meetings in upstream communities to keep the conversation alive.

"I think people are going to start keying in and going up every other week or every month or whatever," Perry said. "I mean, what speaks any louder than somebody asking to not be poisoned?"

Communication is crucial for a solution, Perry said, and despite the original response from Burlington elected officials, she hopes to work with them to move forward from the decades-long crisis.

"There's no sense in denying that we have to work together," she said. "Those three particular industries, if they have been cited as being major sources, we need them at the table too ... Burlington should be just as responsive as Greensboro has been. It's not a blame game — it's a question of how can we all protect our citizens."

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



NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 105-322 the Chatham County Board of Equalization and Review will meet as required by law.

PURPOSE OF MEETING
To hear upon request, any and all taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in Chatham County, with respect to the valuation of such property or the property of others, to schedule hearings, and to fulfill duties and responsibilities required by law.

TIME OF MEETINGS
The Board will convene Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at 12 East Street, Pittsboro NC. The Board will be open to receive appeals of value and will adjourn on April 27, 2023, at 5:00 PM. At that time the Board adjourns, no additional appeals can be accepted by the Board of Equalization and Review for tax year 2023.

Those individuals with written requests for hearings received prior to 5:00 PM on April 27, 2023, the advertised date for adjournment of the Board of Equalization and Review, will be notified when and where to appear for their individual hearings.

In the event of earlier or later adjournment, notice to that effect will be published in this newspaper.

The schedule for the hearing of appeals timely filed will be posted at the Office of the Assessor, serving as Clerk to the Board of Equalization and Review.

All requests for hearings should be made in writing to:

Tax Administrator
PO Box 908
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Telephone (919) 545-8404

NOVELIST

Continued from page A1

“So, I started out early writing and reading, and I think ‘only children’ kind of had the luxury of doing that,” she said. “Because if there’s somebody around to play with, I would probably have been playing.”

After she graduated from high school, her parents sent the precocious Smith off to Hollins College (now University) in Roanoke, Virginia. Her mother hoped she’d find a husband; Smith found something else instead. Unbeknownst to her when she enrolled, Hollins happened to have one of the very first creative writing programs in the country.

“So I went there and just happened into what has been, ever since, one of the best writing programs at any liberal arts college in the country,” she said.

Smith pursued studies in the program and began writing fiction seriously.

“And, of course, reading, reading ...,” she said. “Reading literature. So I was very lucky.”

Hollins’ undergraduate and graduate writing programs have produced a number of acclaimed writers, including Pulitzer Prize-winning poets Natasha Trethewey and Henry S. Taylor. Smith, in fact, teamed with another eventual Pulitzer winner, the future novelist and essayist Annie Dillard — not in a literary project, but rather to perform as go-go dancers for an all-girl rock band at Hollins, the Virginia Woolfs.

But writing was paramount to Smith, and by her senior year, she’d completed a draft of a book — it was her senior thesis — which earned her a coveted fellowship. Within two years, that thesis, now a novel entitled “The Last Day the Dog Bushes Bloomed,” was published by Harper & Row.

She’s been a novelist ever since, publishing books while also teaching English and creative writing at the college level, including 19 years at N.C. State.

In the more than half century since “The Last Day”



Contributed

Lee Smith’s ‘Silver Alert’ will be published April 18.

earned raves from critics, Smith and her work have been recognized with the North Carolina Award for Literature, an Academy Award in fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Southern Book Critics Circle Award, the Thomas Wolfe Award, the Robert Penn Warren Prize for Fiction, and two O. Henry Awards. Her stories and articles have appeared in various periodicals and anthologies, including Southern Review, Real Simple, Oprah Magazine, Redbook, The New York Times, Atlantic, and GQ.

‘People in the South will talk’

The accolades come, in part, for the way Smith — who lives with her husband, journalist Hal Crowther, in Hillsborough — writes about the South. Southerners have a specific way of communicating, she says, which gives Southern literature its unique voice.

“Well, for one thing, people in the South will talk,” she told the News + Record. “You know, I live in Maine in the winter-time, and they don’t even talk, ever. If you ask for directions in Maine, or say ‘Where is such and such?’ they’ll say, ‘Go two blocks and turn left.’ If you ask for the same directions in Hillsborough or anywhere in North Carolina, and they’ll say, ‘Well,

it used to be up there where John Dooley lived — and that’s where that wreck was; remember that school bus wreck?’ And this and that and this, and they’ll go on and on and on. It’s because we’re talkers in the South. And we’ve always had that desire to talk and communicate. And we’re very community minded. And as I say, writing is about talking. It’s about communication. And that’s where stories come from. Southerners are just much better storytellers.”

When she reflects on her success — which isn’t over yet; a new novel, “Silver Alert,” publishes in just a few weeks and has been described by reviewers as “remarkable” and “defy(ing) the laws of literary gravity” — one thing Smith recognizes is the role encouragement played as she developed as a writer. Every child, she says, needs and deserves it, too.

“I was encouraged enormously and tried to do that with my children and all the other children I’ve taught, and I’ve taught a lot at different levels,” she said.

It all began, Smith said, with her mother.

“My mother read aloud to me every night,” she said. “And that was my favorite thing in the world. When I think of so many, many things, I hear her voice, her soft Virginia voice, reading aloud to me. And we had books in the house, and we were always reading and being encouraged to read. I think that’s a major, major thing. And that’s why what [Chatham Literacy] is doing in Chatham County is so important.”

Chatham Literacy works with adults to develop their reading, financial and digital literacy skills and reach their educational goals. Smith said that work will become more and more important in years to come because reading development is being hampered by the time young people spend on digital device — and away from books.

‘The most important thing’

“I think it’s the most important thing there is, and today,

IF YOU’RE GOING

Chatham Literacy’s “Spring for Literacy” event

When: Wednesday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Governors Club Clubhouse, Chapel Hill

What: Author Lee Smith will be the featured speaker, discussing her new novel “Silver Alert.” The novel goes on sale April 18. When you pre-order or buy Smith’s book at McIntyre’s Books in Fearington Village, 20% of your book purchase price will go to Chatham Literacy. Smith will sign copies of her book following the “Spring for Literacy” event.

Tickets: \$100 each. Get them at https://chathamliteracy.org/?page_id=7460.

For more: See Lee Smith’s interview with News + Record Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III at www.facebook.com/ChathamNR, posted March 11. She shares how “Silver Alert” developed as a novel, talks about her own writing and editing process, and shares many other stories — including about the time a group of women found their way into her home, thinking it was a part of a local home tour (and the short story Smith wrote from the experience), and sharing a recent note she received from Dolly Parton.

About Chatham Literacy: Chatham Literacy’s mission is to help adults living or working in Chatham County acquire the literacy and education skills they need to function successfully in society. The nonprofit started in Siler City in 1988 as a “friends helping neighbors” group. It reorganized in 2008 into the agency it is today. In the past 15 years Chatham Literacy provided literacy services to over 1,100 adults and assisted 133 adults to become U.S. citizens.

Chatham Literacy provides services to help adults:

- improve skills in reading, writing, and math,
- prepare for the GED,
- attain a vocational degree
- prepare for training opportunities to advance their work
- learn to speak, read and write, and understand English.
- prepare for the citizenship exam.
- gain money management skills
- improve digital literacy skills

Contact Chatham Literacy at 919-742-0578.

in particular, it has become urgent because so many people are just simply lost on their devices,” she said. “They’re on their phones and on their screens. It’s just terrible for the brain development and the intellect, and just the ability to relate to other people.”

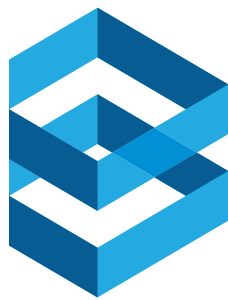
In addition to teaching creative writing, Smith has done extensive work with literacy projects over the year, “particularly,” she says, “with people who are learning to read as adults for the first time.” She’ll share some of their stories, as well as read from “Silver Alert,” at Chatham Literacy’s event on May 17.

“And just talking about what I think reading has meant to me over the years,” she said. “I would never be ... nobody would ever be a writer if they

weren’t a reader first. And it’s so important in terms of empathy and learning about other people, and getting outside of the self, and the place where we come into the world. There’s a whole world out there, and it’s available through reading, and there’s nothing, nothing more important.”

Vicki Newell, the director of Chatham Literacy, called Smith “an extraordinary, iconic author.”

“We’re thrilled she’ll be our guest author at our ‘Spring for Literacy’ luncheon,” Newell said. “Lee’s presentation style through storytelling, her passion for literacy and the release of her new book make her somebody you don’t want to miss. I am so grateful and proud to have Lee’s support.”



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OBITUARIES

ROGER DEAN RING



September 16, 1958 ~ March 24, 2023

Roger Dean Ring, 64, of Siler City passed away Friday, March 24, 2023, at his home.

He was born in Bloomington, Illinois, on September 16, 1958, son of Richard and Marilyn Weaver Ring. Roger was an avid golfer and also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening. If Roger was spending time outdoors, he was happy. Roger was preceded in death by his father.

Mr. Ring is survived by his wife of 42 years, Donna Spring Ring of the home; mother, Marilyn Weaver Ring; daughter, Michelle Ring of Florida; son, Tony Ring of Florida; grandchildren, Logan Mead, Lucas Mead, Mia Romanowicz, Rylan Ring and Mason Ring; sister, Rebecca Ring of Florida; and brothers Rodney and Randall Ring, both of Florida.

The family received friends on Monday, March 27, 2023, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A celebration of life will be held in Ft. Pierce, Florida, on April 15, 2023.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mt. Vernon Springs Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 971, Siler City, N.C. 27344 or to Liberty HomeCare and Hospice 1005 Carthage Street Sanford, N.C. 27330.

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

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is serving the Ring family.

DONALD RAY SIMPSON

October 23, 1943 ~ March 20, 2023

Donald Ray Simpson, 79, of Siler City passed away Monday, March 20, 2023, at his home.

Donald was the son of the late Irene Lankford Simpson and J.R. Simpson. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Jimmy Simpson, David Simpson; and stepson Chad Batts.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Barbara Hearn Simpson; one son, Perry Scott Simpson; two daughters, Kim Hager and Paige Simpson; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society, 4140 Parklake Ave. Suite 515, Raleigh, N.C. 27612; Parkinson's Foundation, 2101 Sardis Road N, Suite 102, Charlotte, N.C. 28227; or to a charity of one's choice.

JOHN WILLIAM YATES

November 2, 1940 ~ March 6, 2023

John William Yates, 82, of Lemon Springs, passed away on Monday, March 6, 2023, at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice Center.

A memorial service was held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 24, 2023, at Smith Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Darrell Wood officiating. Inurnment was Friday at Gethsemane Memorial Park.

Mr. Yates was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Carolyn D. Yates, his parents, Claredon and Mona Janet Smith Yates, and his brother, Norman Lee Yates.

Survivors include a daughter, Jennifer Rouse of Lem-

on Springs; a sister, JoAnn Burger of Beaufort; a brother, Edgar Yates of Port Royal; and two grandchildren.

CYNTHIA KAY SCOTT NALL

January 1, 1954 ~ March 21, 2023

Cynthia Kay Scott Nall, 69, passed away on March 21, 2023.

A private celebration of Cynthia's life will be held Saturday, April 1, 2023.

Born just before her twin brother to parents Jean and Raymond Scott, she grew up in Chatham County. She worked as a healthcare provider and attended Putnam Friends Church for many years. She was preceded in death by her parents, twin brother, Donnie, baby sister, Tonya, brother Anthony, and former husband, Walter Nall.

She is survived by a daughter, Bette N. Sanchez of Sanford; sons, PJ Nall of Steubenville, Ohio, Jeremy Nall of Asheboro; seven grandchildren, one great-grandson; sisters, Wilma Jean Pike of Siler City, Christie Cook of Angier; brothers, Gregg Scott of Clayton, and Brad Scott of Raleigh.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Nall family.

WILLIAM 'BILLY JO' JOSEPH LEO LUXTON

February 14, 1990 ~ March 19, 2023

William "Billy Jo" Joseph Leo Luxton, 33, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, March 19, 2023, at his home.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Billy Jo was the son of

Hayden Perry Luxton and Terica Kay Ashley Luxton. He was preceded in death by his mother, his paternal grandparents, Hayden Leo and Betty Perry Luxton.

Survivors include his father and step-mother, Hayden Perry Luxton of Sanford; his maternal grandmother, Patricia Gonzalez of Greensboro; daughter; Kaylee Marie Luxton of the home; sons, Hayden Christopher Luxton and BradLee Sanderford of the home; brothers; Emmanuel Sky Luxton of German-ton, Richard Stone of Arden; sister, Jennifer Yvette Powers-Vazquez of Charleston, S.C.

JOHN RUSSELL MOORE

June 11, 1974 ~ March 23, 2023

John Russell Moore, 48, of Goldston, passed away on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

The family received friends on Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023, at Bethany Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Patrick Daniels officiating.

John was the son of Spurgeon Moore Jr., and Janice Wilkie Moore. He was a member of Bethany Baptist Church. John is preceded in death by his father, Junior Moore; brother, Brian Moore; grandfather, John Wilkie Jr.; and grandparents, Spurgeon Moore Sr. and Janie Clark Moore.

He is survived by his children, Jordyn Jessup of Coleridge, Alex Moore of Goldston, Bella Rose Moore of Harpers Crossroads; mother, Janice Moore; wife, Jessica Wilkie Moore; and grandmother, Betty Wilkie of Amarillo, Texas.

LEAH BROWN PEACE SHORT

March 10, 1932 ~ March 25, 2023

Leah Brown Peace Short, 91, of Bennett, passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 4 p.m. at Bennett Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Jason Whitehurst, John Phillips and Rev. Tim Strider presiding.

Leah was the daughter of Reuben and Melissa Purvis Brown. She was a member of Bennett Baptist Church where she served as an Acteens leader and sang in the choir. She worked in the hosiery industry for 50 years. In addition to her parents, Leah was preceded in death by husbands, Byron Peace and Clarence Short and brothers, Wilburn, Stacy, J.H. and Clifton Brown.

She is survived by daughters, Melissa Thomas of Siler

City, Beth Maness of Asheboro; two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; stepdaughters, Kathy Owens and Deanna Dangerfield; and stepson, Alan Short.

Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to Bennett Baptist Church, Jolly Elders, P.O. Box 213, Bennett, N.C. 27208.

MARTHA SEAGROVES FARRELL

Martha Ann Seagroves Farrell, 89, of Apex, passed away on Monday, March 27, 2023.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 3 p.m. on Thursday March 30, at the Gathering Place at Apex Baptist Church. The funeral service will be held in the sanctuary there at 3 p.m. with Rev. Peter Dubbleman and Rev. Bruce Worley officiating. Burial will follow at the Mount Pisgah Baptist Church Cemetery.

