

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | APRIL 27 - MAY 3, 2023 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

## A VISIT TO THE MOORE CENTER

### Cooper, VinFast execs tout job training capabilities

Center still in need of \$50 million for construction

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College holds the keys to North Carolina's successful future in manufacturing and biotechnology.

That's according to Gov. Roy Cooper, officials from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and executives at VinFast. They joined others from across the state to get an inside look at the E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center — housed at CCCC's Sanford campus — last Wednesday.

The facility, which is about a 15-minute drive from the future home of VinFast in Moncure, aims to be the employee training hub for the electric vehicle manufacturer when the factory is completed in 2025.

"So much has gone into attracting North Carolina's first automobile manufacturing facility," Cooper told reporters. "It would not be wise to just say 'We're not going to do anything to help train the employees.'"

VinFast plans to invest \$4 billion along with 7,500 manufacturing jobs at its facility in Moncure. The 1,700-plus

acre plant will have the capacity to build more than 150,000 vehicles annually when completed. The company recently delayed the originally scheduled 2024 roll out of its vehicles from the facility until 2025.

Along with seeing the facility firsthand, the visit by the governor and other top North Carolina officials was part of a push for state funding for the Moore Center. The facility is still in need of about \$50 million for construction. CCCC officials say there is cur-

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Staff photo by Nikki Witt

Gov. Roy Cooper takes a spin in one of Vinfast's newly manufactured vehicles during Wednesday's event at CCCC in Sanford.

### CCHA's Davis reaches plea deal

Former director faces up to 20 years in prison, \$1 million fine

BY BILL HORNER III  
News + Record Staff

JoAnn Davis, the director of the Chatham County Housing Authority charged in a 19-count indictment in late February, has reached a plea agreement with federal prosecutors.

Davis agreed to plead guilty to a single charge of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Under Title 18 provisions of the U.S. Penal Code, she could be sentenced to up to 20 years in prison and fined up to \$1 million, as well as forced to pay court costs and restitution to any victims.

The plea agreement, obtained by the News + Record, was signed April 10. It's subject to a hearing and court approval, which have yet to be scheduled. Under the terms of the agreement, federal officials would dismiss the other 18 charges against Davis provided the court accepts her guilty plea to the first charge.

Davis was indicted on Feb. 13, then arrested Feb. 24, following a years-long investigation that determined she used her position to obtain more than \$200,000 in kickbacks and payoffs from bogus projects initiated from her Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office. The CCHA, which operates with HUD funds, is responsible for providing housing to low-income families, the elderly and disabled within Chatham County; Davis

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## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

### 'Sherlock Holmes' production solves short-lived mystery

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Wiggins, the sidekick of the famed Detective Sherlock Holmes, is suddenly thrown into the spotlight. He must help his crew uncover clues and solve the mystery of the 1st Baker Street Irregular.

In much the same way, Rue Schnieder feels he too has been thrust into a new position, unsure of what to do next but needing to step up to the plate. It's part of what makes Wiggins the perfect role for him.

"Wiggins is a leader without really being ready to be or exactly how to be," Schnieder, 14, said.

Which is, in many ways, where Schnieder finds himself.

The upcoming performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the 1st Baker Street Irregular" by Pittsboro Youth Players on May 6 at The Plant marks the first performance for the new Chatham County youth theater company, and it hopes to be the first of many.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Part of Saturday's rehearsal includes distressing and fitting costumes for 'Sherlock Holmes.'

theater home in Chatham County.

Amid the shock and pain of losing the beloved community space, Laura Sandvik, a parent of a former PYT performer, knew she had to act. She made calls to her friends in the industry, put out social media blasts and networked with PYT parents.

"If you have the capacity to do something that makes life better for other people, I really think you should do

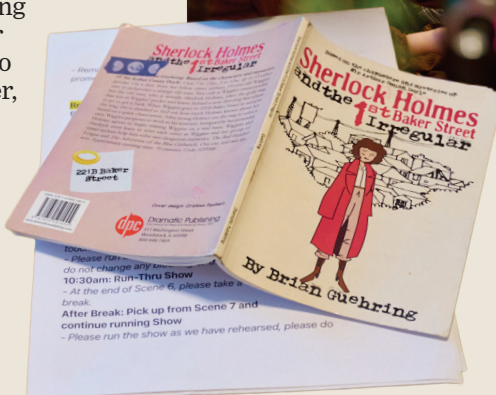
it," Sandvik said. "I had the time and the bandwidth to be a wrangler for this."

And when she gathered together a group of more than a dozen parents, she opened the doors to her home as rehearsal space for the show. Then she contacted Tami Schwerin, who donated space at The Plant for the performance. In just 10 weeks, the show has gone from a vision to a reality.

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#### Call to action

In January, Craig Witter and Tammy Matthews announced they were closing Pittsboro Youth Theater, citing financial hardship. It left many young thespians, like Schnieder, without a



### Chatham education leaders voice opposition to 'school choice' bills

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

More than a dozen bills filed in the N.C. General Assembly's legislative session focus on expanding funding for charter schools and increasing the state's voucher programs for private schools.

These bills, primarily sponsored by Republican lawmakers, are each written in the name of "school choice."

But Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54), who represents Chatham County and is the House Minority Leader in the state legislature, says "school choice" is a misnomer. He — along with officials from Chatham County Schools and the Chatham Education Founda-

tion — pushed against many of these bills because he says they detract from funding that should be used for public schools.

"It's a disappointing direction we've been going," Reives said of his colleagues in the General Assembly. "They say it's a zero-sum game — either we put that money into public education or we're putting it into charter schools, etc."

Despite Reives disapproval of the legislation, many of these bills aimed at expanding vouchers and funding for charter schools seem poised to become law because of the Republican supermajority in both the N.C. House

See **EDUCATION**, page A6

### 'THEY NEED TO FEEL LIKE THEY'RE VALUED' Incentives boost hires at Siler City PD

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews alumnus Erica Vargas always knew she wanted to study criminal justice. A position at Siler City's Walmart as a loss prevention officer left her wanting something more for her career.

When she heard about the Siler City Police Department's recruitment program, Vargas signed up. After graduating from Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET), she's now one of the department's newest uniformed officers

"Everything fell into place," Vargas, 21, said of the recruitment program opportunity. "Every day is a new day, so I figured what better job than

law enforcement, where you have something new every day, and you're not necessarily doing the same thing every single day."

Vargas is one of seven recent new hires at SCPD, which had 10 vacancies alone in its patrol division last year. To help fill the position, the town began an aggressive recruitment effort for the department. One of the draws: it's paying inexperienced officers while they complete the 900 required hours of training at BLET.

The town also increased starting pay, salaries for current employees and created a \$5,000 signing bonus to incentivize new officers — things

See **HIRES**, 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 **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 1, at the courtroom at Siler City town hall.  
 • The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 1, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro for a special presentation of the recommended budget.

## OTHER

• Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at The Travelling Cafe, Wednesday, May 3 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at 517 West St., Pittsboro. There will be breakfast, hors d'oeuvres, coffee and mimosas to follow at 200 Sanford Road, Suite 9, Pittsboro. The **Chatham Chamber of Commerce** invites you to help celebrate this business with a new location and new offerings. In addition to culinary school, cooking classes, personal chef services and catering private parties, NEW service includes offering non-customer pickup and delivery meal prep services to the community. Beginning May 2023, order from the website, pick up at our commercial kitchen, or we will deliver to you.  
 • The **Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District** is extending its application deadline for the Resource Conservation Workshop scheduled for June 25 to June 30, at N.C. State. Interested students now have until May 15 to apply. 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 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 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 Brandy Oldham, Education Coordinator by phone, 919-545-8440 or via email, [brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov). Applications

must be submitted to Oldham no later than May 15. 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 Ms. Oldham.  
 • The **Siler City Lion's Club** meeting for May at Dry Dock Seafood Restaurant, 408 N. 2nd Ave., will be May 9 and 23 at 6 p.m. Join the Siler City Lion's Club. See how you can make a difference in the world and your local community. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Together we serve!  
 • The **Goldston Public Library** is excited to announce the Goldston Book Club, 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>.

--- **Chatham Community Library** is offering free in-person classes on Microsoft PowerPoint and Facebook in April. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at [www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses). Call 919-545-8086 or email [reference@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:reference@chathamlibraries.org) for more information.

• 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: [hortonhighalumni.com](http://hortonhighalumni.com) Click: Scholarship - Deadline for application is June 1. Text Helen Dark at 919-548-4578 with your questions.

• The **League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties (LWVODC)** invites the community to learn about citizen initiatives, a powerful tool of direct democracy that can enable voters to collect signatures and put a law, or even a constitutional amendment, on the ballot for citizens to vote up or down. Citizen initiatives have been critical in other states' success in ending gerrymandering and strengthening voters' voices. "Our Democracy: Do We Need the Power of Citizen Initiatives?" is the next in LWVODC's State of our Democracy lecture series. The virtual program will be held Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m. Registration is required. The featured speaker is Asher Hildebrand, associate professor of the practice, at Duke University's Sanford School for Public Policy. This online presentation is free and open to the public.  
 • The **Chatham County**

**Council on Aging** will host a "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" support group the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Western Chatham Senior Center, 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City. This group is geared toward older adults who are primary caregivers and providers for their grandchildren. For more information, contact William Riggsbee at 919-742-3975 ext. 223 or email [william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov).

• The **Chatham County Council on Aging** hosts a Caregiver Support Group each Monday. The group meets the first and third Mondays of the month at 3 p.m. at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center, 365 Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro, and the second Monday at 3 p.m. at the Western Chatham Senior Center, 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City. The fourth Monday of each month is a virtual meeting via the Zoom platform starting at 6 p.m. This group is geared toward family members who are currently providing short- or long-term care to loved ones. For more information or to obtain virtual meeting login information, contact William Riggsbee, family caregiver specialist, at 919-742-3975 ext. 223 or email [william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov).

• Basic Photoshop Classes for Seniors - The **Chatham County Council on Aging** is currently accepting registrations for a class where older adults can learn the basics of Photoshop, the popular photo-editing program. Photographers over 55 years of age who want to learn how to manipulate their photos and older adults without basic Photoshop experience are encouraged to attend. The class will be held each Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center, 365 Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro. For more information or to register, contact Alan Russo at 919-542-4512 ext. 238 or email [alan.russo@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:alan.russo@chathamcountync.gov). Space is limited.

• **Wren Memorial Library's So... You want to be an entrepreneur?** Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. to noon. WEBB Squared will host a workshop entitled "So... You want to be an entrepreneur?" This two-hour workshop is geared towards Black & Latino entrepreneurs to learn about the different opportunities and resources to help them develop their business. WEBB Squared is a 501 (c)(3) whose mission is to recognize and address the racial wealth gap by providing a supportive ecosystem around Black and Brown entrepreneurs living in rural counties in North Carolina. --- Wren Memorial Library's Learn About Food at Your Library: Local Foods and How to Prepare Them, Monday, May 15, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The library will host a presentation and demonstration on "Learn About Food at Your Library: Local Foods and How to Prepare Them," on May 15 at 5:30 p.m. Registered dietician, Tara Gregory, from N.C. Cooperative Extension, Chatham County Center, will lead the presentation.

--- The library is located at 500 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City, 27344. For more information, call the library at 919-742-2016 or email [wren@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:wren@chathamlibraries.org). Information about all Chatham County Library branches can be found at [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org).

• **Community Meals:** St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Pittsboro distributes two meals each week for the benefit of the community. From noon 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.

• The Chatham Historical Museum will host "rock

star" and retired professional geologist Chris Palmer for Pittsboro's First Sunday from noon to 4 p.m., May 7. Bring your Chatham County rocks for him to identify. The 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](http://chathamhistory.org) The permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history and are appropriate for adults and children.

• 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](http://ChathamArtsCouncil.org).  
 • **Second Bloom's** hours are from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday until Satur-

## HOLLAND CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH

Youth Sunday will be observed on Sunday, April 30, hosted by the youth and young adults at Holland Chapel AME Zion Church. The church is located at 360 Burgess Road, Apex.

day. We are now accepting spring and summer used clothes, jewelry and accessories, in good and clean condition. Credit cards are accepted. We are located at 630 East St., 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.

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## CURRENTLY FOR SALE

<b>Residential</b>	351 Bluffwood Dr (Pittsboro) 7,618 acres \$300,000
4377 N Old US 421 (Siler City) 4 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$530,000	5663 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 1,771 acres \$325,000
5714 Old Stony Way (Durham) 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$700,000	893 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 24,938 acres \$325,000
<b>Land</b>	00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36,000 acres \$350,000
170 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1,150 acres \$125,000	37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) 0,996 acres \$300,000
188 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1,150 acres \$125,000	0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29,730 acres \$360,000
1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4,840 acres \$150,000	Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32,360 acres \$400,000
108 Spring St (Apex) 3,670 acres \$150,000	5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3,584 acres \$625,000
821 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 13,829 acres \$180,000	00 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 87,169 acres \$1,179,900
955 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11,566 acres \$185,000	7587 Siler City Snow Cam p Rd (Siler City) 50,000 acres \$1,200,000
1277 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12,550 acres \$195,000	499 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 12,619 acres \$1,500,000
1049 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11,548 acres \$200,000	00 Alston Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 176,000 acres \$2,288,000
1223 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12,737 acres \$225,000	00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33,662 acres \$3,366,200
1710 Roberts Chapel Rd (Goldston) 17,643 acres \$225,000	
267 Marshall Rd (Pittsboro) 10,049 acres \$250,000	

## CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

<b>Residential</b>	Tract 2 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32,360 acres \$400,000
1689 Lydia Perry (Bear Creek) 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$350,000	1406 Jessie Bridges Rd (Siler City) 25,500 acres \$400,000
321 Miles Branch Rd (Pittsboro) 4 Bdrm, 3.5 Bath \$600,000	0 Hamlets Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 42,804 acres \$1,200,000
4301 Amberwood Rd (Haw River) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$600,000	13120 Strickland Rd (Raleigh) 16,250 acres \$1,500,000
<b>Land</b>	12190 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 15,158 acres \$1,894,750
1544 Roberts Chapel Rd (Goldston) 17,632 acres \$225,000	<b>Commercial Unimproved</b>
373 J C Corner Rd (Pittsboro) 7,382 acres \$275,000	10681 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 3.97 acres \$1,500,000
58 Mint Springs Rd (Pittsboro) 5,400 acres \$279,900	

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Lazy Real Estate Agents: Please Check MLS Docs, Darn it!

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



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# Chatham News + Record

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

To place a classified or display ad:

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Taylor Heeden, Reporter/Web Editor [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com)  
 Ben Rappaport, Reporter/ Social Media Editor [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com)  
 Jeremy Vernon, Sports Editor [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com)  
 Valeria Cloes [vcloes@live.unc.edu](mailto:vcloes@live.unc.edu)

NEWSROOM INQUIRIES, PRESS RELEASES AND WEBSITE QUESTIONS [news@chathamnr.com](mailto:news@chathamnr.com)

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JASON JUSTICE [jjustice@chathamnr.com](mailto:jjustice@chathamnr.com)  
 Advertising Specialist [advertising@chathamnr.com](mailto:advertising@chathamnr.com)

## OFFICE

KAREN PYRTLE [karen@chathamnr.com](mailto:karen@chathamnr.com)  
 DORIS BECK [doris@chathamnr.com](mailto:doris@chathamnr.com)  
 FLORENCE TURNER [billing@chathamnr.com](mailto:billing@chathamnr.com)

BILL HORNER III, Editor/Publisher  
[bhorner3@chathamnr.com](mailto:bhorner3@chathamnr.com) 919-774-2728

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

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



# SHOW

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“Even though it was kind of an odd situation to be rehearsing a show at my friend’s house, I think it didn’t feel bad at all because I still had great people supporting me,” Schnieder said. “We’ve been adaptable, and we’ve grown and changed together through this experience.”

Sure, there may not be a stage to practice with, or a proper studio to dance in but there were still the people. And to Sandvik, Schnieder and the rest of the cast that’s what doing theater is all about in the first place.

For Schnieder, theater has been the place where he can let loose, be himself and express the emotions he often keeps inside around his peers at school. As a queer kid at school, he said he often struggled to feel comfortable in his own body. But on the stage, where he could be anyone and do anything he felt at home.

“Being able to kind of escape

into these other worlds and be with such a comfortable supporting community meant the world to me,” Schnieder said. “These people had become kind of like a second family.”

He said when PYT first announced it was closing, he felt crushed to be losing both the people and the art form that had come to play such a critical role in his evolving identity. So, when the opportunity emerged from the ashes to get back on the stage with many of those same kids who made theater feel safe, it was a chance to fall in love with the art all over again.

“Our reliable space had been abruptly taken away from us,” Schnieder said. “But we still all had the energy to be there. Just that togetherness and that want to do theater, it brought comfort to me.”

## Meeting the mentors

That artistic rebirth for Schnieder and the 15 other cast members is largely because of the efforts Sandvik has made.

The 16 actors, director Samuel Walker Jr., and assistant

to the director and Northwood High School senior Mae Conners, have spent the past 10 Saturdays rehearsing in Sandvik’s living room or on her deck. Set and prop pieces were gathered from parents, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore and the PTA Thrift Shop.

“The experience of coming together to support the performers with their families, theater professionals, and local business owners has been heartening,” Sandvik said. “The journey has shown me just how important opportunities like this are for our local youth. All our kids deserve a space outside of their homes where they can find purpose and joy.”

Sandvik said she was adamant about keeping the Chatham youth theater community in any way possible. While there have been sacrifices in this adventure of making “Sherlock” come alive, she said it’s been a beautiful experience.

Part of what has made this experience especially impactful is the energetic perspective of Walker. The freelance arts

director has been commuting from Raleigh to Sandvik’s Pittsboro home every Saturday to make this show happen, and the kids have responded with nothing but love for the joy he brings to rehearsals every weekend.

“Fourth grade is when I was personally introduced to theater, and 8th grade is when I knew I could not live without it,” Walker said. “I know firsthand how transformative the arts can be. Through theater, I have been able to be myself and believe in myself, so I could not let the opportunity to join forces with this group of dedicated parents and direct such talented actors pass me by.”

Walker found out about the revival effort through a Facebook post. He reached out to Sandvik, and three days later he was on the way to Pittsboro. Several cast members say he has pushed them to be better actors by creating emotional connections to the roles and being understanding of each actor’s needs.

Conners described Walker as “the perfect Gen-Z director.”