She was the daughter of the late Edward Onco Seagroves and Thelma Ree Matthews Seagroves. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, William Robert Farrell Sr. She was a member and Sunday school teacher at Apex Baptist Church. She worked for many years at GE and CP&L.

Surviving are her children, Candance Ree Farrell of Raleigh, and William Robert Farrell, Jr. of Apex; sisters, Lawana Evans of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Brenda McGuire of Asheville; brother, Edward O. Seagroves Jr. of Fuquay Varina; and three grandchildren,

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Apex Baptist Church Senior Ministry or to St. Jude's Childrens Hospital.

KATHY STEWART BARBER

December 14, 1954 ~ March 22, 2023

Kathy Diane Stewart Barber, 68, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at her home.

Graveside memorial service will be held on Friday, March 31, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Holly Springs Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Wayne O'Quinn officiating.

Kathy was the daughter of the late Beatrice Buchanan Adams. She was preceded in death by her mother, and her husband, Lawson Barber.

Surviving are her sons, Steven Godfrey and Jason Godfrey, both of Sanford; sister, Janice McLeod of Jacksonville, Florida, two grandchildren, and two step-great grandchildren.

VIRGINIA MAE (GRAY) WHITE

February 7, 1927 ~ March 20, 2023

Virginia Mae Gray White,

96, of Snow Camp, passed away on Monday, March 20, 2023, at Cambridge Hills Assisted Living Facility in Pittsboro.

The funeral service was held on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at Pine Hill United Church of Christ, with burial following in the church cemetery.

MARGARETE (TILL) HODGE

February 21, 1937 ~ March 20, 2023

Margarete Till Hodge, 86, of Broadway, passed away on Monday, March 20, 2023, at her home.

JULIUS LEVON 'NIC NAC' MCKINNEY

April 16, 1956 ~ March 20, 2023

Julius Levon McKinney "Nic Nac" 66, of Pittsboro, passed away on Monday, March 20, 2023, at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice House in Pittsboro.

There was a public viewing in the Knotts Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, March 24, 2023.

JOSEPH (JOEY) EDWARD HAMILTON SR.

January 16, 1943 ~ March 20, 2023

Joseph (Joey) Edward Hamilton Sr., 80, of Mamers, passed away on March 20, 2023.

A funeral was held on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at Christian Chapel Missionary Church with Pastor Harry Thomas officiating.

He was the son of the late Robert L. and Louise Brown Hamilton. He worked for Saco-Lowell in Sanford and joining the USAR in 1967. He served as a Specialist Four and was honorably discharged in 1973; he received the Expert M14 Rifle award while serving. Later he worked for Weyerhaeuser and Sierra Pines in Moncure. He was a member of the Christian Chapel Missionary Church in Lilling-ton.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Helen Poindexter Hamilton; son, Joseph Hamilton Jr. of Sanford; daughter, Deborah Stewart of Coats; three grandchildren; brothers, Robert (Bobby) Hamilton and Donnie Hamilton; sisters, Jeannie Murray and Patsy Thomas.

NANCY (DARK) ROGERS

October 23, 1949 ~ March 24, 2023

Nancy Dark Rogers, 73, of Siler City, passed away on Friday, March 24, 2023, at UNC Hospital Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

CHURCH NEWS

PINEY GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

We will host a fried chicken supper benefit on Saturday, April 1, at Piney Grove Methodist Church, Siler City.

All plates will include 1/2 fried chicken with slaw, green beans, bread and dessert, \$12 per plate. They may be picked up at the church from 3 p.m. until... and they will also be available for pickup at Marsh Auto Parts or Park Shopping Center from 4 to 6 p.m.

SILER CITY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Siler City First Baptist Church invites you to worship with us during our celebration of Easter.

On Friday, April 7, the Tenebrae Service with The Lord's Supper will be held at 7 p.m. in the First Baptist Church Sanctuary.

Sunday, April 9. the Sunrise Service will be held at the Cross beside the church at 8 a.m. At 8:30, the Easter breakfast will be held in the church Fellowship Hall. Sunday School and Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10 a.m., followed by the Easter Cantata, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and worship

service with Reverend Jason Brogan at 11 a.m.

The church is located at 314 N. Second Ave., www.silercity-fbc.org.

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

On Easter Sunday, April 9, Loves Creek Baptist Church will have a Son Rise Service at 8:30 a.m., followed by a fellowship breakfast at 9:15. The Easter worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

All are welcome to join these events.

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ebenezer United Methodist Church will present "We Remember Calvary" in a Tenebrae service at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 7.

The blending of worship songs, traditional and contemporary hymns and narration paint a vivid and moving picture of Christ's last days and his journey to the cross.

Join us for this reflective worship service designed to recreate the emotional and spiritual aspects of the passion story.

The church is located at 724 Beaver Creek Rd., Apex.

From our Family to yours, we wish everyone a

Happy and Blessed Easter

donaldsonfunerals.com



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

Players from East Chatham Little League rush the field for opening day in Pittsboro on Saturday.

EAST CHATHAM LITTLE LEAGUE

50 years of big swings and big hearts

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — East Chatham Little League hosted its 50th annual opening day celebration Saturday at Tommy Burns Ball Park behind Pittsboro Elementary School, marking half a century of youth baseball in Pittsboro and honoring the founders who built the league from scratch.

Before first pitches were thrown, the league held a ceremony with four of the founding members — Butch Phillips, Jim Springle, Gene Brooks and James Ellis — in attendance. Family members of two more founders were also present for the ceremony.

A full list of the founders is displayed in a plaque on the large field: Tommy Burns, Bobby House, Phillips, Springle, Ellis, Danny Bell Scurlock, Hobo Heath,



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

East Chatham Little League celebrated its 50th opening day by honoring its founding members with a ceremony on Tommy Burns Ball Park in Pittsboro on Saturday. Back (left to right): Jesse Yeager, Jamie Ellis, Cliff Stickney, Butch Phillips, Dan Spillman, Corey Stickney, Sammy Ortiz. Front (left to right): Cindy Carter, Faye Partin, Bobby House, Jim Springle, Gene Brooks, Chad Johnson, Janet Griffin Swepson, Dawn Griffin Williams.

Brooks, Rex Brooks, Sidney Partin, Lea Powell, Clarence Morris, Dan Glosson, Jimmy Harris, J. T. Griffin and Milton

Seymour. “We realize how important this league is to the community and the town of Pittsboro,”

said Jesse Yeager, East Chatham Little League president. “We have so many families that have been involved here for generations.”

Yeager said there are grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those original founders still playing in the league today.

The league president added that the honoring of the founders was the largest opening day in recent memory. The day was capped off with a league-wide photo in the outfield.

In the 50 years since the founders built the field, fences and concession stands from nothing, East Chatham Little League now has more than 420 players and 35 teams giving baseball to young people age 4 to 16. And the league is growing by the year.

This season the league added new scoreboards, concrete aprons and flagpoles. Yeager said they also applied for grant funding to add infield grass to potentially host an all-star tournament



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

A coach waves his players home after a hit at opening day for East Chatham Little League on Saturday.



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

Founders of East Chatham Little League Gene Brooks (left) and Jim Springle (right) watch the 50th opening day of the league they helped build from scratch.



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

Players from East chatham Little League watch their peers play on opening day in Pittsboro on Saturday.

in the near future and to upgrade lighting at the fields.

“This league is the culmination of a lot of hard work from a lot of

volunteers,” Yeager said.

For more information about East Chatham Little League visit www.eastchathambaseball.com.

What Goes Into A Retirement ‘Paycheck’?

During your working years, you generally know how much money you’re bringing in, so you can budget accordingly. But once you’re retired, it’s a different story. However, with some diligence, you can put together a “paycheck” that can help you meet your income needs.

Where will this paycheck come from? Social Security benefits should replace about 40% of one’s pre-retirement earnings, according to the Social Security Administration, but this figure varies widely based on an individual’s circumstances. Typically, the higher your income before you retire, the lower the percentage will be replaced by Social Security. Private pensions have become much rarer in recent decades, though you might receive one if you worked for a government agency or a large company. But in any case, to fill out your retirement paycheck, you may need to draw heavily on your investment portfolio.

Your portfolio can provide you with income in these ways:

- **Dividends** – When you were working, and you didn’t have to depend on your portfolio for income to the extent you will when you’re retired, you may have reinvested the dividends you received from stocks and stock-based mutual funds, increasing the number of shares you own in these investments. And that was a good move, because increased share ownership is a great way to help build wealth. But once you’re retired, you may need to start accepting the dividends to boost your cash flow.

- **Interest payments** – The interest payments from bonds and other fixed-income investments, such as certificates of deposit (CDs), can also add to your retirement income. In the years immediately preceding their retirement, some investors increase the presence of these interest-paying

investments in their portfolio. (But even during retirement, you’ll need some growth potential in your investments to help keep you ahead of inflation.)

- **Proceeds from selling investments** – While you will likely need to begin selling investments once you’re retired, you’ll need to be careful not to liquidate your portfolio too quickly. How much can you sell each year? The answer depends on several factors — your age, the size of your portfolio, the amount of income you receive from other sources, your spouse’s income, your retirement lifestyle, and so on. A financial professional can help you determine the amount and type of investment sales that are appropriate for your needs while considering the needs of your portfolio over your lifetime.

When tapping into your investments as part of your retirement paycheck, you’ll also want to pay special attention to the amount of *cash* in your portfolio. It’s a good idea to have enough cash available to cover a year’s worth of your living expenses, even after accounting for other sources of income, such as Social Security or pensions. In addition, you may want to set aside sufficient cash for emergencies. Not only will these cash cushions help you with the cost of living and unexpected costs, but they might also enable you to avoid digging deeper into your long-term investments than you might like.

You may be retired for a long time — so take the steps necessary to build a consistent retirement paycheck.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pittsboro
Blake Stewart
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

SCIENCE

Continued from page A6

to be in that class and do so well.”

A look into the future

With a big boost from the Sam Taylor Scholarship, Gage is squarely focused on his studies. He’s in his second year of a two-year program, working toward the Associate in Applied Science. Oh, and he has a 4.0 GPA. But that doesn’t mean he’s not looking at what’s ahead.

At the moment, Gage is hoping to transfer to East Carolina University for a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology with a concentration in bioprocess manufactur-

ing, a transfer program tightly integrated with his community college curriculum.

And he even knows what he’d like to pursue for a career: “upstream,” essentially a process that isolates, cultivates and grows cells that can be used in manufacturing processes from fermenting beer to developing pharmaceuticals and medical therapies.

It may not seem like there’s a tight connection, but it was that lifelong love of animals that helped kindle his interest.

“It’s just the fact that you’re working with living things,” Gage says. “Cells, bacteria and cultivating them. It’s so broad that I don’t even know where I’ll be once I graduate and am looking for a job, but I’m hoping I will be in the lab cultivating cells.”

That’s a fairly specific plan for someone just three semesters

into college. Someone who entered a technical scientific field with an atypical background, a general interest in animals and, to be honest, no idea where to go or what to expect. Which is why Gage wants others with a similar background to realize that there may be more options out there than they can even imagine.

“For people my age, it can be really daunting going into college when you don’t know what kind of degree you need or see yourself in a specific job early,” he says. “But people are there to help you and get you on the right path to a career you want.”

Because, as he’s learned, things can quickly change.

For more information on Central Carolina Community College, which is dedicated to providing pathways to achievable dreams, visit www.cccc.edu.



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

APARTMENTS

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

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,tfncc

FOR SALE

FOR SALE - 2018 KX 71-3 Super series excavator with thumb. Has 18 and 24 inch buckets. 919-337-5775. M9,16,23,30,4tc

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

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

SERVICES

SPRING CLEANING TIME - Brush cleaning, drive ways and bush hogging. Heavy duty yard cleaning. Call Ed at 919-352-5599. M9,16,23,30,4tp

PAY CASH for junk cars and trucks. Call 336-581-3423. M9,16,23,30,4tp

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-excavating, 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,tfncc

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

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,tfncc

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

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF SILER CITY - MUNICIPAL POOL VACANCIES (Seasonal Part-time), Employment is in a seasonal capacity and only during the time period of public utilization of the swimming pools. The 2023 pool season runs from May 27, 2023 through September 4, 2023. --

POOL MANAGER, An employee in this class is responsible for the overall management of the municipal pool while on duty. Duties include all the duties as a lifeguard while overseeing the day-to-day operations and communicating any issues and concerns to the Recreation Coordinator. Of utmost importance is safety, pool maintenance, and ensuring that staff provides exceptional customer service to all customers. Additional responsibilities include providing guidance and on-the-job training to scheduled staff, maintaining accurate

and timely reports as required, and carrying out other tasks as requested by the Recreation Coordinator. Required Education and Experience Qualifications. At least 18 years of age. Minimum of one seasonal year experience as a lifeguard. Current American Red Cross Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED certification. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications. One seasonal year experience as a Pool Manager. Pool Operator/Aquatic Facility Operator Certification. American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Certification. - Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Salary: \$16 per hour. **LIFEGUARD**, Employees in this class are responsible for preventing accidents in and around the swimming pool, enforcing all rules and regulations, life guarding for public swimming, swim lessons, camps, and daycare centers. Lifeguards also assist in daily facility cleaning, attend in-service training sessions, and provide CPR and first aid when necessary. Required Education and Experience Qualification: At least 16 years of age. Current American Red Cross Lifeguard training and Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED certification. (The Town of Siler City will pay for and provide this training if necessary.) Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Knowledge and experience in lifeguarding responsibilities. Current American Red Cross Lifeguard training and Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED certification. - Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Salary: \$15 per hour or \$16 per hour if currently certified. **SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR**, An employee in this class is responsible for providing exceptional customer service to all customers and coworkers. Responsibilities include following American Red Cross swim lesson guidelines in preparation of daily lesson plans, providing swimming instruction to children and adults at various skill levels, communicating with parents, and ensuring swimmer safety at all times. Required Education and Experience Qualification: At least 16 years of age. Current Water Safety Instructor certification. (The Town of Siler City will pay for and provide this training if necessary.) Must have some customer service experience. Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Current American Red Cross Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED certification. Salary: \$15 per hour or \$16 per hour if currently certified. **POOL GATE ATTENDANT**, An employee in this class is responsible for providing exceptional customer service to all customers and coworkers. Responsibilities include answering the phone, assisting customers, collecting admission and concession sales, completing and reconciling daily attendance and revenue reports, preparing daily deposits, assisting pool staff with daily cleaning tasks, and communicating any known issues or problems to the Pool Manager. Required Education and Experience Qualifications: At least 16 years of age. Must pass basic mathematics skill assessment test. Must have some customer service experience. - To Apply: These postings are open until filled. Please apply online at www.governmentjobs.com/careers/silercity. Pre-employment drug testing and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. Salary: \$12 per hour. M30,1tc