## Keep the curtains open

There are 18 youth theaters in counties adjacent to Chatham, each offering shows, camps and workshops. But with the closing of PYT, that left none here. While many public schools offer drama classes or performing arts in some capacity, resources are limited. That’s why Sandvik felt it was important to keep youth theater opportunities alive through the new Pittsboro Youth Players.

“We should be setting up kids to find purpose and to build resiliency,” she said. “Through theater participation, they learn how to work together and find their own voice.”

Even though “Sherlock” hasn’t hit the stage yet, the power of this experience has led Sandvik, along with Walker, to pursue the creation of a nonprofit youth theater under the Pittsboro Youth Players name. The duo is working to register the nonprofit and if all goes according to plan, they’ll have classes and productions ready by the fall.

# CENTER

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rently a proposal in the N.C. General Assembly for the funding, which the legislature is set to vote upon.

## Workforce, workforce, workforce

The Moore Center, which will be created from the old Magneti Marelli facility in Sanford, will be a comprehensive workforce development operation — with more than 200,000 square feet dedicated to advanced manufacturing and biotechnology training. The space proposes areas for

training, on-demand customized skills training, what planners are calling “soft landing spaces,” and incubator spaces for new and expanding business industries.

At Wednesday’s event, Van Anh Nguyen, VinFast CEO of U.S. manufacturing, said the Vietnamese automaker plans to utilize the facility for skilled workforce training, which she said was an important piece of the company choosing central North Carolina for its project.

“To VinFast, a skilled workforce is everything,” Nguyen said. “These vehicles here today, and many more models in the future, are going to be built by the students

trained by CCCC.”

She said future VinFast employees need to be trained for the industrialization skills of the modern world, which may look substantially different due to emerging technologies.

Wednesday’s event marked the first time market-ready versions of the VF-8, VinFast’s all-electric SUV, have been on North Carolina soil. Cooper and Nguyen took a drive in the vehicle together through the Moore Center and onto the streets of Sanford.

N.C. Secretary of Commerce Machel Baker Sanders also lauded the potential of the CCCC facility, saying it had the

potential to lift up North Carolina’s greatest asset: its workforce.

“This also supports one of the governor’s number one goals: advancing clean energy,” Sanders said. “This not only protects our communities and businesses but also our people and future generations.”

Sanders said investments needed to be made in other sectors of the economy — including education — to support the movement of the private sector to boost labor and future employment.

In his remarks Wednesday, Cooper also echoed the importance of North Carolina’s workforce. He said North Carolina is the best state for business in the country, according to CNBC.

“Companies from the other side of the globe recognize what we have here,” Cooper said. “That is why they are here investing in North Carolina.”

He said the Moore Center has the opportunity to be the “epicenter” of emerging industries — biotechnology and clean energy.

## 50 million questions

The big question mark looming over the advanced manufacturing facility is the funding. Speaking to reporters at the event, Cooper said he was confident about the status of the state’s coffers to make the Moore Center into a reality.

“There is room to make infrastructure investments in facilities like this,” Cooper said. “I’m supportive of it, and I think you’re going to find the General Assembly

supportive.”

He added luring VinFast to Chatham County through state and local tax incentives totaling more than \$1.2 billion was a bipartisan effort. Cooper said building employee training infrastructure was part of the enticement to come to North Carolina.

That infrastructure will also aid more than just VinFast. The Moore Center, if completed, would have the capacity to train workers for Wolf-speed, Toyota, FedEx and other nearby industries using emerging technologies. Dr. Lisa Chapman, CCCC’s president, said keeping jobs at these companies and attracting future business is dependent on strong employee training.

“We are spread out over a large geographic area, but we’re one college,” Chapman told the News + Record. “If there’s a project in Chatham County that could benefit from this facility, it’s available to them.”

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said the Moore Center is an opportunity for both Lee and Chatham Counties because of the types of training it will bring to the region.

“This can make sure we have trained workforce,” LaMontagne said. “Everybody needs that. We’re going to be looking for that development for VinFast and semiconductors and so on. We just need a little help from the state to get it off the ground.”

Chapman added CCCC has plans for furthering its community engagement techniques to get more students and com-

munity members excited about the job opportunities in the region. This includes additional internship and job shadowing opportunities to help people interested in these advanced manufacturing jobs ensure they’re on the path to success.

## Chatham concerns

Officials at CCCC, VinFast, the Governor’s Office and even the U.S. Dept. of Commerce seem convinced of the benefits the Vietnamese company can offer Moncure — investment, jobs and opportunities abound. Not all Moncure residents are on board, though.

VinFast’s announcement of its delay in manufacturing — compounded with dropping stock prices and the departure of three top executives from the company — has evoked some skepticism about the project among Chatham residents. This concern was especially evident at a recent meeting in the Moncure area where residents said they were unsure if the company would come to the county at all.

On Wednesday, Cooper echoed what top executives of VinFast shared in March: the project is still on track. He said the delay was not an indication that the company was abandoning ship, but rather that its original timeline was too aggressive.

“I feel very confident that with this new plan in place, they’ll be able to meet those deadlines,” Cooper said.

Nguyen said when VinFast first planned to come to North Carolina, the company believed it could follow the same timelines as it did in Vietnam. They’ve since learned there are additional regulatory hurdles to clear in the U.S., she said.

“Our commitment remains very strong,” Nguyen said. “Our commitment to jobs, to this country and to the state stayed the same since day one.”

She said the site in Moncure is making daily construction progress. According to CBS 17, blasting on the site was completed last week.

While he understands the concerns about the potential impact, LaMontagne believes VinFast will be good for the area. He said the Moore Center is only further proof there is institutional support for a project like VinFast to come to fruition.

“It’s a tremendous opportunity for not just Chatham County, but the state in general,” LaMontagne said. “I hope they will embrace the change that’s coming. Change is inevitable across the Triangle area, and if it’s going to happen it’s better to have it planned. It’s going to pay off for everyone eventually.”



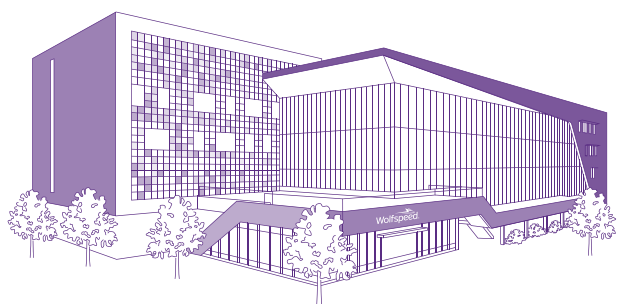
## WOLFSPEED IS HOSTING TWO COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Representatives will address the public's comments and questions regarding Wolfspeed's air permit request.

Siler City Elementary School: May 1 at 6:30 p.m.  
Chatham Charter School: May 4 at 6:30 p.m.

No registration required.

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# VIEWPOINTS

## When the script calls for some real understanding



**BILL HORNER III**  
Publisher + Editor

I didn't think my question was out of line.

"Are you reading from a script?" I asked.

She paused before replying.

"What we're trying to do here at" — she named the car dealership from which she was calling — "is to help you ..."

"I understand, I understand," I interrupted.

I know interrupting is rude. But it's less rude than totally disregarding the other conversant in a two-way telephone call because the script is more important than the conversation.

She'd called me at the direction of someone in the dealership who'd received my online inquiry about a car listed in its inventory. I've gotten hundreds of calls from salespeo-

ple over the years — probably thousands, assuming one or two a week for 40 years — and I'm typically polite. But being a pushy salesperson is only slightly worse, in my mind, than someone talking over you, reading rotely from a badly done script. Especially when that script is crafted not for conversation, but to push you to "yes" — any kind of "yes" (a common sales tactic) rather than to help do what a salesperson is supposed to do: solve a problem.

Ignoring my question, she went on: "What would keep you from making a purchase from" — the dealership, again — "if we could find a car that suits your needs?"

Flummoxed, bewildered and tired, I bit. "Obviously, if it's the right car at the right price, then we'll buy," said I. "But we're looking at cars at four or five different dealerships. Let's just have a conversation. I'm looking for a car. You're at the dealership. Tell me what you

have in the way of a 2018 Toyota Rav4, and let's talk turkey."

But that wasn't scripted, so it never happened. Our call didn't last long. She was looking for a commitment before we got to the cars; I was looking for a car I could commit to, not a dealership.

My wife Lee Ann and I had been fielding calls and emails for a couple of days after beginning a search for a car for our adult daughter, aiding her own search after she'd totaled her car in a rainy accident a few Fridays ago in Cary. Karis was badly shaken — she collided with a car that had hydroplaned and wrecked, then she was hit by three cars behind her — but unhurt. She'd just made the last payment on her Rav4, which was in great shape.

The car's airbags likely kept her from injury. She'd loved the Rav4. We settled quickly with the insurance company, and funds in hand, we cast a net for the exact make, model

and year of the car she had. We found a number of them within an hour's radius of home.

Car shopping can be an excruciating experience, but fortunately, the rest of our journey was pleasant, primarily because the salespeople were good people, not scripted bots. Visits to two dealerships on Friday, a little haggling, some quick paperwork, and we drove home in two cars after having arrived in one.

We didn't visit the dealership where Scripted Lady called from. It wasn't an act of defiance; it's just the way things turned out. More positive interactions with other dealerships pointed us there, and it was with one of them we did business.

Certain situations call for written guides and guardrails, so I understand the need for scripts. I've written scripts for salespeople and helped craft them for report-

ers, so they serve a useful purpose.