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,tfncc

MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED - Split wood, 18-19 inches long. 919-799-2343. No calls after 8:30 p.m. M23,30,2tp

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE Chatham County Schools' federal projects under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 are presently being developed. Projects included: Title I (Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards); Title II (High Quality Teachers and Principals); Title III (Language Acquisition); Title IV (Student Support and

Academic Enrichment) McKinney-Vento (Homeless Education) Migrant Education Program Career and Technical Education High school students can enroll, without cost, in college credit classes through the Career and College Promise program. This includes Career and Technical Education pathways of study. IDEA (Students with Disabilities) The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Chatham County Schools proposes for Federal funding for the 2023-2024 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. These projects describe the programs that Chatham County Schools proposes for federal funding for the 2023-2024 school year. Non-profit private schools and interested persons are encouraged to review these federal guidelines for the above listed projects and indicate their interest in participation in the projects if qualified. These projects are being developed during April and May and are due to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction on June 30, 2023. The initial Equitable Services for Private Schools meeting will be held virtually on April 6, 2023 at 2:00 pm. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the office of Carol Little, Executive Director Federal Programs, at cmittle@chatham.k12.nc.us or at 501 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Siler City, NC, 27344 by April 3, 2023. Spanish version below: **Noticia pública** Estamos en proceso de desarrollo de los proyectos federales de las Escuelas del Condado Chatham bajo la Ley Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) de 2015. Los proyectos incluyen: Título I (Ayuda a los niños desfavorecidos económicamente a alcanzar altos estándares académicos) Título II (Maestros y directores de alta calidad) Título III (Adquisición del Lenguaje) Título IV (Apoyo Estudiantil y Enriquecimiento Académico) McKinney-Vento (Educación para personas sin hogar) Programa de Educación Para Familias Migrantes (MEP por sus siglas en Inglés) Educación técnica y profesional. Los estudiantes de preparatoria pueden inscribirse, sin costo, en clases de créditos universitarios a través del programa promesa Career and College. Esto incluye vías de estudio de Educación Técnica y Profesional. IDEA (Estudiantes con Discapacidades) El Proyecto de la Ley de Educación para Individuos con Discapacidades (IDEA-Parte B, Ley Pública 108.446) está siendo enmendado.. El Proyecto describe los programas de educación especial que las Escuelas del Condado Chatham proponen para el financiamiento federal del año escolar 2023-2024. Se anima a las personas interesadas a revisar las enmiendas al Proyecto y hacer comentarios sobre la implementación de la educación especial bajo este programa federal. Todos los comentarios serán analizados antes de la presentación del Proyecto modificado al Departamento de Instrucción Pública de Carolina del Norte en Raleigh, Carolina del Norte. Estos proyectos describen los programas que las Escuelas del Condado Chatham proponen para el financiamiento federal del año escolar 2023-2024. Nosotros promovemos que las escuelas privadas sin fines de lucro y a las personas interesadas revisen estas directrices federales para los proyectos enumerados anteriormente e indiquen su interés en participar en los proyectos si califican. Estos proyectos se estarán desarrollando durante abril y mayo y deben presentarse al Departamento de Instrucción Pública de Carolina del Norte el 30 de junio de 2023. La reunión inicial de Servicios Equitativos para Escuelas Privadas se llevará a cabo virtualmente el 6 de abril de 2023 a las 2:00 pm. Las partes interesadas se pueden comunicar con la oficina de Carol Little, Directora Ejecutiva de los Programas Federales, al correo electrónico cmittle@chatham.k12.nc.us o en 501 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Siler City, NC, 27344 antes del 3 de abril del 2023.

M9,M16,M23,M30,4tc

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA NOTICE TO CREDITORS COUNTY OF CHATHAM THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 14th day of February, 2023, as Executrix of the **ESTATE OF ROBERT M. SEIFERT aka ROBERT MICHAEL SEIFERT**, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of June, 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 27th day of February, 2023. JENNIFER DALMAN, EXECUTRIX ESTATE OF ROBERT M. SEIFERT aka ROBERT MICHAEL SEIFERT Walker Lambe, PLLC Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717 M9,M16,M23,M30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of February, 2023, as Executor of the **ESTATE OF HELEN MARIE NELSON**, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of June, 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 9th of March, 2023. PHILIP NELSON, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF HELEN MARIE NELSON c/o Richard G. Long III Walker Lambe, PLLC Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717 M9,M16,M23,M30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS CHATHAM COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA 23 E 128 The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **FRANK I. HINCHCLIFFE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of June, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All person indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of March, 2023. Robert W. Williams, Executor c/o Margaret K. Winfield PO Box 10669 Raleigh, NC 27605 M9,M16,M23,M30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 22 E 409 All persons having claims against **MAYNARD LEE RUSSELL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th 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 9th day of March, 2023. Mary Alston, Administrator 304 Bingham St. Greensboro, NC 27401 M9,M16,M23,M30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **JOSEPH EDWARD KRESS** deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before June 16, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This is the 9th day of March, 2023. Elizabeth Smith, Ancillary Administrator c/o Hopler, Wilms & Hanna, PLLC 2314 S. Miami Blvd., Suite 151 Durham, NC 27703. M16,M23,M30,A6,4tc

REQUEST FOR BIDS Central Piedmont Community Action, Inc. (CPCA) is opening its bid for HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing contractors in Anson, Chatham, Orange, and Richmond counties. Bids will be received March 16, 2023, through April 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. RFP will also be available on our website through Sept. 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in becoming a contractor for Central Piedmont Community Action in any of our counties, please contact Doug Dixon at (919) 742-2277, ext. 105, M - TH, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or via email at doug@cpccnc.org. M16,M23,M30,A6,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 145 All persons having claims against **NINA PAULINE DODD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th 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

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.

AUCTIONS

104 Acres Divided 3 Lots & 54 Acre Farm Central Chatham Co.

Pasture, Ponds, Timber Potential!

Estate of the Late Ruth Morrow & Danny Pike

3109 Moon Lindley Rd., Snow Camp, & 951 Silk Hope Liberty Rd., Siler City, NC



Register & Bid Online

RA ROGERS AUCTIONEERS & REAL ESTATE

(919) 545-0412
RogersAuction.com
NCFL7360

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@ECCMGTCOM EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

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**



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

9th day of March, 2023.
Randall C. Dodd, Co-Executor
108 Circadian Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Mark R. Dodd, Co-Executor
106 Keeneland Court
Durham, NC 27713-7259
M16,M23,M30,A6,4tp

**RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NORTH CAROLINA**

CHATHAM COUNTY
Special Proceedings No. 19
SP 222
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
Date of Sale: April 4, 2023
Time of Sale: 2:00 p.m.
Place of Sale: Chatham County Courthouse
Description of Property: See Attached Description
Record Owners: Samuel Robinson and Faye Robinson
Address of Property: **1324 Silk Hope Liberty Road Siler City, NC 27344**
Deed of Trust: **Book: 1339 Page: 767**
Dated: May 4, 2007
Grantors: Samuel Robinson and Faye Robinson, Husband and Wife

Original Beneficiary: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., solely as nominee for Encore Credit
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax. A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by

law.
Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.
s/ Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
EXHIBIT A
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
The land referred to in this Commitment is described as follows: Situated in Siler City, Chatham County, State of North Carolina and being described as follows: **ADJOINING THE LANDS OF PAUL D. FIELDS, J.P. FIELDS AND OTHERS, AND BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE CENTER OF STATE ROAD NO. 1346, PAUL D. FIELDS' LINE OR CORNER, THERE BEING AN IRON STAKE IN THE NORTHERN RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID ROAD; AND RUNNING THENCE WITH THE CENTER OF SAID ROAD SOUTH 79 DEGREES EAST 133 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTER OF SAID ROAD NO. 1346, THERE BEING AN IRON STAKE IN THE NORTHERN RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE NORTH 4 DEGREES EAST FROM SAID POINT; AN RUNNING THENCE WITH THE LINE**

OF J.P. FIELDS, NORTH 4 DEGREES WEST 263 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE, FIELDS' CORNER, THENCE NORTH 24 DEGREES 30' WEST 272 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE, J.P. FIELDS' CORNER; THENCE WITH FIELDS' LINE, SOUTH 67 DEGREES WEST 230 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE, PAUL D. FIELDS' LINE; THENCE WITH PAUL D. FIELDS' LINE, SOUTH 29 DEGREES EAST 449 FEET TO THE BEGINNING, CONTAINING 2.18 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, ACCORDING TO A PLAT PREPARED BY ROBERT HANCOCK, SURVEYOR, MAY 1967. BEING THE IDENTICAL REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED IN DEED FROM J. PAUL FIELDS, ET UX, TO KENNETH R. FIELDS, ET US, DATED MAY 22, 1967.
1) FOR CHAIN OF TITLE, SEE DEED BOOK 609, PAGE 1150, CHATHAM COUNTY REGISTRY.
2) THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO ANY RECORDED OR UNRECORDED RIGHTS-OF-WAY TO THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTING.
3) THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS WHICH MIGHT NOW EXIST IN FAVOR OF ANY PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANY.
4) THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO ANY MATTERS WHICH A RECENT AND ACCURATE SURVEY MIGHT DISCLOSE.
5) THE PARTY OF THE FIRST PART SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AND PAY ALL CHATHAM COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES ON SAID PROPERTY THROUGH THE YEAR 1995; TAXES FOR THE YEAR 1996 SHALL BE PRORATED BETWEEN THE PARTIES HERETO.
6) THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL RESTRICTIVE AND PROTECTIVE COVENANTS OF RECORD.
The above legal description being the same as the last deed of record, no boundary survey having been made at the time of this conveyance.
Parcel #0000983
BEING the same property conveyed to Samuel Jerry Robinson, by deed from Deborah Stuart Ingle, dated 6-11-96,

recorded 6-12-96, in Book 694 page 577, in the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, NC. This Derivation Clause represents a 24 month Chain of Title.
The above information is to be used for reference purposes only and not to be relied on as evidence of title and/or encumbrances. Accordingly, said information is furnished at a reduced rate, and the Company's liability shall in no event exceed the amount paid for said information.
1324 Silk Hope Liberty Road, Siler City, NC 27344
M23,M30,2tc

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 23-E-68**
IN RE: ESTATE OF Grace Nifa Mathos
The undersigned, having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **GRACE NIFA MATHOS**, notifies all persons having claims against the estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of June, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 16th day of March, 2023.
Joseph Allen Mathos, Personal Representative
c/o The Graham, Nuckolls Conner Law Firm
P.O. Box 7384
Greenville, N.C. 27835-7384
M23,M30,A6,A13,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 23 E 150**
All persons having claims against **RUTH W. MORROW**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th 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 21st day of March, 2023.
Edward Lee Morrow, Sr., Co-Executor
3091 Moon Lindley Rd. Snow Camp, NC 27349
Ellen Long Morrow, Co-Executor
3091 Moon Lindley Rd Snow Camp, NC 27349
M23,M30,A6,A13,4tp

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
Having qualified on the 14th of March 2023, as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **EVA PEARL WILLIAMS**, 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 21st day of June 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 16th day of March 2023
W. Woods Doster, Administrator CTA
of the Estate of Eva Pearl Williams
206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330
M23,M30,A6,A13,4tc

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 19 CVD 783**
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM**
Plaintiff,
**NOTICE OF SERVICE
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
vs
The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES
of **MARY EFFIE BRADFFORD SMITH**
a/k/a **EFFIE B. SMITH**, et al
Defendants.
TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of **MARY EFFIE BRADFFORD SMITH** a/k/a **EFFIE B. SMITH** and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder
A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on March 23, 2023.
The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after March 23, 2023, or by May 2, 2023, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.
This the 15th day of March, 2023.
ZACCHAEUS LEGAL SERVICES
By: _____

MARK D. BARDILL/MARK B. BARDILL
Attorney for Plaintiff
NC Bar #12852/56782
310 W. Jones St.
P. O. Box 25

Trenton, North Carolina 28585
Telephone: (252) 448-4541
Melanie C. Galloway, NCCP
Zacchaeus Legal Services
P.O. Box 25
Trenton, NC 28585
Ph # (252) 448-4541 x110
M23,M30,A6,3tc

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
Having qualified on the 3rd day of March 2023, as Administrator of the Estate of **DONALD FRANKLIN EADS**, 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 21st day of June, 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 23rd day of March, 2023
Austin R. Eads, Administrator of the
Estate of Donald F. Eads
1858 Lakewood Falls Rd.
Goldston, NC 27252
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330
M23,M30,A6,A13,4tc

**ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
All persons having claims against the estate of **Jed Schipper** of Chatham County, NC, who died on the 14th of November 2022, are notified to present them on or before June 29th, 2023 to **Lisa Skumpia**, Administrator 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
M23,M30,A6,A13,4tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
A public hearing will be held by the Goldston Town Board on Monday, April 3rd, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Goldston Town Hall located at 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston, NC 27252. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also request to speak by contacting the town clerk Annie Kay King Gaines at akkgaines@americansouthnc.com or Hunter Glenn at hunter.glenn@chathamcountync.gov. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board. The Public Hearing will be conducted in person only for the following items:
The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:
1. Legislative Hearing on a Proposed Annexation. Michael Blakley, on behalf of Kelly Properties of Goldston LLC has requested a voluntary satellite annexation of 72.17 acres of a 122.23 acre parcel located at 13415 US 421 S. (a portion of Chatham County NC Tax Parcel 62615).
2. Legislative Hearing on a Proposed Zoning Map Amendment. Michael Blakley, on behalf of Kelly Properties of Goldston LLC, has requested an amendment to the Town of Goldston Zoning Map to zone as IH-Heavy Industrial 72.17 acres of a 122.23 acre parcel located at 13415 US 421 S. (a portion of Chatham County NC Parcel 62615).
3. Legislative Hearing on a Proposed Watershed Map Amendment. Michael Blakley, on behalf of Kelly Properties of Goldston, LLC, has requested an amendment to the Town's watershed protection map incorporating a 72.17-acre portion of a 122.23-acre tract located at 13415 US 421 S. (a portion of Chatham County NC Parcel 62615) as Local Watershed.
4. Legislative Hearing on a Proposed Annexation. Michael Blakley, on behalf of Bobby A. Branch, has requested a voluntary satellite annexation of a 25.07 acre tract located at 8182 Pittsboro Goldston Road, (Chatham County NC Tax Parcel 95591).
5. Legislative Hearing on a Proposed Zoning Map Amendment. Michael Blakley, on behalf of Bobby A. Branch, has requested an amendment to the Town's zoning map to zone as R-15 a 25.07-acre tract located at 8182 Pittsboro Goldston Rd (Chatham County NC Parcel 95591).
6. Legislative Hearing on a Proposed Watershed map Amendment. Michael Blakley, on behalf of Bobby A. Branch, has requested an amendment to the Town's watershed protection map incorporating a 25.07-acre tract located at 8182 Pittsboro Goldston Rd (Parcel 95591) as Local Watershed. Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.
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below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call Hunter Glenn with the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8284 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

M23,M30,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 23 E 160
All persons having claims against **THOMAS ALEXANDER BUCKNER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th 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 21st day of March, 2023.

Evelyn Foard Shaw, Administrator
504 Highland Trail
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
M23,M30,A6,A13,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
23-E-22
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Euphalia Farrar, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **RU-FUS V. HORTON JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of June, 2023, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 30th day of March, 2023.

Euphalia Farrar, Executor
c/o Marie H. Hopper
Attorney for the Estate
Hopper Cummings, PLLC
Post Office Box 1455
Pittsboro, NC 27312
M30,A6,A13,A20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 23 E 136
All persons having claims against **SUSAN RUTH HAVEN-STEIN LOWE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 30th day of March, 2023.

Greg Alan Havenstein, Administrator CTA
8238 Hydon Dawn Lane
Cary NC 27518
M30,A6,A13,A20,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **LYNETTE K. RUSSELL**, 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 30th day of June, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 30th day of March, 2023.

Scott W. Russell, Executor
Estate of Lynette K. Russell
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
M30,A6,A13,A20,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HAROLD MCCAFFREY**, late of 708 Eldridge Loop, Cary, Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all

persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at: c/o H. Denton Worrell, Esq., Worrell Sides LLP, 128 E. Hargett Street, Ste 305, Raleigh, N.C. 27601, on or before the 30th day of June, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 30th day of March, 2023.

Charles F. McCaffrey, Executor
Estate of Harold McCaffrey
c/o H. Denton Worrell, Esq.
128 E. Hargett Street, Suite 305
Raleigh, N.C. 27601
M30,A6,A13,A20,4tc

NOTICE OF HEARINGS
TOWN OF SILER CITY
The following item will be considered by the Siler City Planning Commission on Monday, April 10, 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 items will also be heard by the Town Council for Siler City on April 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Siler City Court Room of the Siler City Town Hall located at 311 N. 2nd Ave.

Legislative Hearings
R23-0401. Conditional Rezoning of two tracts from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Residential 3 (R-3) Conditional (R-3-C), tracts totaling 168.506 acres ±, addressed as 285 and unaddressed parcel George Brooks Drive (parcel number 13136 and 80302), and being the properties of Tim's Farm & Forestry II, LLC, represented by Barbara Todd of American Engineering, Inc.
R23-0402. Conditional Rezoning of two tracts from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Planned Unit Development (B-1, R-6, R-10), tracts totaling 293.22 acres ±, unaddressed parcels Old US 421 South (79448 and 14529), and being the properties of Everest Park, LLC, represented by Bob Kopetsky of Summit Design and Engineering, Inc.
R23-0403. Rezoning of two tracts from Light Industrial (LI) to General Commercial (GC), tracts totaling 4.031 acres ±,

addressed as 208 W. Second Street and unaddressed W. Third Street (parcel numbers 61468 and 61469), and being the properties of Wren Industries, Inc., represented by Denis de St. Aubin, Jr. The proposed items are available for review by contacting Jennifer C. Baptiste at jbaptiste@silercity.org or 919-726-8626. All persons interested in the outcome of the item are invited to attend the legislative hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits 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 919-726-8626 before 12:00 p.m. on or before the scheduled public hearing date.

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.

M30,A6,A13,3tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF PITTSBORO
The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00

PM via Zoom and at Chatham County Agriculture Center to consider the following item: 1. A legislative Public Hearing request by the Pittsboro Planning Department and Stewart, Inc for discussion to the Pittsboro Land Use Plan update. A Land Use Plan outlines a town's vision for its future and provides recommendations for achieving that vision. It guides land use policy, funding, resource decisions, and infrastructure investment decisions for the Town of Pittsboro, its staff, and its governing bodies. It is created through a community planning process that prioritizes public engagement to capture the shared vision for Pittsboro. This Land Use Plan will serve as an update to the 2012 Land Use Plan. It will incorporate existing planning documents and strategically plan for future development. The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request.

SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 287 East Street, Suite 221A, on the Planning Department page under "Current Planning" at <https://nc-pittsboro.civicplus.com/>, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Please give reasonable notice to the Pittsboro Planning 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 April 10, 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 April 10, 2023.

M30,A6,2tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified on the 23rd of March 2023, as Administrator of the Estate of **STEPHANIE RENEE WALKUP**, 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 28th day of June 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 24th day of March 2023

W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Stephanie Renee Walkup
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
M30,A6,A13,A20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **REX EUGENE BROOKS**, 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 30th day of June, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 30th day of March, 2023.

DAVID WESLEY BROOKS, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF REX EUGENE BROOKS
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
M30,A6,A13,A20,4tc

New hires, promotions recognized at Sheriff's Office

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

With their left hands placed atop Bibles and their right hands raised, Kyler Aney and Dakota Morrow this week took oaths of office, becoming the newest members to join the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

The two new detention officers were sworn in Tuesday, March 14, at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro during a ceremony that also included recognition for six members of the Sheriff's Office who were promoted to new positions, three who received new assignments, and others recognized for their years of service and other notable contributions.

The new officers' badges — each pinned on their uniforms by family members — carry great significance, as do the badges worn by all sworn officers, Capt. Ronnie Miller explained.

"The badge represents service, dignity, truth, dedication, accountability and justice," Miller said. "We expect you to

recognize this badge as a symbol of public faith and public trust."

It also represents the wearers' commitment "to uphold the U.S. Constitution to the people that you serve," Miller said. "Many who have worn this badge have performed their duties honorably. They have sweat, fought, been bloody, cried, afraid, and some have died during the call of duty upholding the honor and respect for the badge."

Sheriff Mike Roberson also underscored the badge's significance.

"What I ask you to do," Roberson said, "is every day when you pin this on, remember the promise that you made for public trust. Public trust is the only thing we have and that's the only way this badge works. If the public doesn't trust us, the badge doesn't mean anything."

The new detention officers, in addition to being sworn in, were formally welcomed into "our extended family here at the Sheriff's Office," said Steve Maynor, a longtime member of



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

New Chief Deputy Steve Maynor (left) is congratulated by Sheriff Mike Roberson.

the Sheriff's Office, who, with a new appointment, also achieved a milestone during the ceremony.

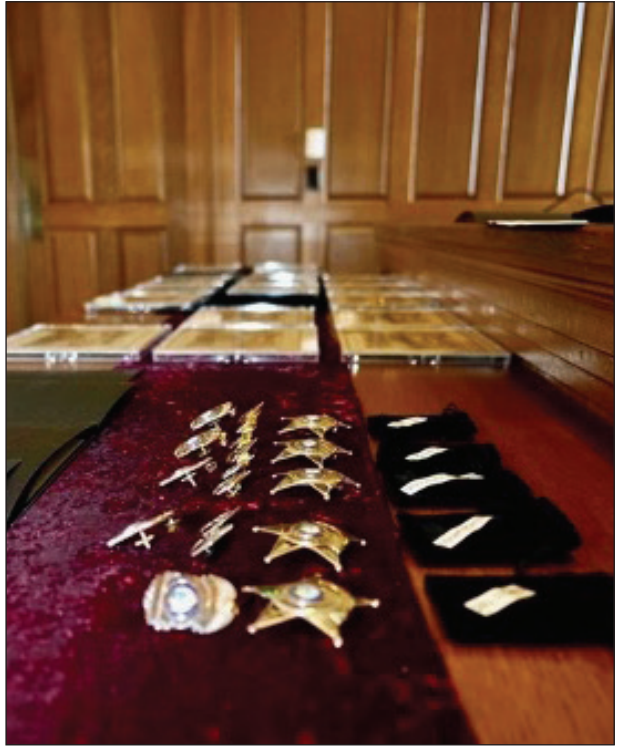
"It's my honor," Roberson said, "to appoint Steve Maynor as chief deputy."

The chief deputy's post "is probably the hardest job in the Sheriff's Office," Roberson said. "I'm very proud of the work Steve has done. He's been here for many, many years. There's still a lot of work for us to do

in this office. I'm proud of Steve's leadership as we move forward."

Maynor acknowledged the "opportunity and privilege the Sheriff has given me," and recognized his family and co-workers for their support.

"I would not be here if it wasn't for each of you," he said. "We have the best Sheriff's Office in the state of North Carolina, and I'm proud to be here with each and every one of you every day."



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Badges for promoted officers were on display at the Sheriff's Office's ceremony.

Other members of the Sheriff's Office were promoted to new positions and ranks, including Detention Officers Melissa Robinson and Jessica White promoted as staff sergeants; Michael Cox and Robbie Hussey promoted as staff sergeants

in Field Operations (Patrol); and Reggie Griffin promoted to community resources.

Receiving new assignments were Ricky Culberson (training), SSgt. Rischetta White (community service) and Marcus Hart (investigator).

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SPORTS NEWS &
ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH 30 - APRIL 5, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Nicole Clamann is making name
for herself on mountain bike scene

At just 15, Northwood
freshman takes
fifth at Tennessee
National

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Nicole Clamann could feel herself slipping back. After starting the first portion of her race at the Tennessee National, the premier mountain bike festival in the southeast, in fifth place, the Northwood freshman exited a wooded portion of the course and started on the more open portion of the race. She was passed once. Twice. Three times. And then a fourth. By the time Clamann realized what was happening, she fell back to ninth. But rather than let the stretch define her race, she rallied to take back every spot she lost. As the course began to undulate and introduce more hills, the 15-year-old found new energy that propelled her



Photo courtesy of NICA and Deborah Hage

Northwood freshman Nicole Clamann has been racing bikes since she was 9 years old.

back into fifth at the end of the first lap. She maintained a similar pace on her last two, ending the race in fifth with a time of 1:18:12.2. “It was my first really big mountain bike race I’ve ever done,” Clamann said. I wasn’t really sure what I was getting myself into, because I didn’t know the community super well. So I just kind of went out there and had a goal of getting fifth. I went in there not putting too much pressure on myself.”

While her trip to Tennessee this past weekend was the first major mountain biking race of her career, it certainly won’t be the last for the Northwood freshman. Biking is in her blood, after all.

Baby steps
While most toddlers explore their surroundings by walking, Clamann’s main mode of See **BIKE**, page B4



Photo courtesy of NICA and Deborah Hage

Northwood freshman Nicole Clamann finished first in her skill group at the Crankin’ sat the Creek event on March 5.

GIRLS SOCCER

Newcomers Cherry, Gray giving
Woods Charter a lift

BY SHELBY SWANSON
News + Record Correspondent

The Woods Charter girls soccer team is on a quest for redemption this spring after falling in last season’s 1A state final, and this year they have two new weapons in their arsenal. These weapons — freshman Amelia Cherry and junior Sienna Gray — put their skills on display in the team’s 4-0 win over Seaforth last Wednesday. Cherry had a hat trick in the first half, and Gray chimed in with a goal in the second half. While Woods Charter — which was undefeated as of press time Tuesday — already returns junior Leyla Noronha, who paced the Wolves with 50 goals last spring, as well as seniors Lucy Miller and Chloe Richard, Cherry and Gray are making a name for themselves so far this season. Cherry leads the team with 16 goals, while Gray is second in goals (13) and leads the team in assists (9). Cherry kept it simple after last week’s win. “It was great,” she said. “It was really exciting. I’m working really hard with this team as a freshman.” When head coach Graeme Stewart was asked about Cherry’s performance, he simply stated, “She’s got more to come.” “She’s talented,” he said. “She sees the pass. She’s got a great shot. She can be where she wants to be as she grows into the game.” Stewart has been especially impressed by how quickly Cherry has adjusted to the high school game. Transitioning from 8th grade to 9th grade means sometimes you’re going up against girls three years older than you. For Cherry, it hasn’t been a problem. “That’s a big physical difference,” Stewart said. “She plays a high level club, but you don’t see that in club, so you have to get used to it in high school. We’ve had some big, tough games against other 2A schools and she now knows. She knows her role and she’s playing really,



Staff photo by Nikki Wittt

really well.” Gray, who had the Wolves’ fourth goal of the match, is a transfer who played at Northwood last year and led the Chargers in goals (12). Stewart said few players transfer in to Woods Charter, and Gray is a “major addition” for the Wolves. “She plays with an intensity,” Stewart said. “She’s got good feet, skill and work rate. She just really got in front of (Seaforth).” In addition to Gray’s goal, the pressure she and See **SOCCER**, page B5

SPECIAL OLYMPICS | APRIL 4

Seaforth to host
Unified track
and field day

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

On Tuesday, the Seaforth campus will host its second Unified Event — this one focused on track and field — of the 2022-23 school year at 10 a.m. Seaforth’s Unified Club offers student-athletes without intellectual disabilities and students with intellectual disabilities to come together and compete in different sporting events. Seaforth hosted its first Unified event, centered around basketball, back in December. The return of Unified sports has been a welcome change for Hawks’ athletic director Jason Amy, who previously hosted the events while serving as the former AD at Northwood. “Obviously a lot of these kids don’t have the chance to play organized sports, so it’s just a fun day for them,” Amy said. “I try to make sure the student-athletes all understand that leadership goes well beyond just playing your sport. Just watching and letting other people have fun is really important.” Several different events will be open to athletes Tuesday, including the 50-yard run, the 50-yard walk, a softball and tennis ball throw and the long jump. Amy said he is planning to set up a side field with other equipment such as footballs, soccer balls and cornhole boards. Unified Sports is a program created by See **SEAFORTH**, page B5

Northwood forward Max Frazier
commits to Siena College

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

A member of the state runner-up Northwood boys basketball team announced finally announced his college choice Monday. Northwood senior Max Frazier picked up his first Divison-I offer from Siena College, located in Loudonville, N.Y. And shortly thereafter, on Monday, he committed to the Saints men’s basketball team. A member of the MAAC conference, Siena has made the men’s NCAA Tournament six times since 1989. The Saints most recently qualified for the big dance in 2010, when they lost to Purdue in the first round.