But on the drive home Friday, I found myself thinking about the incredible Cary police officer who'd worked Karis' wreck. She'd never crashed a car before, and in a pouring rain, in a crumpled car with deflated airbags, Karis was treated to a patrolman who had enough insight to address the first problems she needed solving right away: assuring her safety and gently calming her.

We heard every word he said because she'd called us immediately after the wreck and kept her phone on.

The patrolman's words — scripted from his training or just his keen situational awareness, his sensitivity, or a combination of the three — were perfectly delivered.

When we had a chance to talk to him ourselves later in the day, our unscripted response came from the heart: profuse thanks.

## Holding hands



**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN**  
Hope Matters

My 7-year-old son asked to hold my hand the other evening.

It was dusk and past his bedtime. But we had snuck down to the beach with the rest of our family for a quick trip, and I invited him to walk the dog. Her nose was to the ground, reading a language of scents that I will never know. My son took in the empty street and the darkened

houses before him. (It was still offseason at the beach.) A single streetlight suddenly clicked on, casting a glow in the night air.

He whispered, "This looks like a scene from an rated-R movie." He gripped my hand tighter.

He is an affectionate child. Safely back at the house, he snuggled close as he drifted to sleep. He is sweetly naïve, too. He's never seen an rated-R movie, much less experienced a violent trauma.

Earlier that week, I had hard conversations with several members of the Black community in Chatham County about Ralph Yarl, the Black teenager shot by a white man, Andrew Lester, after Yarl innocently rang Lester's doorbell. I grieve for Yarl's family; I'm angry about the senseless violence.

I am also aware of a certain distance that I have from my perspective as a white man. I don't fear that a similar fate would occur for my children.

Karinda Roebuck, executive director of Community Organizing for Racial Equity, wrote in her organization's April newsletter, "Ralph Yarl could be any of my teenage sons. I simply cannot distinguish a difference between Ralph Yarl and the young men whom I bore from my body." Whereas I know racially-motivated gun violence is not fiction, the horror is more real for the Black community.

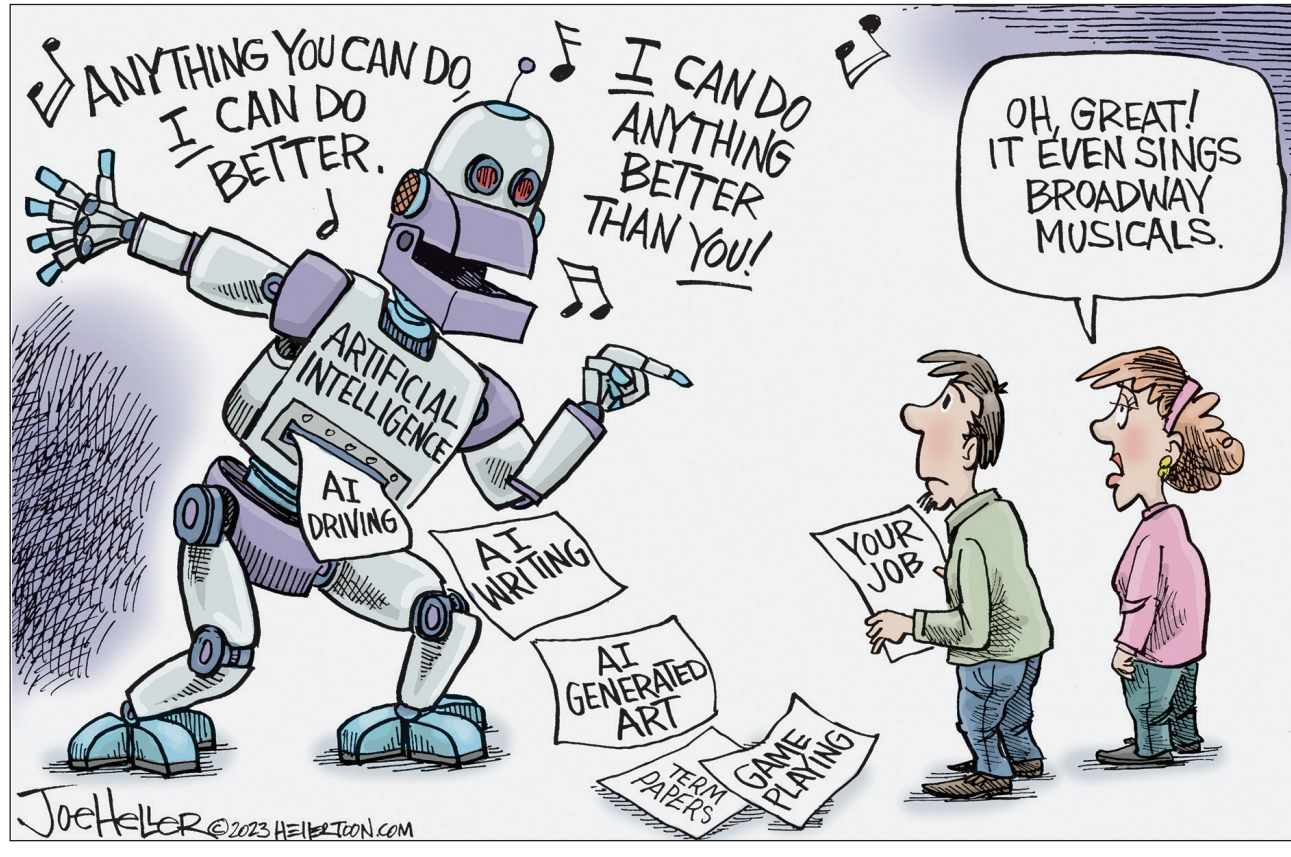
Though my son has never seen an rated-R movie, he has learned something of the tropes from the larger culture, such as a deserted street at nighttime. Lester, the gunman, internalized messages as well. Guns keep him safe. Property is to be defended. Black men are a threat.

How do we, as an entire community, counter such racist messages? Roebuck wrote it requires "a continuous process that allows for growth and reawakening in our collection liberation and common humanity. ... (This process) must be done together and in community."

I think of holding hands as a metaphor for creating this type of community. Anyone who has ever held the hand of a child while crossing the street knows that this act offers a sense of protection and guidance. Most of all, taking your hand embodies presence, a way of saying "I am here with you."

While I cannot fully appreciate what it is like to have a Black child, I do know white men like Lester who carry guns and have internalized racist messages. On the one hand, it is tempting to avoid these types or even to write them off as the problem.

It is more helpful to reach out to them and to model a different way of thinking about Black people and the larger community. Racism has been part of this country since its inception. It is time that we join hands and rewrite the script.



## Playacting ... and two revelations



**JAN HUTTON**  
This Being Human Thing

I'm not a fan of playacting. What is "play-acting"??

Behaving in a way that is contrived. You know, contrived — "deliberately created rather than arising spontaneously."

That kind of contrived. I've placed a premium most of my life on finding and sharing my inner voice. Not my culture's, my parents', or significant other's. And what a journey that has been! (A journey you've traveled, too, right?) Finding my authenticity. Oy! All these external voices certainly have an impact, but it's solely my responsibility to separate the wheat (my voice) from the chaff (others).

Oh, geez, the sweat that entails! You know what I mean?

Returning to contrived: my conundrum (and you're going to say, "huh?") is a behavior that, at the moment it's expressed, feels like playacting. Saying "thank you" when it doesn't seem warranted.

Thank you?! Playacting saying thank you?! Whoa. I'd think you'd be reveling in your capacity to offer thanks to others. That's a "whoop-ee" action, a "you go, girl" behavior; not an act to be judged. You know that, don't you?

Wait, wait, you haven't heard the whole story yet. Bear with me, or even more explicitly, bare with me as I try to strip this conundrum down to the essentials. Lately, I've watched myself saying "thank you" in certain situations where there was no need for that term. Want

an example? How about the (very strong) young man, paid by the property owner, to clear the field behind my duplex of humongous old tree trunks? (I mean humongous!) I stuck my head out the back door to briefly chat with him and heard my inner should saying "thank him." I did, but it felt contrived, not spontaneous. Playacting? He was doing what he was being paid to do. So what's the problem?

I can almost see all the quizzical smiles or puzzled head-shaking among those of you reading this. (She's judging herself for a "thank you"??? Get a life!) I am getting a life, but I want it to be authentic. I want the words rolling out of my mouth to be spoken spontaneously, a natural outcome of who I genuinely am.

Oh wait, oh wait, I just got it! Thank you all for being my kind, listening, therapists as I write myself out of this conundrum. Whew, what a relief.

Here goes: Growing up, I was oppositional as all get out to anything my mother wanted me to do, such as write thank you notes, or say "thank you" to this or that. I didn't want to be "made" to do anything. I wanted my actions to flow freely from my own decision making. This can occur when one grows up with a very forceful parent. Needing to individuate as my own human being, a standard response to my mother's requests was "NO!"

Sadly, for many (oppositional) years, the entitlement to my own actions delayed my growth as a kind human being. So, yes, saying "thank you" and a slew of other kind behaviors were learned and didn't come spontaneously to me in the beginning. 'Twas the playacting finally

becoming assimilated in my being that made me more whole. Or as the old saying goes, "Fake it till you make it." And I did. And it worked. Ergo, my first identified revelation in this piece.

Soooo, after this really long explanation ... where the heck am I with my initially expressed conundrum — verbalizing words to others that don't emerge from me spontaneously? I get it, now. I share non-spontaneous phrases like "thank you" with others when my mind is teaching me something. But I ALREADY know and cherish offering thanks, so why do I need to rely on a "should" prompt for the expression of thanks to the young man?

Ah, my second revelation. Thank you's build bridges between people. When I thanked the young man in my yard, his face just lit up. How do we build bridges to, and engage with, more and different people in the world? Such a sore need for human beings of all sorts to connect. We don't have to truly know someone to offer them the light of small affirmations, do we? Being seen and acknowledged by one person reverberates in so many of our ensuing interactions with others. Our bolstered light is communicated from person, to person, to person, like the endless rippling of a pebble tossed into a pond. So, yes, our shared light travels beyond our capacity to even see its outcomes.

I'm a natural light generator. And so are you. Let's do it!

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

### What's on your mind?

The Chatham News + Record welcomes letters from its readers on topics of local and public interest, as well as thoughtful and informative guest columns. At our discretion, we may edit letters for clarity. We reserve the right to refuse letters and other submissions that promote a commercial product, contain either libelous material, personal attacks on individuals or vulgar language. Consumer complaints and letters containing unverifiable factual claims are ineligible for publication.

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

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



# VIEWPOINTS

## LETTERS

### Facts guide my perspective

#### TO THE EDITOR:

In his recent letter to the editor, Mr. Philip Johnson suggested that I need “a new perspective.”

Commenting on my satirical column about legislators who proposed making the AR-15 rifle a national symbol — the “National Gun of America” — he said I “seemed to be looking for a story with a problem.”

In truth, I don’t think I need to look for a story about gun violence. There are plenty already — a number that grows every week.

I am hoping and praying for solutions

though.

I appreciated Mr. Johnson’s background information on the AR-15. I wouldn’t pretend to be an expert on firearms. Growing up in rural Florida, my brothers and I protected our chickens with simply a single-shot .22 rifle.

I’m not sure this is a matter of “perspective.” I work to base my beliefs on facts from reputable sources such as the Giffords Law Center. You may remember former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who was shot in the head by a gunman who also killed six people and injured another 12 who attended her “Congress on Your Corner” constituent event in 2011. According to

the Center:

- 43,000 Americans die from gun violence every year — an average of more than 116 per day.

- Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed in a gun homicide than people in other high-income countries.

I agree with the nearly two-thirds (63%) of Americans who reported in a recent Gallup poll their dissatisfaction with the nation’s laws and policies on firearms. Per the Gallup analysis, “Americans today are as dissatisfied with the nation’s gun laws as they have been in the past 23 years.”

I like the slogan of the Brady organization, named after Jim Brady, who was

shot while serving as assistant to President Reagan — “Take Action Not Sides. It’s in our hands to do something now.”

Unfortunately, North Carolinians lack the authority to initiate statewide initiatives or referendums. What power we do have is at the ballot box. I will continue to exercise my desire for common sense gun laws by voting for elected officials — of either party — who show responsible leadership in addressing this problem.

We must all join together and put aside partisan differences to find meaningful solutions.

**Dennis W. Streets**  
*Pittsboro*

## GUEST COLUMN | PHILIP JOHNSON

# Thinking differently about guns and shootings

Mass shootings have rightfully become a subject du jour since it seems there’s one almost every day. These occurrences are disturbing and serve as fodder for all media but often serve as a distraction from other egregious losses of life in this country. Most of these losses are driven by the White House, its emissaries, the media (both social and live), and left driven prosecutors with the help of Republicans who seem to be unable to overcome their own foibles.

Some politicians and media commentators are as dangerous as the guns they vociferously editorialize. Their ideas, support of certain causes, and inability to work across the aisle are resulting in deaths daily. Their incivility towards one another and the other branches of government are reprehensible and only add to the hatred and disrespect of others. The sad part is that it doesn’t carry the real-time media hype of a shooting, stabbing, or bludgeoning. Where’s the outrage to these unconscionable acts and their perpetrators?

Consider these examples:

- Failure to control and

manage the border has allowed cartels to flood the nation with fentanyl resulting in the deaths of almost 200,000 Americans in two-plus years — 100 times the 2,000 mass shooting deaths since 1999. Sadly, fentanyl is now the leading cause of death in young adults ages 18-45 and every month more children under 14 are affected.

- The Administration’s uncontrolled border policy has resulted in numerous deaths of illegals, involuntary servitude, and all kinds of crimes against defenseless children as was uncovered in the 4/18/23 testimony to the House Homeland Security Committee.

- The Pentagon’s woke generals oversaw a disastrous exit from Afghanistan, allowing the deaths of 13 U.S. troops and at least 60 Afghans. One can only guess how many loyal Afghans, who were promised safety but were deserted, have died at the hands of the Taliban since the withdrawal. A year-old estimate suggests up to 400 as of March 2022.

- Look at what is happening in many of our Democratic-led cities. Funded by the billionaire George Soros, there are district attorneys and

other leaders who are just as wild-eyed left as some exhort Republicans are crazy right. It’s troubling that major retailers must close stores to avoid rampant looting and move or close administrative offices to protect their employees.

- Remember March 2020 when Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer stood in front of the Supreme Court, the third branch of government, threatening the Justices? Pure contempt.

- Remember Maxine Waters agitating Democrats to “create a crowd [and] push back on them” in response to facing off with Republicans and Nancy Pelosi tearing President Trump’s 2020 State of the Union Address? Acts showing more than contempt; these were incivility personified.

- And it continues with Marjorie Taylor Greene and some on the MAGA side of the Republican party.

Considering these and the many other instances of callous and inept leadership that have led to a charged atmosphere and lack of respect for others, one doesn’t have to be a psychiatrist to suggest this “electricity” has charged

some who cannot mentally process it. When coupled with social media and a “breaking news” live media it mixes into a witch’s brew. I don’t recall a single shooter who wasn’t mentally disturbed in some fashion.

The “guns don’t kill people, people kill people” slogan is so true.

The question needs to be how we better identify these people, stopgap their ability to buy or acquire a firearm, and stop the insanity of mass shootings. One commonly suggested method, gutting the Second Amendment, will not work. It is not only unconstitutional but would do nothing to stop the availability of guns on the street. Outlawing guns will only enhance crime.

According to The Trace, claiming to be “the only newsroom dedicated to covering gun violence,” there are roughly 352 million guns owned or circulating in the U. S. This estimate accounts for all guns manufactured since 1899 plus imports less exports and those out of service. We’ll always have guns and, unfortunately, gun violence. And as long as our executive(s)

and Congress(es) continue to let things stew without some common-sense legislation, it will likely get worse. They must come together and create a “New America.” This does not mean MAGA. Over the past century President Ronald Reagan and House Speaker Tip O’Neal probably came closest to this relationship. I’ll also suggest it will never happen again. This is meant to be as much an indictment of the Republicans as the Democrats.

Gerard Baker in the April 18, 2023, edition of The Wall Street Journal says it beautifully: “If Western Civilization Dies, Put It Down as a Suicide.”

Be thankful if your law-abiding neighbor has and knows how to use a gun. Be even more thankful if you personally own a gun and know how to safely protect yourself and loved ones.

*Siler City’s Phil Johnson held several financial executive positions during his career and, prior to retiring, served as CEO of Chatham County Group Homes. He also has had past involvement with the non-profits West Chatham Food Pantry and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Siler City.*

## Mixed-race ads in changing times



**D.G. MARTIN**  
One on One

Have you seen Jonathan Lawson on television as he praises Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company? Recently, he has been on air constantly repeating that the most important things about the three P’s of life insurance are

“price, price, price.”

He has me spouting those words in my dreams.

He then explains Colonial Penn’s price, asserting that \$9.95 is the price for everyone.

As the on-air spokesman for Colonial Penn, Lawson succeeded the late Alex Trebek, who was also the host of the popular TV program, Jeopardy.

Trebek used his fame to promote Colonial Penn, much like former football star Joe Namath, who has promoted a Medicare Advantage product in television ads that seemed to run endlessly last fall.

Lawson is different. Unlike Trebek and Namath, he brings no celebrity background to his task. Also, Colonial Penn says, he is a regular employee of the company, while Trebek and Namath were independent promoters.

Something else distinguishes Lawson from Trebek and Namath. They were white and Lawson is black.

Arguably, Lawson’s appearance shows Colonial Penn’s belief that, increasingly, white viewers will accept black authority figures even if they are not celebrities.

Another example of changing attitudes are television ads featuring mixed race couples and families.

The increase in mixed race advertising is nothing new. A June 5, 2018, article by Joanne Kaufman in The New York Times introduced the changing situation as follows:

“A hapless man stands on the sidewalk, watching and wincing as an ex-girlfriend tosses his possessions out a second-floor window in a commercial for DirecTV. A husband and wife are overjoyed to learn from a Fidelity investments adviser that, yes, they have saved enough for retirement to realize their fondest dream, one that involves

a boat and a grandchild. And a considerably younger couple is delighted with the possibilities presented by the Clearblue ovulation test system.

“The men and women vary in age, circumstances and happiness levels, but they have one thing in common. They are all part of interracial couples.”

Kaufman quoted Larry Chiagouris, a professor of marketing at the Pace University Lubin School of Business: “For the longest time, ads presented the typical American household as Caucasian, heterosexual, two children and two cars in the driveway.