“I felt like once I went up there and got to visit the campus, I thought it was a good spot for me,” Frazier said. “It felt like a home. The people that were there took care of me.” A 6-foot-8 forward, Frazier played the last two seasons with the Northwood boys basketball team after transferring from Woods Charter following the 2020-21 season. In 57 games with the Chargers across two seasons, Frazier averaged 8.3 points, 6.0 rebounds and 1.2 blocks per game. While he was with the team, Northwood had an overall record of 62-7. As a senior this past winter, Frazier averaged 8.3 points and 6.2 rebounds per game, helping the Chargers advance all the way to the

finals of the 2A boys state tournament. Northwood eventually fell in the finals to undefeated Central Cabarrus. “It was an amazing experience,” Frazier said of his senior season. “I was so grateful I got to play with my whole team one last time. It didn’t end the way we wanted, but it was a great season. We had a lot of great moments and a lot of fun times.” Frazier was part of a hulking front line for the Chargers that also included senior Kenan Parrish, a 7-foot center who also received recent recruiting buzz. Earlier this week, Parish an- See **FRAZIER**, page B5



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Max Frazier recently committed to Siena, a Division-I school in New York state.

SCORES & SCHEDULES		
SCORES	Girls lacrosse	Boys lacrosse
TUESDAY, MARCH 21	East Chapel Hill 23, Seaforth 2	Seaforth at Western Alamance (6 p.m.)
Boys tennis	SCHEDULES	
Jordan-Matthews 5, Asheboro 4	TUESDAY, MARCH 28	Girls soccer
Softball	Boys golf	Jordan-Matthews vs. Carrboro (6 p.m.)
Person 16, Northwood 0 Chatham Central 15, Bartlett Yancey 1 Jordan-Matthews 13, Seaforth 3	Chatham Central vs. Southwestern Randolph (3:30 p.m.)	FRIDAY MARCH 31
Baseball	Boys tennis	Softball
Cedar Ridge 7, Northwood 1 North Moore 4, Chatham Central 3 Seaforth 8, Bartlett Yancey 7	Chatham Charter vs. Chatham Central (4 p.m.) Seaforth at North Moore (4:30 p.m.) Northwood vs. Western Alamance (4:30 p.m.)	Northwood vs. Eastern Alamance (6 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Cummings (4:30 p.m., double-header)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22	Girls soccer	Boys lacrosse
Boys tennis	Chatham Charter vs. N.C. Leadership Academy (4:30 p.m.) Woods Charter vs. Raleigh Charter (6 p.m.)	Seaforth at Eastern Alamance (6 p.m.)
Northwood 6, Orange 3 Seaforth 9, Jordan-Matthews 0	Softball	Girls soccer
Baseball	Seaforth vs. Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Chatham Central (6 p.m.)	Woods Charter vs. East Carteret (5 p.m., tournament) Jordan-Matthews vs. Asheboro (6 p.m.)
Seaforth 9, Southeast Raleigh 2 Providence Grove 4, Northwood 3	Baseball	Softball
Girls soccer	Chatham Charter at Clover Garden (4 p.m.) Chatham Central vs. Graham (6 p.m.) Northwood vs. Person (6 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Seaforth (7 p.m.)	Jordan-Matthews at Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.) Chatham Central vs. Graham (6:30 p.m.)
Woods Charter 4, Seaforth 0 Northwood 9, Person 0 Jordan-Matthews 3, Asheboro 3	Boys lacrosse	Baseball
Girls lacrosse	Northwood at Western Alamance (6 p.m.) Seaforth at Williams (6 p.m.)	Chatham Central at Graham (5 p.m.) Chatham Charter vs. Southern Wake Academy (6 p.m.) Northwood at Person (7 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Jordan-Matthews (7 p.m.)
Carrboro 18, Seaforth 11	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29	SATURDAY, APRIL 1
THURSDAY, MARCH 23	Boys golf	Girls lacrosse
Boys tennis	Seaforth vs. North Moore at Beacon Ridge Country Club (3:30 p.m.)	Northwood at Croatan (10 a.m.)
Northwood 6, Orange 3	Track and field	Girls soccer
Softball	Mid-Carolina Conference meet at Chatham Central (4 p.m.)	Woods Charter vs. Southwest Onslow (11 a.m., tournament)
Southern Lee 16, Northwood 4	Boys tennis	Track and field
Girls soccer	Northwood at Williams (4:30 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Graham (4:30 p.m.)	Chatham County Championships at Northwood (all day)
Jordan-Matthews 8, Cummings 1	Girls lacrosse	MONDAY, APRIL 3
Boys lacrosse	Northwood vs. Seaforth (5:30 p.m.)	Boys golf
Seaforth 13, Cedar Ridge 2	Softball	Northwood vs. Western Alamance at Indian Valley (4 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Graham (4:30 p.m.)
FRIDAY, MARCH 24	Northwood at Person (6 p.m.)	Boys tennis
Softball	Baseball	Chatham Charter vs. Cornerstone Charter (4 p.m.) Northwood at Cedar Ridge (4:30 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Riverside (4:30 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Chatham Central (4:30 p.m.)
Seaforth 15, Graham 9 Chatham Central 12, North Moore 6	Girls soccer	Girls lacrosse
Baseball	Seaforth vs. Cummings (6 p.m.)	Seaforth vs. Riverside at Jordan Super Site (5 p.m.)
Chatham Charter 11, River Mill 1 (Game 1) Chatham Charter 15, River Mill 0 (Game 2) Northwood 8, Cedar Ridge 4 Chatham Central 7, North Moore 0 Jordan-Matthews 21, Graham 1 Seaforth 7, Bartlett Yancey 6	Boys lacrosse	Boys lacrosse
SATURDAY, MARCH 25	Northwood vs. Union Pines (7 p.m.)	Northwood vs. Jack Britt (6 p.m.)
Softball	THURSDAY, MARCH 30	Girls soccer
Northwood 14, North Raleigh Christian Academy 6 Jordan 15, Northwood 5	Boys tennis	Jordan-Matthews vs. Graham (6 p.m.) Seaforth vs. Riverside (6:30 p.m.) Northwood vs. Eastern Alamance (6:45 p.m.)
Baseball	Chatham Charter vs. North Moore (4 p.m.) Northwood at Chapel Hill (4 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Lee County (4:30 p.m.) Chatham Central vs. Graham (4:30 p.m.)	Baseball
Jordan-Matthews 3, North Moore 1	Softball	Northwood vs. Southern Lee (7 p.m.)
MONDAY, MARCH 27	Chatham Charter at Cornerstone Charter (5 p.m.)	Girls lacrosse
Boys tennis		Northwood at Jordan (7 p.m.)
North Moore 6, Chatham Central 3		

TRACK AND FIELD

Seaforth preparing for Chatham County Championships

BY JEREMY VERNON

News + Record Sports Editor

Last Thursday saw the majority of the Seaforth track and field team compete in a conference tilt against Bartlett Yancey and Cummings, but sophomore Jack Anstrom was on his own at the Raleigh Relays.

Competing against some of the top athletes in North Carolina, Anstrom finished the 3,200-meter race in a time of 9:27.40. The time was the fastest of any sophomore in the event, and it would have

won the 3,200 at last year’s 2A outdoor track and field championships.

Anstrom is already having a wildly successful year. Back in the fall, he won the 2A boys cross country state championship. And at the New Balance National Indoor Championships in Boston earlier this month, he placed 43rd out of 135 competitors in the 2-mile race with a time of 9:16.38.

Chathamites competing at Cummings last Thursday also had a solid showing, with numerous Seaforth athletes claiming first place in their

respective events. Sophomore Will Cuicchi won both the 400- and 800-meter races, while sophomore Nathan Smith won the 1,600 and and sophomore Keni Thompson won the 3,200. In the field events, junior Chris Scanlon won the pole vault with a height of 7-06.00.

On the girls side, Seaforth sohomore Malana McLean won the 100- and 200-meter dashes, while sophomore Claire Morgan claimed first in both the 800- and 1,600-meter races. Junior Shayna Whitney also won the pole vault.

As a team, the Seaforth girls

took home first in the 4x100 relay, edging out Cummings.

Seaforth will be one of several local schools competing at the Chatham County Championships on Saturday, along with Northwood, Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Charter.

At last year’s event, Northwood won both the boys and girls titles at the event, with Seaforth finishing third in both competitions. The lone Hawks to win their individual track events at last year’s county championships were Anthony Vesce (100- and

200-meter dash) and Juliette VanOlinda (100- and 300-meter hurdles), who are both juniors now. McLean won last year’s long jump with a distance of 14-03.00.

This year’s outdoor track and field regionals will take place on May 12-13, with the state championships following the weekend after. Seaforth finished seventh in the boys 2A mideast regional and 11th in the girls in 2022.

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

GIRLS LACROSSE

Northwood and Seaforth met for 2nd time Wednesday

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Chatham County's two high school girls lacrosse teams — Northwood and Seaforth — met for the

second time this season Wednesday, a game which occurred after press time. Coming into the matchup, the two teams had experienced very different levels of success this spring.

The Chargers — who came into the game with a 5-3 overall record and 3-2 in conference play — won the first matchup between the two teams, 19-4, on March 6. Both Northwood and Seaforth

are competing as part of the same conference, which also features talented teams East Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill and Carboro. Those three teams had a combined record of 21-4 entering this week's games.

Leading the charge for Northwood this season on offense has been senior Mia Collins, who had a team-high 32 goals coming into Wednesday's game against Seaforth. She's well on her way to breaking her career high of 46, which she set as a junior last season.

Three other Chargers — junior Ryan Tinervin (23), senior Grace Costa (21) and senior Sophie Cremeans (16) have at least 15 goals, while Cremeans leads the team with 11 assists and Costa paces the squad with 56 ground balls and 35 draw controls. In goal, sophomore Silvy Hopp has 49 saves over 345 minutes of action.

"We wouldn't be the team we are without (our seniors)," said North-

wood head coach Larry Fritsche. "That starts with practices, and it starts with what happens outside of practices. You can see when we're out there playing. We're not just looking to just dish it to our high-performance players. It's a team focus."

Last season, Northwood boasted a 12-4 overall record. The Chargers reached the second round of the state playoffs before falling to Holly Springs, 22-10.

Seaforth, meanwhile, came into Wednesday's game with an 0-6 record. Despite being winless, the Hawks have plenty to be proud in their first season as a varsity program. Head coach Charles Davis' squad almost pulled out its first-ever win in a 9-8 double-overtime loss to Jordan (Durham) High on March 20, and the Hawks came into the game against Northwood averaging more than seven goals per game this season.

Seaforth's roster features two juniors,

four sophomores and 19 freshmen. The Hawks have been led in attack this season by freshman Renee Rizvi, who had 15 goals over five games entering this week. Fellow freshmen Kylyn Schlosser and Grace Davis led the team with three assists each.

Girls lacrosse is the only sport at Seaforth without a junior varsity team, but the plan is to add one sometime over the next several seasons while the program grows its numbers.

"I couldn't be happier with the milestone we've reached in the county this year," Fritsche said of Seaforth finally adding a varsity team. "A few years ago, it feels like we were just getting rec off the ground. That's a lot of dedicated coaches, parents and kids persisting."

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



CN+R file photo

Northwood senior Grace Costa (4) has 21 goals and nine assists so far this season.

Council on Aging Weekly Activities Calendar

Monday, April 3

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)**
- 10 a.m. - **Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie**
- 11 a.m. - **Activity w/Alan; Golf at Siler City Country Club**
- 2 p.m. - **Table Tennis**
- 3 p.m. - **Caregiver Virtual Support Group**

Western Chatham Senior Center

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

Tuesday, April 4

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **3G's Men's Group**
- 10 a.m. - **Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joe**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Gym Orientation**
- 11 a.m. - **April Birthday & Spring Party w/Liz**
- 1 p.m. - **Rummikub**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:45 a.m. - **Chair Exercises w/Olivia (in-person and Zoom)**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Ping Pong; Games w/Chatham County Sheriff's Office**
- 12:30 p.m. - **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group**
- 1 p.m. - **Rook/Phase 10/Rummikub; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering**
- 2 p.m. - **Fitness Room Orientation**

Wednesday, April 5

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom); Craft w/ Wynne; Coffee & Games w/Chatham County Sheriff's Department**
- 12:30 p.m. - **Day Trip to Priority Day Farm LLC (RSVP Jackie)**
- 1 p.m. - **Open Art Studio (Bring Your Own Project)**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Bible Study; Cornhole**
- 11 a.m. - **Lunch Bunch, Trip to Priority Farms, LLC**
- 2 p.m. - **Crafting w/Kathryn**
- 3:30 p.m. - **Beginning Quilting**

Thursday, April 6

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Blood Pressure Screening**
- 10 a.m. - **Crafts & Chat; Chair Volleyball**
- 11 a.m. - **"A Versatile Pantry and Food Demo" w/Tara Gregory**
- 1 p.m. - **Games/Cards; Bridge**
- 1:30 p.m. - **Line Dancing**
- 3 p.m. - **Gentle Yoga w/Liz**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:00 a.m. - **Men's Coffee & Conversations**
- 10 a.m. - **Music Jam Session ; Bocce & Horseshoes; Mental Health w/Tammy Curry**

- 1 p.m. - **Book Club**
- 2 p.m. - **Tai Chi**
- 3 p.m. - **Thursday Social (Movie)**

Friday, April 7

COA Centers Closed for Good Friday

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

Eastern Chatham Senior Center
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center
919-742-3975

Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org

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Chatham News + Record Local Service Directory

BIKE

Continued from page B1

transportation from the early age of 3 years old was a Strider bike. Her dad, Michael, said Nicole would scoot around the house for hours at a time with the bike straddled between her legs. While not necessarily “riding,” it wouldn’t take long for her to make the jump.

Over the next few years, Nicole began taking her bike outside the house and riding around the neighborhood. Eventually, her parents, Michael and Karin, had to make sure one of them was present each time she stepped outside.

“She would go around the neighborhood with it to the point where we had to have one of the two of us parents had to be stationed at different parts of the big hill,” Michael joked. “(Biking) has always been a presence in her life. She took to it pretty young and then became pretty passionate about it.”

As the years progressed, Michael introduced her to a bike with 10-inch wheels, and then he had her start riding trails. By the time Nicole was 9 years old, she started participating in her first organized events.

And in 2020 at just 13 years old, Nicole began riding with the Chatham County Chaos, a local mountain biking team that is part of the North Carolina Interscholastic Cycling League (NCICL), a branch of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA).

Clamann’s first organized race with the team took place on March 8. One week later, the season was canceled following the initial outbreak of COVID-19. While things ended rather abruptly in her first season with the team, Clamann admitted she wasn’t too upset with the news.

“Honestly, I wasn’t loving it that much,” Nicole said. “My first season, I wasn’t that great, so I wasn’t that super bummed out (when the season was canceled). Honestly, I don’t remember it hitting me that hard.”

Renewed focus

While the initial news of the canceled season didn’t have much of an effect on Nicole, she started to realize the extended break brought on by the pandemic was the perfect situation for her to kick her training into another gear.