“There’s still a part of the world that’s like that, but there’s a large portion that is nothing like the ‘Father Knows Best’ Americana image. It’s taken the advertising community, and particularly their clients, a long time to come to grips with that. They’re risk averse.”

They may have been risk averse in 2018 and earlier. But the gloves are off in 2023. Ostensibly, every family-oriented TV ad for new cars that I have seen this year features mixed race parents and their kids.

Why?

Bottom line, of course, is the car companies want to sell cars. So, they must expect these ads will help that effort.

One clue can be found in changing poll results. Frank Newport, former Gallup editor-in-chief, wrote in 2013 about poll results in that year, “Continuing to represent one of the largest shifts of public opinion in Gallup history, 87% of Americans now favor marriage between Blacks and Whites, up from 4% in 1958.”

In an update in 2021, Gallop reported “94% of U.S. adults now approve of marriages between Black people and White people, up from 87% in the prior reading from 2013. The current figure marks a new high in Gallup’s trend, which spans more than six decades. Just 4% approved when Gallup first asked the question in 1958.”

I am skeptical about these poll results. But the strong trend towards growing approval of mixed marriages is persuasive, meaning that we can look forward to more and more cars full of mixed-race families in future TV ads.

## Federal budget crisis will hit state



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation

I started writing my column for North Carolina newspapers in 1986. From the start, I resolved to focus primarily on state and local issues. Newspapers were already chock-full of opinions about

national politics and international affairs. As a then-college student, I didn’t think my views on these topics would be distinctive enough to interest editors and readers. I still think that’s largely true.

In recent years, however, I have devoted an increasing share of columns to a national issue: the federal budget. North Carolinians are, of course, directly affected by federal spending, federal taxes, and the inflationary consequences of federal deficits. But you could say that about any federal action.

What makes it impossible for this state-oriented columnist to ignore the federal budget crisis is its implications for states and localities. If their leaders aren’t paying close attention to fiscal debates in Washington, that’s a mistake. Indeed, it’s no exaggeration to say that the federal government’s irresponsibility constitutes a grave threat to North Carolina’s fiscal health.

As you probably know, President Joe Biden, the Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate, and the Republican-controlled U.S. House are currently at odds over the federal debt ceiling. Biden wants Congress to increase the cap without conditions. The House has just released a proposal to raise the ceiling by \$1.5 trillion, which will paper over the federal deficit through March 2024, in exchange for some \$4.5 trillion in savings over several years, including an annual cap on spending growth, the imposition of stronger work requirements for welfare programs, and other cuts.

Some Democratic members of Congress want Biden to negotiate a compromise with GOP House leaders. Other Democrats would rather let the crisis unfold, confident that Republicans will either panic and cave or suffer lasting political damage.

I think the Republicans are in the right here, but that’s not my point today. One way the U.S. House plan would reduce federal deficits is to claw back unspent Covid-19 relief. While federal dollars already sitting in state and local coffers appear to be excluded, the plan would block some previously authorized funds from being distributed.

In my opinion, this proposal represents only the tip of a very large, very sharp iceberg. As Social Security and Medicare continue to grow as a share of federal expenditures — driven in large part by the aging of our population — future presidents and congresses won’t be so dainty about intergovernmental transfers. Faced with the prospect of raising taxes, cutting entitlements for seniors with a high propensity to vote, or cutting other spending, they’re going to choose the latter course as much as they can.

Although you’d never know it by reading most news coverage, North Carolina’s state budget consists of more than just the General Fund financed by state-imposed taxes and fees. It includes transportation accounts funded by gas and vehicle taxes. And it includes many programs funded either entirely by federal grants or, as with Medicaid, by a combination of state and federal dollars.

Last year, federal funds made up nearly as large a share of North Carolina’s state budget (39%) as the General Fund did (41%). Local governments also receive federal funds, as do our public and private colleges and universities in the form of research grants, student subsidies and other programs.

When push comes to shove, Washington is going to tighten this spigot, either explicitly or by imposing new conditions that make it less attractive to accept federal dollars. It requires no superhuman prescience or crystal ball to make such a prediction. It requires only the application of experience and common sense. Consider what state politicians often do when faced with a budget crisis: They curtail grants to localities or foist responsibilities on them that used to be shouldered by the state.



# EDUCATION

Continued from page A1

of Representatives and the state Senate. This means both chambers have enough votes to override a veto from Gov. Roy Cooper. Republicans gained the double supermajority last month when Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Dist. 112) switched her party affiliation from Democrat to Republican.

GOP members in Raleigh have made school choice one of their top priorities with their newfound power, so it's worth examining how the additional funding may impact Chatham County Schools, and what local education advocates are saying about the measures.

## 'Unfair advantage'

At April's Chatham County Board of Education meeting, the board passed a resolution in opposition to one of these "school choice" bills: House Bill 219, "Charter School Omnibus."

H.B. 219 would allow charter schools to claim a share of previously protected funding raised to support local public school systems. Chatham's school board unanimously approved the resolution opposing the bill, saying it would "create an unfair advantage by requiring local districts to share funds ... with local charter schools."

The resolution states that allowing charter schools to access funding raised specifically for traditional public schools would further deplete their resources.

"As we monitor this bill, we see a multitude of concerns regarding the financial impact the passing of this bill will have on our schools and ultimately, our students," Emily Emrick, public relations coordinator for Chatham County Schools, said.

Chatham isn't the only county to sign onto a resolution opposing this specific bill. Other school boards — including those in Cabarrus, Macon, New Hanover and Stanly counties — have also signed similar resolutions in opposition to H.B. 219.

The bill was referred to the House Education Committee last Thursday. The primary sponsors of H.B. 219 — Rep.

Torbett (R-Dist. 108), Rep. Bradford (R-Dist. 98), Rep. Willis (R-Dist. 68) and Rep. Saine (R-Dist. 97) — did not respond to requests for comment from the News + Record.

Gary Leonard, chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Education, said this bill in particular would have a "tremendous effect" on Chatham County Schools because it would limit the ability of the district to provide needed services for students.

"My job as a board member is to be an advocate for our students," Leonard said. "There are certain aspects of this bill in particular that would hit us awfully hard."

Jaime Detzi, executive director of the Chatham Education Foundation, also said she opposed the bill. CEF writes grants for public schools for things like innovative teaching, growing library collections or after-school programs. This bill, Detzi said, would give potential funding to charter schools for grants written specifically for CCS schools.

"Those schools have their own education foundations that are doing great work," Detzi said. "They are already writing their own grants, and they're not going to have to share their grants with us. So it just seemed kind of odd."

Leonard said the resolution by the board was not meant to diminish the work of local charter schools, but rather to look at the issue systematically. Leonard has a unique personal perspective on the issue because he was a teacher at Chatham Charter School for more than a decade. He also taught at Chatham Central High School.

While he valued his time at Chatham Charter, he said bootstrapping funding was rarely part of the conversation like it is in Chatham's public schools. If H.B. 219 were to be passed, Leonard said he fears the gaps between charter and public schools would widen.

"If those dollars are made available to flow wherever, I worry that it will hurt the enrollment at our other schools," he said.

Leonard added CCS does a good job with the funding it has available, but if that funding were to dwindle further, it may lead those of higher

socioeconomic status to opt for charter or private schools instead. Meanwhile, he said, those of lower socioeconomic status would get left behind.

Several proposals in the legislature provide funding for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds to attend private or charter schools. The problem, according to Leonard, is that those schools aren't required under state law to provide the same wrap-around services as traditional public schools. That includes things like transportation, mental health services, special needs accommodations, or free school lunches.

"Our schools have always been community hubs, especially in more rural areas," Leonard said. "I worry we may lose those community hubs to other places, and that concerns me because I feel like our schools make up the Chatham community spirit and pride."

## 'Apples to oranges'

Part of the argument for expanding funding for charter and private schools is that those schools consistently do better on test scores and are graded higher on the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction's Accountability Index.

For example, Woods Charter and Chatham Charter both earned a "B" on NCDPI's school performance grades for 2021-2022 and a majority of students at both schools achieved proficiency in all testing subjects. In CCS, seven of 19 schools earned a "B" grade or higher and six schools had a majority of students above proficiency.

While the NCDPI's testing data seems to indicate charter schools are the better option, those figures don't account for socioeconomic factors and the populations of charter schools versus public schools. Compared to their public school counterparts, Chatham's two charter schools have higher percentages of white students, lower percentages of students who are considered "economically disadvantaged" by NCDPI, lower percentages of students with disabilities and lower percentages of English Second Language students.

The demographics of the schools don't discount their achievements, but all of these

outside factors influence test scores, which in turn influence proficiency rates and NCDPI's Accountability grades.

Those grades also don't account for growth — a metric CCS often touts from its "lower-performing schools." For example, Virginia Cross Elementary School received a "D" grade from NCDPI, but it exceeded growth in all subject areas, showing its students improved substantially from year to year.

"You're comparing apples to oranges when you're talking about public versus charter," Detzi said. "Our charter schools just don't look like our public schools."

When charter schools were first established by the N.C. General Assembly in 1996, they were meant to bring experimental education and innovations into the public school system. Since then, charter schools have boomed across the state to more than 200 — serving more than 122,000 students by the 2020-2021 school year.

"I don't want to put any school down, because when you do, you're putting children down," Leonard said. "Any teacher, any school has an obligation to make its students better and help them grow, and I feel like all our schools in Chatham County do that."

## Not a golden ticket

Detzi said several bills under consideration in the legislature, especially those aimed at expanding private school vouchers, fail to take accountability for use of public funds in education.

A voucher works as a scholarship for K-12 students to attend a private school. They are funded with state money with a value of up to \$6,500, which is less than the amount of per student state spending for the average public school student. This year, North Carolina is spending \$133 million for 25,000 students to attend private schools, and about 90% of those students attend religious schools, according to data from the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority and reporting by WUNC.

Private schools, unlike public schools, do not have to report accountability data to the state. Detzi argues that by spending

public dollars on private schools, that may lead to a lack of reporting about student achievement, growth and curriculum.

This week, CEF plans to sign on to a resolution by the Public School Forum's N.C. Education Partners in opposition to a slew of voucher bills in the General Assembly including Senate Bill 406, House Bill 823 and House Bill 420. The resolution states each of these bills "would significantly increase state funding provided in the form of vouchers for students to enroll in private and parochial schools (schools affiliated with a church)."

"We believe all taxpayer education dollars should be adequate and equitable so all N.C. students can meet their hopes and dreams," the CEF resolution reads. "We believe that all taxpayer dollars spent on education should have public accountability standards and reporting."

The original intention of vouchers was to help low-income families attend private schools. Data suggests, however, the vouchers are not being taken by low-income residents — and bills in the NCGA, including H.B. 406, may eliminate the voucher income cap altogether.

Reducing that income cap is aimed at sending more students to private schools, but Detzi said passing that tab along to taxpayers isn't fair or sound economics.

"I think that the system is better for all students when money is put into accountable systems," Detzi said. "And that does not include private schools."

Reives agreed. He said North Carolina already has school choice as is, but under these proposed changes, it would lead to a further stripping of resources for public schools.

It should be a "no brainer," Reives said, to bolster public schools to make them equal to their counterparts with populations of higher socioeconomic status.

"What our North Carolina Constitution says is every single child has the right to a sound, basic education," Reives said. "We're not doing that when we're putting education up for grabs."

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @b\_rappaport



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# HIRES

Continued from page A1

Police Chief Mike Wagner said helped fill long-time vacancies, leaving the department with only three openings in its patrol division.

“Through those programs, we’ve been able to increase our diversity,” Wagner said. “We have two female officers now, we have several Latino officers now, which really makes up and balances us within our community.”

Vargas and fellow patrol officer Sydney Clark represent a moment of history for the department by being the first two women to work on patrol at the same time in at least the last 35 years and possibly in the history of the department. Clark started her career as a park ranger at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area but said she wanted to focus more on the law enforcement aspect of her job.

“When I first came here, I did a ride along, and the sense of teamwork and community here was something that really compelled me,” Clark said. “Teamwork is something that I’ve grown up with ... understanding that it’s not by its we and that we’re in this together ... And I really get a sense of that here at Siler City and I

have since day one.”

As a female officer, Clark said she’s experienced hesitation or confusion when she responds to calls. She uses it as an opportunity to help people understand she’s trained and equipped to handle the tasks every other officer is issued.

“I feel as a woman in this industry, it helps bring a sense of balance ... and I think it’s good for the community to see a female officer out and about,” she said. “I’m actually building relationships with the public, and that makes me feel good inside.”

Wagner said one of his goals as police chief is to ensure his patrol force looks more like the community they serve. By having Vargas and Clark on calls, he said they can provide different perspectives in certain situations.

“It’s proven through research that in certain situations, our victims will feel more compassion from a female officer, and that goes down to the personal traits of why we hire Sydney and Erica,” Wagner said. “They possess the strong characteristics that represent the future of the Siler City Police Department, our commitment to our community, and wanting to be well balanced in our community.”

Vargas and Clark aren’t

the only officers representing a new chapter for the SCPD. Chad Oates is an experienced officer who came to the SCPD from the Randolph County Sheriff’s Department. He said he came to Siler City because he saw it as a way to advance his career.

“Coming to a smaller agency has its perks,” Oates said. “In other words, you’ve got more opportunities I feel, in this position, for openings for improvement, if that’s what you’re looking for in the long run.”

Oates also liked how the SCPD gives him opportunities to work on a wider range of cases, so he’s able to do some things he wasn’t able to in his previous position. Siler City also has the promise of growth, and Oates said that gives the SCPD the chance to grow and add additional services, giving him more upward mobility.

“The agency will have to grow with the town to keep up with demand, and that’s what I meant by the opportunities for advancement are great here,” he said. “With the growth that’s coming in the very near future, with the megasite going in, the chip plant ... there’s a lot of growth that’s coming in this area in a very short period of time, so Siler City PD is going to have to grow with the times.”

SCPD Officer Ricardo Magana joined the force almost a year ago after completing his law enforcement training. He said he came to Siler City because he saw an opportunity to build a direct relationship with the public, something he feels is crucial to being a successful law enforcement agency.

“You’ll deal with the same people very frequently, you get to know the people around there,” Magana said. “Then it becomes easier dealing with them, getting information and then that leads to cases being solved that way.”

Vargas said as a Hispanic woman, she feels she can also help bridge a relationship between the SCPD and the Latinx community in town. Vargas said she hopes her presence in the field will help establish a sense of trust she says hasn’t existed.

“I think a lot of the Hispanic community is afraid,” she said. “And every, if not every other call, I will tell them we’re not here to do any harm, we’re here to help ... I’ll give them my card and do whatever I can to gain their trust.”

Clark said building relationships with the public is the most crucial part of her job, and she said Siler City’s department has a unique ability to work closely with residents in day-to-day operations.

“I also think it helps the community to see me and say, ‘OK, I remember her, she was fair with me and honest with me, and helped people out.’ That’s a big difference,” Clark said.

Wagner said small town policing allows for officers to provide a special level of professional and personal service to the community. By doing that, he said the department can build positive rapport with the community and in turn, create a sense of trust in the police department’s ability to protect and serve.

“There’s are a lot of benefits of small town policing,” Wagner said. “You’re closer to the community, you’re able to deliver a higher level of personal service and professional service, and that means a lot to a guy and gal in our workforce.”

There are still vacancies within SCPD, but Wagner said he’s working with town staff and his team to close that gap and provide what officers will need to be successful.

“Our goal here in the police department is give them an adequate, fair salary, give them the benefits that they deserve, give them the best equipment and give them the best training, and that will keep a police officer at a department,” he said. “They need to feel like they’re a member of this team.”

# PLEA

Continued from page A1

worked at the county level but was considered a HUD employee.

Davis initially pleaded not guilty to charges of wire fraud, identity theft and obstruction. She was placed on unpaid administrative leave from her position on March 14; the CCHA offices have been operating by appointment only since her arrest.

Housing Authority board attorney Brian Crawford, a partner with Michael Best & Friedrich in Durham, did not respond to questions

from the News + Record seeking information about a plan to replace Davis with a new director. CCHA board member Natasha J. Elliott, the executive director of Central Piedmont Community Action who’d previously said the board wasn’t aware of allegations involving Davis or the office, also failed to respond to questions.

The News + Record has requested and sought minutes from CCHA board meetings — minutes recorded by Davis — for the period of the past year, but board members contacted have not responded to those requests.

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne told the News + Record he understood the CCHA’s board was “working with their legal counsel and HUD representatives on how to move forward.”

“We look forward to the Chatham County Housing Authority getting this internal issue behind them so that they can focus on their critical mission of providing assistance for affordable and safe housing to the residents of our community,” LaMontagne said.

The February federal indictment said Davis, who had run CCHA since

2012, used her position to fraudulently award contracts for services — including housing inspections, staff training and client workshops — to friends and family members. In return, Davis received “kickbacks” from those friends and family members — allowing them to keep small percentages of the payments after they returned most of the cash to her — even though the services were never performed for the housing authority.

People who worked with Davis, had professional association with her or were served by the CCHA previously told

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

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

“We’ve been waiting for this day,” she said when she learned of Davis’

arrest.

Four others were also charged related to crimes linked to Davis and 14 individuals cited as undicted co-conspirators in the charging documents. Those named in the indictment were Clintess Roberta Barrett-Johnson, Michele Nicole Bell-Johnson, Robert Johnson Jr. and Candace Agatha Brunson-Poole.

On April 14, Brunson-Poole — charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft of government funds — also entered a voluntary guilty plea. She faces up to a year and prison and a fine of up to \$100,000.



## Siler City Development Organization (SCDO)

- Downtown Grant Programs
- Downtown Façade Grant
- Downtown Building Rehab Grant

**SCDO Board of Directors is now accepting new grant applications.**

The grant programs provide matching grants to encourage improvements and/or upgrades to downtown buildings to make them more attractive for new, existing, and expanding businesses. The primary mission is to improve commercial buildings to promote downtown revitalization. These grants encourage property owners, merchants, and residents to recognize, enhance, preserve, and promote a downtown area’s unique character and identity.