After a few months, Nicole began working with a personal trainer to improve her fitness and technique. She returned for her first event on Sep. 18, 2021, and placed first in her skill group at Virginia’s Blue Ridge GO Cross event sponsored by Deshutes Brewery. Over the course of that first year, she claimed eight podium spots (top-three finishes) and finished second in four straight races from Oct. 31 to November 20.

During 2022, Nicole raced in 14 events while moving up to a higher skill level of CAT 3. Mountain biking events are often broken up by skill level, with CAT 1 being the most competitive and so on. In her final race of the year on Dec. 4, she claimed a third-place finish in the CAT 1 1/2/3 race (which includes riders from all three CATs) at the 2022 NCCX Race No. 12 in Salisbury.

Nicole also competes in Cyclocross, which is a form of racing that takes place on a variety of surfaces (asphalt, grass, dirt trails, etc.) and features quick, punchier sections. Races last around 45 minutes compared to longer mountain bike races, which can sometimes take an hour and a half.



Photo courtesy of Karin Clamann

Nicole Clamann takes a breather after finishing fifth in her race at the Tennessee National last weekend.

This past winter, Nicole earned a bid to the USA Cycling Cyclocross National Championships as a member of the Blue Ridge Cross Cyclocross team. She finished 19th out of 31 competitors in what was her first national event of that type.

“I think during mountain-bike season I want to get right back to Cyclocross, and when I’m doing Cyclocross I want to get right into mountain-biking. But this year has been different. I’ve really taken to mountain-biking, and it’s something I’ve really found a passion for.”

But beyond racing, one thing Nicole is grateful cycling introduced her to is the GRiT (Girls Riding Together) program. According to NICA, GRiT is designed to recruit and retain more girls and female coaches inside the association.

Since joining GRiT back in 2020, Nicole said she has seen the group’s numbers explode. As a senior ambassador for the program, she helps run the North Carolina GRiT social media pages. She’s also the host of the NC GRiT Podcast, which posts new episodes monthly.

“I love it so much. It’s honestly one of my favorite things,” Nicole said. “I’ve met so many amazing people through it, and I love being part of that community that’s getting more girls on bikes. I also like seeing how much it has changed.”

Looking forward

Sporting a new bike — an orange and black Santa Cruz Blur — Nicole began her 2023 season with the Chatham Chaos on March 5 in Brown’s Creek.

Competing in the JV2 Girls race, Nicole completed the course in 1:09:50.36, over three minutes faster than the second-place finisher. Her time would have also placed her second in the varsity girls race behind Stella Slingsby of Asheville High.

Nicole’s performance helped the Chaos finish 14th of the 49 participating teams. The Chaos’ next event — the Dark Mountain Dash — takes place this Sunday in Wilkesboro.

But beyond this mountain biking season, Nicole already has her sights set on some larger personal goals. Among the first things on her agenda is earning an invite to race for a national development team. Beyond that, she also would love to ride for a World Cup team one day. The world cup circuit runs year round and features races across Europe and Australia.

And there’s one more goal she has her eye on. One she’s almost hesitant to mention.

“I mean, this is a total dream, but the Olympics would be amazing,” she said.

It might seem like a dream now, but then again, these past few years haven’t turned out exactly how Nicole planned, either.

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



Photo courtesy of Chatham Central athletics

Ring display

Chatham Central seniors Ellie Phillips and Olivia Brooks (center) pose with their new state championship rings. Brooks and Phillips won the 1A state doubles championship this fall, besting Isabella Ross and Nina Holton of Bishop McGuinness, 7-6 (1), 6-3, on Oct. 29.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

**Town of Siler City
PO Box 769
Siler City, NC 27344-0769
PH: 919-742-4731**

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Siler City.

Request for Release of Funds

On or about **April 14, 2023**, the above named Town of Siler City will submit a request to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for the release of Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project as described below.

Water & Sewer Improvements to serve Wolfspeed

The Town of Siler City is requesting a total of \$2,500,000 from the NC Department of Commerce to be used for the installation of water and sewer improvements to serve Wolfspeed, an existing business expanding their operations into the Town of Siler City.

Total Project Cost = \$12,252,860; Total CDBG Cost = \$2,500,000; Total Other Cost: \$9,752,860;
CDBG/Total Cost Percent = 20.4%

Town of Siler City, Chatham County, North Carolina
Water and Sewer Improvements - Wolfspeed

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Town of Siler City has determined the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file to be examined or copied at the Siler City Town Hall, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, NC between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm.

Public Comments on Finding

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Town of Siler City, Thomas K. Price, III, Mayor. All comments received by April 13, 2023 will be considered by the Town of Siler City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

Environmental Certification

The Town of Siler City certifies to the NC Department of Commerce that Thomas K. Price, III in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relations to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The NC Department of Commerce’s approval of this certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Siler City to use Program funds.

Objections to State Release of Funds

The NC Department of Commerce will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Siler City’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Siler City, (b) the Town of Siler City omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations as 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the NC Department of Commerce; or (d) another Federal Agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and shall be addressed and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the NC Department of Commerce at 4346 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4346. Potential objectors should contact the NC Department of Commerce to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Hank Raper, Siler City Town Manager at 919-742-4731 or at 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, NC for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Póngase en contacto con Hank Raper, Siler City Town Manager at 919-742-4731 o menos 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, NC de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Thomas K. Price, III
Mayor



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

Woods Charter senior Lucy Miller passes the ball in the Wolves' 4-0 win over Seaforth

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

Noronha applied from the forward positions was disruptive for the Hawks. The two helped the Wolves dominate possession, as the Hawks struggled to even bring the ball to mid-field without the juniors suffocating them.

Noronha said this was all according to plan. The Wolves scouted several of Seaforth's quality club players in the middle, such as freshman Sofia Viana, and made sure to shut them down.

While Gray and Cherry surely boost Woods Charters' chances of making it back to the 1A state final, Stewart is quick

to emphasize to his players that the goal is still "way off." It's a faint notion, something Stewart said "would be nice", but doesn't occupy much of his mental space at the moment.

"We don't talk about that," he said. "The cliché is it's one game at a time. If that happens, fantastic. We got there last year and we enjoyed it. We didn't get the result we want, but the team we played against are an outstanding team. So what we do use it for is we know the level of play that it takes, which is why we're playing really good teams like Seaforth."

Woods Charter hosted Uwharrie Charter on Tuesday and also plays at home Thursday at 6 p.m. against Northwood.

Student-led scholarship hopes to shine a light on Chatham

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — During senior year of high school, it can feel like an overwhelming task to decide which direction your future should go.

If you decide you want to go to college, there can often be limiting factors like cost or location. Students at Northwood High School understood those challenges, and it led them to develop the Atkins Chatham Scholars Fund.

This student-led, student-funded scholarship aims to remove the barriers for Chatham County students to attend four-year colleges or universities by providing scholarship funding for underprivileged students.

"We're the first for students, by students scholarship in the county," Revy Godehn, a senior at Northwood and co-director of the Atkins Scholarship, said. "That makes us unique because we are students raising money for other students by going out into the community."

The 2020 recipient, Michael Rodriguez from Jordan-Matthews High School, is now a junior at UNC-Charlotte pursuing a degree in physics. He was given \$2,000 from the fund.

Now in its third year, the scholarship team hopes to raise at least \$2,500 for the scholarship. The money will be given to one student in the district who meets three criteria: students must be pursuing a bachelor's degree, possess a GPA of 3.0 or above and have a household income at or below \$60,000.

The Atkins Scholarship began during COVID-19 as a way for students to help their peers navigate some of the hardships from the pandemic. It's run through Chatham Youth, a student organization aimed at building community connections for students through service and engagement.

The scholarship is named for Simon Green Atkins, an African American educator from Chatham who was born into slavery in 1863 and devoted his life to improving health, housing and economic status for Black North Carolinians. He served as founding president of Winston-Salem State University, a historically Black college, and the North Carolina Negro Teachers' Association.

So far, the scholarship has raised about 40% of its goal, raising around \$1,000. The students have also made deals with other high schools in the district to ensure a portion of proceeds from prom tickets go toward the scholarship.



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Northwood High School seniors Scott Oglesbee, left, Revy Godehn, center, and Gio Cacciato, right, are leaders of the Chatham Youth Atkins Scholarship. The scholarship hopes to provide at least \$2,500 toward college for an underprivileged student in the county.

The scholarship committee is working with Chatham Education Foundation to select the winner and track funding. The group has also collaborated with student councils at other high schools to spread the word.

"Chatham Education Foundation is excited to partner with Chatham County Schools' students as the non-profit lead for the Atkins Scholarship Fund," Jaime Detzi, executive director of Chatham Education Foundation, said. "We are proud to work alongside these amazing students as they lead the program with professionalism, creativity and a true dedication to adding scholarship opportunities for their peers."

This year's scholarship team is five Northwood seniors and one senior from Chatham School of Science & Engineering. They've taken the Atkins Scholarship in a new direction, focusing on small local businesses and school fundraisers to generate funding.

"This scholarship is a good way to get involved in the community and show you care about students," said Scott Oglesbee, senior at Northwood and president of Chatham Youth.

In 2022, only 26% of North Carolinians graduated with a college degree, according to myFutureNC. That number is even lower in Chatham County at 24%. While the scholarship can't completely alleviate those systemic education issues, Godehn said it's a step in proving Chatham students value education and want to minimize the attainment gap.

"In our modern society, it's vital to have access to education," she said. "It's having another way to help the community to have the freedom to explore careers and go farther."

Gio Cacciato, a senior at Northwood and co-director for the Atkins Scholarship, said he feels that when

it comes to higher education, the playing field isn't always even. He said that's especially true when you compare Chatham to surrounding wealthier districts like Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools or Wake County, which have access to more local funding opportunities and have more local scholarships. Atkins is one of only a handful of Chatham-specific scholarships.

"This isn't open to students in the Triangle or students in the region, it's just Chatham," Godehn said. "No matter what, it's going to help Chatham County."

The group said it was important to them for the scholarship to be accessible and achievable. Godehn said she hopes the scholarship will give the county the push it needs to have more opportunities for students for brighter futures.

Oglesbee said the goal of Chatham Youth is to build a bridge between students and the community. Beyond the Atkins Scholarship, the organization also runs CCS Serves, a hub for students to connect with community service opportunities in the area and serve with local businesses and organizations.

"By providing volunteer opportunities and providing access to higher education, the goal is to make both aspects of the community more in tune with each other," Oglesbee said.

As the county grows, Oglesbee said connecting students and businesses is even more important. Businesses are flocking to Pittsboro with the rise of Chatham Park and economic development announcements, which takes away much of the small-town feel Pittsboro once had. Oglesbee said Chatham Youth hopes to build community connections between students and new businesses.

As the program grows in future years, the student-run scholarship committee hopes to be able to provide funding for four-year scholarships instead of just one-time donations.

"Above all else, we just want to make a genuine impact and actually know that we helped people," Godehn said.

Other students on the Atkins Scholarship committee include Northwood seniors Lily-Kate Witcher and Ben Starling, and Chatham School of Science & Engineering senior Sean Abenes.

The deadline to apply for the Atkins Scholarship is April 21 at bit.ly/AtkinsApply. Donations for the scholarship can be made through Stripe at bit.ly/CCSatkinsdonate. For more information visit chathamyouthnc.wixsite.com/home.



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Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center

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



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



FRAZIER

Continued from page B1

nounced on social media that he received a scholarship offer from Appalachian State. He also has offers from Army, Navy and Wingate under his belt.

"It's incredible," Frazier said of his teammates' journey the past several seasons. "His development over the season and throughout the

years, he has become an overall amazing player, and he should be playing at a high level just like me. He's a great player."

Northwood will have to figure out a way to replace both Frazier and Parrish when they return the court for the 2023-24 season. It will be hard to replicate the size the pair brought to the table, but one player who could step into a front-court role in their place is current freshman

Chad Graves, a 6-foot-8 forward who figures to be part of the team's plans for the future.

The Chargers have had a winning record in each of the past five seasons under head coach Matt Brown. The last time Northwood failed to finish above .500 was in 2017-18 (9-16 overall).

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

SEAFORTH

Continued from page B1

Special Olympics. According to their website, around 1.2 million people worldwide participate in Unified Sports, and ESPN is the program's Global Presenting Sponsor.

Currently, there are over 8,000 schools with Unified programs across the United States, with the goal of reaching at least 10,000 by the end of next year.

Seaforth's Unified track day will be the second Special Olympics event hosted at the school this week. On Saturday, Special Olympics N.C. held its annual cheerleading competition at the school. In total, more than 120 athletes across 14 counties competed at the event, which offered athletes with intellectual disabilities the chance to show off routines they had been practicing over the previous months. This was the first time Chatham County hosted a Special Olympics N.C. event and the first time the event took place since before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019.

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



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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On February 2, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office received a report of possible sexual abuse against minors. Investigators discovered that two juveniles were victimized, and that the suspect facilitated the creation of child pornographic images and videos and participated in the sale of obscene material.

On March 17, Amanda Marie Pyles, 35, of 1537 N.C. Hwy. 42, Goldston, was arrested by SSgt. Rebecca Madden for human trafficking, sexual servitude, first degree sex exploitation of a minor, second degree sex exploitation of a minor, disseminate obscenity, and child abuse. Pyles was issued a \$500,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 24.

In connection, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office on February 8 charged Rusty Lane Elkins, 61, of 135 E. Goldbar Ave., Goldston, with three counts of first degree sexual exploitation of a minor, three counts of second degree sexual exploitation of a minor, three counts of first degree statutory sex offense, three counts of indecent liberties with child, two counts of crimes against nature, and three counts of employing or permitting minor to assist in offense.

BLOTTER

On March 20, Santiago Deferia

Garcia, 30, of 277 S. Firetower Rd., Florence, S.C., was arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for assault on a female. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on March 29.

Garcia was also arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for failure to appear – assault on a female. He was issued a \$750.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on March 29.

On March 21, Timothy Rayshan White, 35, of 420 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Jessie Taub for felony probation violation. He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Superior Court on April 3.

On March 24, James Rendell Thomas, 52, of 3800 Old U.S. 1, New Hill, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 5.

On March 24, Mark Jonathan Manlove, 39, of 22 B Bell Circle, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court on March 29.

On March 25, Hampton Carrol Price, 33, of 309 E. Raleigh St., Siler City, was

arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for domestic violence protective order. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on March 29.

On March 26, Jose Luis Gonzalez, 33, of 1424 Curfman St., Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Zackary Gross for simple assault. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on March 29.

On March 26, Jason Thomas Robinson, 21, of 908 Gum Springs Church Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 19.

On March 26, George Jeffrey Minter, 52, of 427 Rosser Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for four Orders for Arrest – child support. He was issued a \$40,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 28.

On March 27, Thomas Andrew Fore, 42, of 2363 Sheriff Johnson Rd., Lillington, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for felony larceny, possession of stolen property and obtaining property by false pretenses. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 24.

On March 27, Christopher James Smith, 36, of 1312 McLaurin Rd., Siler

City, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for felony larceny, possession of stolen goods and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 24.

On March 27, Dewayne Kenneth Roney, 39, 583 Hillcrest Ave., Goldston, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for assault on a female, interfere with emergency communications, false imprisonment and misdemeanor stalking. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 5.

On March 27, Ashleigh Rose Glover, 33, of 583 Hillcrest Ave., Goldston, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for assault and battery and communicating threats. She was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on March 29.

On March 27, Christopher C Reed, 35, of 117 The Church Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by SSgt. Ashley Ellington for failure to appear — child support. He was issued a \$14,168 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court on April 3.

On March 27, Mariyah Alysse Lynn Tran, 23, of 704 Poe Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for simple assault. She was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 25.

Siler City resident arrested after bringing gun to Chatham Central High School

CN+R Staff Report

BEAR CREEK — A Siler City man was arrested Tuesday after he brought a gun to Chatham Central High School, according to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

The man, identified as Justin Ryan Green, 22, brought the gun to the high school at about 2:15 p.m. on March 10, according to police reports. Green bran-

dished a handgun to a student with whom he was familiar due to an off-campus incident earlier in the week, police said.

Green, who did not get out of his vehicle, immediately left campus. Deputies and the School Resource Officer investigated the incident and

secured warrants for Green.

On March 21, Green was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for possessing a gun on education property, going armed to the terror of people, assault with a deadly weapon and communicating threats.

Green was initially issued no bond, but that was changed to \$50,000 bond with GPS monitoring, according to the sheriff's office.

"The district followed all established protocols to ensure the safety of students and communications with families about this matter," said Chatham County Schools officials in a statement to the News + Record.

"The incident was reported immediately to law enforcement, and it is our hope that this individual will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," the statement read. "Schools must

be safe places for our students. We will continue to deploy every tool at our disposal to ensure that this is a reality every day in our schools. In Chatham County Schools, safety is our number one priority. All further inquiries about this matter should be directed to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office."

Green is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on March 27.

Soil and Water Conservation District accepting applications for Resource Conservation Workshop

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for the Resource Conservation Workshop scheduled for June 25-30 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

The Resource Conservation Workshop involves study and hands-on participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed at N.C. State campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. Students should come prepared to meet the primary objective of the workshop — learn about natural resources and their management in today's global environment.

Awards and scholarships can be won and are presented to students under several awards programs.

The Resource Conservation Workshop is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation, N.C. State University Crop and Soil Science Department, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter.

The Resource Conservation Workshop is designed to accommodate up to 104 students. Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District will sponsor at least one student to attend. Eligible students include rising

sophomore, junior and senior high school students who have demonstrated an interest in natural resource conservation.

Applications can be found online at <https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/documents/APPLICATIONFORM.pdf> or by contacting Education Coordinator Brandy Oldham by phone, 919-545-8440 or via email, brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov. Applications must be submitted no later than April 14. Applications should be mailed to 1192 U.S. 64 W. Business, Suite 200, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312. If applicants prefer and are able to attach all required information, they may submit their applications via email to Oldham.

Chatham GOP's convention

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Republican Party Convention was held on March 18 at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro.

Executive committee officers elected for 2023-2025 were Chairperson Terry Schmidt; 1st Vice Chairperson Greg Preston; 2nd Vice Chairperson Joe Godfrey; Secretary Mike Marino; and Treasurer Gayle Daniel.

The convention passed several resolutions, including supporting nine members on the U.S. Supreme Court; closing Republican primaries in North Carolina; requesting that President Biden take action to defeat the fentanyl crisis; and two resolutions supporting voter integrity and opposing voter suppression.

Convention speakers included Hal Weatherman and Allen Mashburn, candidates for N.C. Lieutenant Governor; Charles Dingee, candidate for N.C. State Auditor; Chris Castelli, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives; and Judge Valerie Zachary, candidate for the N.C. Court of Appeals.

Keynote speakers were Sen. Ted Budd and Dr. Paul Brintley of the Faith and Freedom Coalition. The convention collected baby bundle items for junior military families.

George Moses Horton Middle named PTEC signature school

From Chatham County Schools

The Piedmont Triad Education Consortium (PTEC) has recognized George Moses Horton Middle School as one of 24 North Carolina schools given the distinction of a PTEC Signature School.

PTEC consists of 18 counties across North Carolina. To be considered, a PTEC signature school must be able to show widespread increases in measurable outcomes, such as testing data. Schools must have strong community ties and high-quality



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools

George Moses Horton Middle School was named a Signature School by the Piedmont Triad Education Consortium. From left to right: Dr. Anthony Jackson; Colleen D'Angelo, 5th grade teacher; Bradyn Robinson, principal; Nina Eaddy, 7th grade teacher.



These Rotarians did an amazing job at the Haw River Clean-Up! As a collective group of 14 (not all are pictured), they covered 3 sections of the river and collected: 14 bags of trash, 10 bags of recycling, several tires, a chair, a shopping cart, a Nerf Blaster, and a PICK-AXE! This is one of many examples of how Rotarians are making a difference in our community. Want to know more? Check out our website &/or come join us for a meeting and lunch, Wednesdays at noon (Postal Fish Company).

rotaryofpittsboro.org



PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board talks new fees, OKs preliminary plans for subdivision

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Commissioners met in two sessions on Monday, including a special work session to discuss a new system development fee and a regular meeting, where they approved a preliminary plat for a new subdivision.

System Development Fees
The board started a special work session meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday evening, where interim Town Manager Kent Jackson provided additional information on proposed system development fees.
Jackson said staff hasn't made a recommendation as to what the fee schedule will be, but said the special session was called to help provide more information.
"This is to provide additional perspectives to help us start to narrow in on an SDF fee or range of fees," Jackson said.
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.
Engineering firm Freese and Nichols conducted a study to help determine the maximum SDF Pittsboro could charge per service unit. Currently, the town charges \$4,200 to tap into the water and wastewater system. Freese and Nichols calculated Pittsboro could charge up to \$39,000 per service unit, more than nine times the current fee.
Public comments during the previous meeting addressed concerns, particularly at the jarring increase. Commissioners asked Jackson and staff to look into what neighboring municipalities were charging developers for SDFs to get an idea of what their fees could look like. The communities commissioners examined were Sanford, Apex and Fuquay-Varina, all of which are comparable in size to Pittsboro. Sanford charges just shy of \$3,000 for its SDF, Apex's SDF is set to \$5,458 and Fuquay-Varina's is set at \$6,280 for residential developments and \$5,250 for nonresidential developments.
"There were a few things we were hoping to see and visualize with this," Jackson said. "How

do we stand currently with some of our neighbors? This gives us an idea of if ... we're disparate enough that we need to take it into consideration when we're setting these fees."
Jackson said the calculated maximum fee proposed to the town is "quite extreme," citing a UNC-Chapel Hill study on SDFs, which showed only 15% of municipalities appeared to be charging a maximum amount allotted.
"That gives another metric of how other utilities are using the analysis for setting a fee," Jackson said.
Commissioners had different ideas of how the SDFs should be arranged. Commissioners Kyle Shipp and John Bonitz both were interested in looking at having different SDFs for different types of development. Shipp said he was interested in looking into a scaled SDF based on the amount of square footage or based on whether the development would be residential or commercial. Bonitz added to Shipp's comments, saying Pittsboro's need for more commercial developments should be taken into account when setting the SDFs.
"Because of our greater need for commercial development

over residential development, perhaps we want to consider having the higher residential fee structure and a lower commercial fee, such as the square footage method," Bonitz said. "I would like to ask our engineers to go back and to analyze that."
Bonitz also said he wants to set a SDF "sooner rather than later," and Jackson agreed, saying waiting too long could impact the timeline for a potential merger with Sanford's water system.
"We've had more recent conversations with them about some of the additional information that is needed in order to set a fee," Jackson said. "With some of the major capital projects that also have potential implications for the merger, the city of Sanford has expressed some interest in us reaching an SDF fee at the earliest practical time."
Jackson said staff will prepare an ordinance to set the SDF for an upcoming meeting. A date for that vote hasn't been determined.

A new subdivision for Chatham Park

Commissioners also approved preliminary plats for a

new subdivision, which would be located in Chatham Park.
Pittsboro Planning Project Manager Molly Boyle presented the plans to the board Monday evening during the regular meeting session. The new major subdivision would have 70 single-family lots in more than 33 acres of space.
Water and wastewater for the new development would be provided by the town of Pittsboro and the Chatham Park Water Recovery Center, respectively. The plat was found to be consistent with various town plans, including the Parks and Recreation masterplan, Bikes and Pedestrian plan and the Comprehensive Transportation plan.
Shipp said he wanted to make sure the subdivision would uphold to public safety standards and have adequate parking.
"This is an enforcement problem from us, rather than the developer," he said. "I understand this meets all the requirements, but this is something we need to continue to look at."
The next scheduled meeting for the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners is Monday, April 10, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

Pittsboro Street Fair set for October

From United Way of Chatham County

The Pittsboro Street Fair is returning to downtown Pittsboro Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, with the Rotary Club of Pittsboro leading the event. This year's Street Fair promises to be the biggest and best yet with food trucks, live entertainment, street vendors and the Rotary Club Trike Race.
"This annual event is our signature fundraiser, allowing us to implement many new programs and service projects to support Pittsboro and Chatham County residents," Pittsboro Club President Patrick Walsh said. "Our club helps address food insecurity in our community, creates scholarship and leadership programs benefitting Chatham students, participates in local environmental cleanup projects, and actively participates internationally in Polio eradication efforts."
The Pittsboro Street Fair is seeking event sponsors and vendors — artisans, nonprofits and local businesses, including food and beverage. Planning is underway, and vendor and sponsorship applications are available online now — www.rotaryof-pittsboro.org/pittsboro-street-fair.
The Rotary Club of Pittsboro is a welcoming networking organization that provides a resource to our community through service and fellowship. Rotary strives to make a difference in addressing our community's needs. To learn more about the Rotary Club of Pittsboro, join us for lunch on Wednesdays at Post Fish Company in downtown Pittsboro, or visit our website — www.RotaryOf-Pittsboro.org.

Andrews recognized as one of the nation's top land brokers

CN+R Staff Report

Eric Andrews of Realty World Carolina Properties has been recognized as a part of the 2022 APEX Producers Club by the Realtors Land Institute.
The club is a part of the RLI APEX Production Awards Program, sponsored by The Land Report Magazine and the National Association of Realtors.
Andrews was recognized by RLI CEO Aubrie Kobernus as well as The Land Report's co-founders, Eddie Lee Rider Jr. and Eric O'Keefe, at a special awards ceremony March 7 during RLI's 2023 National Land Conference (NLC23) in Denver, Colorado.
"As a land broker in Central North Carolina, I am honored to receive this award," Andrews said. "At this National Land Conference, North Carolina was acknowledged as one of the hottest real estate markets in



Submitted photo

Eric Andrews

the country. I am in the right field of real estate, in the right place, at the right time."
Andrews has been a broker in Chatham County for over 20 years.

"We are proud of Eric Andrews and all of our members that were recognized as part of our award programs for their accomplishments in 2022," said RLI's CEO

Aubrie Kobernus, MBA, RCE. "They truly are the most accomplished professionals with the highest levels of expertise in land real estate."
Top awards winners will receive national recognition in The Land Report's Spring Magazine, RLI's Spring issue of Terra Firma magazine, as well as additional promotions throughout the year.
All land professionals recognized as part of the RLI APEX Producers Club are active members of Realtor Land Institute and were required to close a qualifying dollar volume in land sales during 2022. The APEX Awards Program celebrated its sixth year by welcoming 217 applicants totaling a combined \$7.0+ billion in qualifying transaction volume.
Andrews sold more than \$20 million worth of property in 2022. He serves as the RLI president of the North and South Carolina Chapter.



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HONOR ROLLS

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY - DEANS LIST
Carissa Pendergraft of Pittsboro has been named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at Anderson University, located in Anderson, S.C.

HAW RIVER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 2ND QUARTER

Principal's Honor Roll (all grades 95% or above, upper school only): Maddie

Bodine, Hope Dunn, Isaac Harmon, Sarah Hull, Meredith Tetterton and Clara Zinn.
Honor Roll (all A's or all A's with one B and an average of 93 or above): Jackson Batchelor, Raegan Fogleman, Nathaniel Hull, Connor Jacoby, Hannah Kelly, Sam Kratky, Amanda Mullaney, Madelyn Pallen, Lily Pintuff, Darby Powers, Jenna Smith, Braydon Timpy and Aidan Zinn.

PTEC

Continued from page B6

student supports and opportunities.
"Statewide data has shown that all of our schools have made significant academic strides this past year," said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. "George Moses Horton Middle students and staff have gone above and beyond with their academic progress and have worked diligently to close the achievement gap across the board. I am proud of Mr. Robinson, his staff and students for making such positive academic gains.

George Moses Horton is the embodiment of One Chatham, a community who always puts their students first."
Highlights of George Moses Horton Middle's academic growth include:
• outperformed the state in CCR and GLP for the last five reported years
• average subgroup proficiency increase in math of seven points
• average subgroup proficiency increase in reading of 5.9 points
• average subgroup proficiency increase in science of 5.3 points
• all major subgroups maintained or increased proficiency

"Receiving the PTEC Signature School designation is an honor that would not be possible without the meaningful work of each member of the George Moses Horton Middle School's staff on behalf of our students," said Mr. Bradyn Robinson, principal of George Moses Horton Middle. "I am extremely proud to be spotlighted as a school that represents the many wonderful things that are currently happening in Chatham County Schools. I think this recognition is even more of an honor in Chatham because of the high-caliber schools we have in our district."

EDC's Smith updates 'Accelerate 2026' investors on Chatham development

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Chatham County continues to get “looks” from potential industries having responded to 22 requests for information and hosted five project visits in the last few months, EDC Director Michael Smith told investors in an “Accelerate 2026” update last Thursday.

The five projects could bring more than 2,500 jobs and nearly \$700 million in potential investment to Chatham, Smith told those gathered at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills. Accelerate 2026 is a private-sector economic development initiative of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation launched in March 2021 to spur the creation of

2,000 new jobs in Chatham and new capital investment of \$500 million. In 2022 alone, Chatham landed economic development projects promising 9,000 new jobs and more than \$9 billion in investment. Smith provided updates on the VinFast and Wolfspeed projects. He discussed VinFast's recent production delay announcement, saying none

of the issues causing the delay were Chatham-related. He updated investors on permitting processes for both companies, and said Wolfspeed would soon have more than 2,000 construction workers engaged at the company's planned facility in Siler City's Chatham Advanced Manufacturing megasite. He also discussed plans for Central Carolina Community

College's Moore Center — set to begin training for VinFast employees in the near future — and collaboration with officials from the county, Siler City and Chatham County Schools. In addition, Smith announced the hiring of Jack Pendergraph, who will begin work in April as an EDC staff member responsible for business retention and expansion.

Chatham residents, regional organization honored with United Way 'Spirit of North Carolina' awards

From the United Way of Chatham County

United Way of North Carolina's annual Spirit of North Carolina Award celebrates organizations for their exemplary partnership demonstrated through fundraising and volunteer efforts, outstanding leadership, and creative team building. Additionally, organizations focusing on DEI values and individuals who are champions of United Way are also celebrated. From March 1-3, United Way of North Carolina recognized 74 winners representing 17 local United Ways at three regional events, with the Central N.C. United Way agencies gathering in Chatham at the Agricultural Center Thursday, March 2. Kirk Bradley, chairman, president and CEO of Lee-Moore Capital, and Karen Howard, chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, presented the awards. United Way of Chatham County's award winners included:

• Triangle Community Foundation — Investment in Long-Term Sustainable Impact

Triangle Community Foundation's (TCF) ongoing support continues to allow United Way of Chatham County to make progress toward bold goals in the community. TCF is a major philanthropic leader in the Triangle region, providing training, grant funding and support to a wide range of nonprofits. In the past year TCF strategically invested in United Way of Chatham County for a capacity building grant, allowing for strategic and full



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

Jim Butler, Stan Campbell and Janie Butler — area captains for Governors Club — and UWCC Executive Director Katie Childs.

funding-model transition planning. Both activities will allow United Way of Chatham County to continue leading and convening the Chatham community in the most impactful ways. The strategic planning support has allowed United Way of Chatham to focus on Board recruitment, diversity and development strategies.

TCF is not only a direct financial supporter of United Way's long-term impact in Chatham County, but also an advocate for the organization's work in the community. By including United Way in events and community conversations, they assist in connecting Chatham's greatest needs to important networks and resources to spotlight the opportunity to volunteer, invest and work together for sustainable change.

TCF showcases that by supporting United Way, so too is the Chatham Community at large. The Foundation has sponsored and participated in every Day of Service hosted by United Way of Chatham County. Their participation in this annual event allows their employees to connect with Chatham nonprofit

its, other volunteers and organizations, proving again their investment and commitment to understanding and addressing critical needs in Chatham County.

TCF is a strong, valued partner, leveraging their networks and resources so that together we can achieve more in our community.

• George Evans — United Way Community Ambassador

George Evans is a longtime supporter of United Way of Chatham County, serving as board member, secretary/treasurer, and leading the residential campaign at Carolina Meadows, which is successful year after year. In fact, Evans has supported the campaign in such a meaningful way that it has sustained contributions more than \$100,000 for two consecutive years.

Evans advocates for United Way and promotes the impact the organization has in the community within Carolina Meadows and its more than 500 residents. In 2022 he led two volunteer projects coordinated by United Way.



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

UWCC Outreach Coordinator Shelley Smith, Karen Monaco, George Evans, UWCC Executive Director Katie Childs and UWCC Finance Officer Alane Coore.

He led a project filling more than 60 backpacks with school supplies for Chatham County School children and a Day of Service project helping prepare more than 1,000 United Way campaign mailings.

Evans is not only one of United Way of Chatham County's most active volunteers, he has been generous with his time, talent and treasure for more than 10 years. It is with great gratitude United Way recognizes Evans and his contributions to United Way and Chatham County at large.

• Governors Club — United Way Community Ambassador

The Governors Club neighborhood holds the record for raising the most money in any residential community across the state. This year their exceptional campaign performance continued, which is only made possible by the extreme support provided by residents of the community leading the charge.

Governors Club utilizes a network of area captains to champion the effort within their own streets/areas. Twen-

ty-eight Governors Club area captains led the fall campaign, updating campaign fundraising signs around the neighborhood, writing personalized messages to neighbors in each area, making telephone calls to their neighbors and ensuring United Way received publicity in the neighborhood digital and print newsletters and magazines. Over 900 homes make up the Governors Club neighborhood, and the United Way campaign would be impossible without the extraordinary leadership provided by Governors Club's area captains, and the annual support from the homeowner's association. The Governors Club community exemplifies what it means to be ambassadors for good and true change agents in Chatham County.

• Chatham Hospital — Building Momentum and Sustainability Through Engaged Leadership or Employees

Chatham Hospital had a record-breaking campaign in 2022/2023. The hospital campaign saw the most donors in the hospital's campaign history and more than

doubled their number of donors over the year prior. In the midst of economic uncertainty and continued impacts of the pandemic on hospital employees, Chatham Hospital leadership is to thank for their success.

Allison Bolin, director of Clinical Business Operations, and Kathy Brown, human resources coordinator, championed the hospital campaign, providing strong leadership through weekly planning calls, events and general communication with C-suite leadership. Each hospital department had its own campaign champion, attending a virtual training, and utilizing a peer-to-peer fundraising platform via Qgiv so that they could individually fundraise with their teams. Weekly emails to their teams encouraged participation, and included United Way FAQs, program highlights and success stories.

Events coordinated by the hospital that helped create a buzz around the campaign included the presence of an ice cream truck at the hospital's campaign kickoff. A pizza party was also given following the campaign to celebrate their success.

By placing the power of campaign success in the champion's hands, we saw an increase in campaign ownership by each department champion, and a stronger drive from employees to compete in peer-to-peer fundraising leading to a record-breaking campaign. Health care professionals are not strangers to supporting their communities, however the 2022 United Way Campaign at Chatham Hospital went above and beyond the call of their duty.

For more information on United Way of Chatham County, visit www.unitedwayofchatham-county.org.

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UNTHEMED #6: NO THREES OR FOURS

ACROSS

1 Wild animals

7 Place for wedding vows

12 Quack medicines

20 Vehicle pulled by yoked animals

21 Zora — Hurston

22 Like a fleeing fugitive

23 Of speech sounds

24 Away from the office, say

25 Modus — (method)

26 Soft hue

27 Legislate

28 Front section

29 Tequila

30 Stingy sort

31 Handles deftly

32 Set at ease

34 Uncaps, e.g.

36 Totally quiet

40 Bandleader Louis

45 Chops up

50 Sounds like a bonfire

51 Capital of Lebanon

52 Kagan of the court

53 Like consumed food

54 Audio equipment technician

56 I and everyone else present

58 One end of a battery

60 Adept public performer

61 Some weight-watchers

62 Sounded like a kitten

63 2017-21 Treasury Secretary Steven

64 Loss due to carelessness

65 14th-century Russian ruler

66 Looked over carefully

67 Typed, as a PIN

69 Knife in old infomercials

71 Sanctified, old-style

72 Afraid

73 Puts in place

75 Def. pact of 1954-77

76 Actress Thompson of "Selma"

77 Avaricious sort

79 Protrude

80 Shrouded in mystery

86 Longtime brand of toasted cereal

91 Engender

95 To a greater degree

96 Most vigorous

97 Like sticky weather

98 Prefix with indicate or bassoon

99 Almond Italian liqueur

100 Figure skater Slutskaya

101 Like some telemarketing headsets

102 Seller of goods to customers

103 Singer Helen

104 Fails to see

105 People with unhappy faces

106 Deuce-beating cards

107 Resolve

DOWN

1 Fan of '40s jazz

2 Breathe out

3 CNN journalist Jim

4 Angola's Isabel dos —

5 Judges, during cases

6 City in central Minnesota

7 Jerry Stiller's partner

8 Actress Téa

9 British bye-byes

10 Girl in Wonderland

11 Landlord's log

12 Comment after a potential insult

13 Not going off topic

14 Boats' backs

15 A pair plus one

16 Harvests

17 Lower arm bones

18 Mother, in Mexico

19 Jimmy of "NYPD Blue"

33 Set back, as an alcove

35 Looked through narrowly

37 Computer-aided extraction of information

38 Last part of some play acts

39 "There's this fellow who might be able to help you"

40 Makes agitated

41 Make fun of

42 Body of water east of Dublin

43 Most stale-smelling

44 Handle, as a matter

45 Travel from Kansas to Utah, e.g.

46 Coalition

47 Relatives of pianos

48 Macramé workers, e.g.

49 Sanctuary

51 Carried, as a burden

55 University locales

57 Impelled

59 Renunciation

68 Soundproof chambers in TV studios, e.g.

70 What a week consists of

74 Casual top

77 Herman or Lily of old TV

78 Flicks like "Moonstruck" and "Pretty Woman"

79 Firefly, e.g.

81 Canadian \$2 coin

82 Writer Hemingway

83 Exam do-over

84 Tel Aviv locale

85 Docks

86 Dock

87 "Make Room for Daddy" actor Rusty

88 Poetry Muse

89 End in — (finish even)

90 Have a link (with)

92 Less sinful

93 Ammonia derivative

94 Breeze-filled

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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Pictured: Cathy Baker

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: THE — POINT OF WATER C°

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Cipher | Naught | No value | Null |
| Goose egg | Nil | Nonentity | Zilch |
| Love | No growth | North | Zip |
| Nada | No score | Nothing | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TIGER

GOOF MOVE, PUNKINHEAD!

NICE GOING! YOU BEAT ME

YOU LET ME WIN!

I DID NOT! I WAS TRYING MY BEST

YOU WERE NOT! YOU LET ME WIN!

I DIDN'T

YOU DID! YOU LET ME WIN

ALL RIGHT, I ADMIT IT. I LET YOU WIN

YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN...

YOU LET ME WIN THAT ARGUMENT!

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by Dave T. Phipps

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ZERO

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Lots and lots of tots

DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

When I went to high school, I lived in Elizabeth City. Way back then, we had horse-less carriages and gas was only about 50 cents a gallon.

So, on the weekend, we would hop into our vehicles and cruise through town all night long. My best friend Waldo would load the back of his little Toyota pick-up with lawn chairs. The lucky chosen settled into those seats and waved to all of our friends as we toolled around. We called these excursions “hey rides.”

No evening was complete without stopping at the Sonic drive-thru. They had tons of tasty, cheap food, like Frito chili pies, and steak sandwiches (actually breaded and deep-fried hamburger patties). But no matter what, my order always, *always*, included tater tots, sometimes covered with melted slices of pseudo-cheese.

I just love those little gems. When we used to visit Elizabeth City, the Kid wouldn’t leave town until we’d stopped by Sonic for tots. When we drove our little scholar up to college for the first time, our route was planned in conjunction with the Sonic national map.

Recently, tater tots have acquired celebrity. They’re on the menu of fast food joints and fancy fooderies. I’m sure it won’t be long before tots have their own reality show.

Every manufacturer that has frozen potatoes sells tater tots. I’ve tried many of them. I’ve baked them and fried them. They’re all pretty much inter-

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Homemade tater tots look like the frozen kind you get in a grocery store. But they’re much better-tasting.

changeable, and loaded with sodium and unpronounceable chemicals.

Mmmm, factory goodness.

Following my philosophy of “Why buy pre-made when I can fiddle in the kitchen for hours and make it myself?”, I decided to try and make homemade tater tots.

Surprisingly, they weren’t too hard to make from scratch. The cool thing about making your own is you can add any flavors that you like to the potatoes. I like sauted onion and garlic. You can add chopped bacon, roasted chiles, sun dried tomatoes, or herbs and spices. Add in any tastes you have a hankering for.

They really do taste better when made at home, and instead of boring frozen potato things, you have a special treat — made with one ingredient no factory can add-love.

One Christmas, I was experimenting in the kitchen. My mom absolutely loves Rice Crispy Treats, and I wanted to make some candy out of them specifically for her. I took very thin (1/4-inch) slices about four or five inches long, and rolled them, length-wise to get short rounds. My idea was to make something that looked like rosettes. Then, I coated them with melted chocolate. Guess what? When dipped, they looked nothing like roses, but looked exactly like tater tots.

I was going to put them into small paper cups (like for tiny cupcakes) and place them in a little tin. They looked nice, but of course I’ve never been one to leave well-enough alone. There was room in the box for 16. I left four of them plain. On top of four I sprinkled chopped cashews (mom’s fave) on them before the chocolate hardened.

Tater Tots for People With Time on Their Hands

1 pound waxy potatoes cooked whole ‘til fork tender (like you’re making potato salad)
2 cups flour
3 eggs
1 cup milk (low-fat is just fine)
Panko bread crumbs
Oil for frying
Salt and pepper

When the cooked potatoes are cool, peel. Grate them, by hand, largest shred. Into potatoes add salt, pepper, and one egg, lightly beaten. This is also where you add in any extra flavoring ingredients. Gingerly toss together until combined, then place in fridge for 30 minutes.

Portion cold tater mixture into tablespoons (a very small ice cream or portion scoop works great for this). When all the mixture is portioned, shape by hand into tater tot shapes. Refrigerate for one hour. This will help keep their shape when you bread them.

Prepare three-part dredge:

In one container put seasoned (salt and pepper and any herbs and spices) flour.

Beat remaining eggs and milk in another.

Pour out breadcrumbs into third dish.

Toss tots in flour; this dries the exterior a bit and allows egg wash to stick.

Dip into egg wash.

Roll in breadcrumbs, lightly patting crumbs so each is completely covered.

Refrigerate for one hour, or freeze them now, and cook at a later date.

Heat oil in a large pot until it reaches 325-350 degrees. Cook in small batches until golden brown and delicious.

Voila! Tater tots!

Another four I sprinkled with crushed candy cane pieces.

And for the last four, I went insane, topping with freshly made bacon bits. (I adore salty/sweet.)

Placed into the box in pretty rows of four, they looked like they came from a fancy, expensive chocolatier. Mom loved them, but was a little timid about the bacon ones. Then she tried a bite. They were the hit of the collection.

There’s one dish using tater tots that I’ve thought about, but not been daring enough to make: tater tot poutine. Poutine is a Canadian dish which starts with a plate of fries. You sprinkle them with cheese

curds (another northern food that’s very much like small pieces of mozzarella cheese). Then the whole shebang is smothered in rich beef gravy. It’s the kind of food that keeps a farmer going up in the frozen north, working 12 hours of brutal, physical labor. This is something most folks don’t do anymore, so it really should be an extremely infrequent treat. But, gosh, it’s yummy

If I do make tot poutine, you can check with me to see how it turned out. You will likely find me in a bed at the cardiac unit at Duke.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullecity.mom.

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