If you would like to receive a grant application, please contact Jack Meadows @ 919-726-8627 or [jmeadows@silercity.org](mailto:jmeadows@silercity.org)

# FREE PRESCHOOL



- WHAT: North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten
- WHO: Children who are 4 years old by August 31st
- WHEN: 2023-2024 School Year
- WHERE: Bennett School, Chatham Grove Elementary, Children First Learning Center, North Chatham Elementary, Perry Harrison Elementary, Pittsboro Elementary, Siler City Elementary, Telamon Head Start, Virginia Cross Elementary
- HOW: Applications are available at each site or scan this QR Code:



Administered By:



# PREESCOLAR GRATIS!

- Qué: Preescolar de Carolina Del Norte
- Quién: Niños que cumplen 4 años al 31 de Agosto
- Cuándo: Año escolar 2023-2024
- Dónde: Bennett School, Chatham Grove Elementary, Children First Learning Center, North Chatham Elementary, Perry Harrison Elementary, Pittsboro Elementary, Siler City Elementary, Telamon Head Start, Virginia Cross Elementary
- Cómo: Las aplicaciones están disponibles en cada sitio o escanee este código QR:



Administrado por:



[www.chathamkids.org/NCPK](http://www.chathamkids.org/NCPK)



# OBITUARIES

## ROBERT (BOB) JOHN KINKAID



Robert (Bob) John Kinkaid was born on May 7, 1948, in Reading, Pennsylvania. Bob was the son of the late Andrew David Kinkaid and Blanche Geneva (Sausen) Kinkaid. He grew up in Wernersville, Pennsylvania. Bob graduated from West Reading High School in 1966. He then attended Reading Business Institute (RBI) where he earned a Certificate in Higher Accounting in 1969. While at RBI, he met the love of his life, Rose (Flicker) Kinkaid. He started working in an apprentice accounting program with Continental Can, which moved him to Pennsylvania, Missouri, Georgia, North Carolina and Connecticut over several years. Bob earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Western Connecticut State University in 1983.

Bob was baptized as a young adult at First United Church of Christ in West Reading, Pennsylvania. Throughout his adult life, Bob was a very active member of several churches including Conyers First United Methodist Church (UMC) in Georgia, Danbury UMC in Connecticut, New Fairfield UMC in Connecticut, Gainesville UMC in Virginia, St. Thomas UMC in Manassas, Virginia, Pittsboro UMC in North Carolina, and New Salem Baptist Church in Pittsboro, North Carolina. He gave his life to Christ while living in Georgia. At the time of his death, he was a member of New Salem Baptist Church in Pittsboro, North Carolina. In these churches, he sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and Awana, and participated in Bible study groups. His gentle nature drew children to him for hugs and laughs, and he lived out Jesus' example of letting the little children come to him. Dedication to God was an important part of his life.

Bob and Rose made many friends as members of the Madhatter's Square Dance Club in Danbury, Connecticut, and various clubs in Virginia and North Carolina. He and Rose were active in Marriage Encounter for 15 years, both in local groups and as weekend leaders. This involvement strengthened their marriage and led to deeper commitments to God and each other. Bob was friendly and outgoing, and he would strike up a conversation and make friends everywhere he went. His conversations frequently led to Jesus as he wanted all to know and love Jesus the way he did. During his cancer treatment, he strengthened his commitment to sharing Christ with others.

The joy of Bob's life was his family. Bob and Rose were married at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania, on December 28, 1968. He deeply loved his wife, to whom he was married for more than 54 years. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and brother. He enjoyed watching baseball and playing golf with his grandsons. He was very proud of his granddaughter's musical accomplishments, and his grandsons' achievements in the Boy Scouts. Especially when his children and grandchildren were little, he loved being a "Papa pillow" to provide them with love and comfort. Although his immediate family was spread across the country, he really enjoyed vacations with them to St. John USVI, Myrtle Beach and the Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain.

He loved camping whether it be in a tent or camper, and several family trips included camping, boating or swimming. The only boat he ever owned was a small sailboat, but he had a dream of owning a large sailboat. While he never met that goal, he had several friends who took him sailing and he rented motorboats. He loved piloting a boat with his family on camping trips or with his daughter's family on the St. Croix River in Minnesota. If there is water in Heaven, I'm sure he's standing at the helm of a boat, smiling with the wind in his hair. As the Irish Blessing goes, may the wind be ever at his back. Another of Bob's hobbies was woodworking, and he did many family projects such as helping his grandsons with their Pinewood Derby cars, home improvement projects, teaching his daughter to build cornhole boards, and building sets for a local Vacation Bible School.

Bob lived his life in Christian witness to the love and saving grace of his Savior, Jesus Christ. Bob was predeceased by his parents, his paternal grandparents Andrew Cather and Mae (Brown) Kinkaid, and his maternal grandparents William and Marie (Weis) Sausen.

He is survived by his three children, Tracey Kinkaid Slayton (David) of Stillwater, Minnesota, Stephanie Kinkaid White (Alan) of Apex, North Carolina, and Bob Kinkaid (Lorryn) of Plaistow, New Hampshire. He had eight grandchildren — Jennah Slayton, Jonathan Slayton, Samuel Kinkaid, Deacon White, Derek White, Skyler Kinkaid, Lucas Kinkaid and Andrew White. He is also survived by siblings David Kinkaid (Patricia), Sandra Barker (Wayne), Linda Schlouch (Barry) and Alan Kinkaid (Denise).

A time of visitation will start at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at New Salem Baptist Church in Pittsboro, North Carolina, with Pastors Mark Holland and Chris Gambos. At 2:30 p.m., a funeral will be held at the church with a grave committal service immediately following at the church's cemetery. The family will receive friends in the fellowship hall after the service.

In lieu of cut flower arrangements, friends who wish to do so may donate plants and flowers to Rose for a backyard memorial garden.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Kinkaid family.  
www.DonaldsonFunerals.com

## MELISSA DAWN EDWARDS

May 31, 1975 ~ April 18, 2023  
Melissa Dawn Edwards, 47, of Raleigh, passed away on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at UNC Rex Healthcare in Raleigh.

Graveside services were held Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Collins Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Douglas Currin officiating.

She was the daughter of the late Harold Thomas Edwards and Sylvia Maxine Green Edwards.

Melissa is survived by her brother, Rev. Michael Edwards of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com).

## TERRY CARTER BARNES

July 19, 1947 ~ April 15, 2023

Terry Carter Barnes, 75, of Apex, passed away on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at UNC Medical Center in Chapel Hill.

Memorial services were held on Friday, April 21, 2023, at Apex United Methodist Church with the Rev. Laura Katherine Stern, officiating. Burial followed in the Haywood Bible Church Cemetery in Moncure.

Terry was the daughter of Edward M. Carter and Roberta Jean Merry Carter. Terry grew up on the Lazy C ranch in Oregon where her family raised cattle and sheep. She held positions in bookkeeping and was an administrative assistant at Apex Middle School. Terry was preceded in death by her parents.

## NANCY N. (NEAL) DANIEL



April 8, 1951 ~ April 17, 2023  
Nancy N. (Neal) Daniel  
Beloved Mother, sister, and grandmother.

She went home leaving a brother, sister, three children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She will be missed very much by all. She was greatly loved.

## VICKIE DALE CLINE



February 20, 1949 ~ April 14, 2023  
Vickie Dale Cline, 74, of Siler City, passed away on Friday, April 14, 2023, at the Hospice House in Pittsboro.

She was born in McDowell County, West Virginia on February 20, 1949, the daughter of Dana and Lois Whitaker Dale. Mrs. Cline had been a pharmacy tech for many years. Vickie loved to talk, she never met a stranger. After a few minutes of meeting someone she would have

them talking like they were old friends. One of her favorite hobbies was sitting down with a good book. She loved to read the Bible every morning and night. Spending time with her family and traveling always made Vickie happy. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, James David "JD" Cline.

She is survived by her son, Jimmy Cline of Siler City; daughter, Terry Cline Harrington of Siler City; grandchildren, Joseph Noble, Jacob and Lauren Cline, and James and Alex Harrington, all of Siler City; great-grandchildren, Trevor, George, Jax and Annalise, all of Alaska; sisters, Jackie Dale and Stormy Dale, both of Princeton, West Virginia, Debbie Dale of Baltimore, Maryland, and Ginger Crews of Bluefield, West Virginia; brother, Sonny Dale of Bluefield, West Virginia; sister-in-law, Janet Meadows of Bluewell; and nieces, Shelia Lusk, Rhonda Lester and Sherry Jones.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Smith & Buckner Funeral Home Chapel, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Cline family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.smithbucknerfh.com](http://www.smithbucknerfh.com).

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Edward James Barnes of the home; daughters, Sloan Barnes Garner and Stacy Barnes, both of Holly Springs; brothers, Gary Carter of Moncure, Michael Carter of Bahama; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the Alzheimer's Association Eastern North Carolina Chapter, 4600 Park Road, Suite 250, Charlotte, N.C. 28209. (Specify for Eastern N.C. Chapter when donating.)

Online condolences can be made to [www.smithfuneral-homemoncure.com](http://www.smithfuneral-homemoncure.com).

## PAUL RICHARD CICOGNA

September 10, 1964 ~ April 14, 2023.

Paul Richard Cicogna, 58, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, April 14, 2023.

The family received friends on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at Good News Baptist Church. The funeral service

followed in the church with Pastor Steve Ray officiating. A private graveside service followed.

Paul was the son of Mary Yvonne Haymore Moody and David Joseph Cicogna. He was the proud owner of Kar Kraft for 36 years. He was preceded in death by his brother, John Cicogna.

Paul is survived by his father, David Joseph Cicogna of Ocala, Florida; sons, Chance Cicogna and Blake Cicogna, both of Sanford; daughter, Makenzie Cicogna of Wilmington; brother, Steve Cicogna of Sanford; sisters, Kathy Key of Sanford and Debbie Ciogna of Long Island, New York; and two grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com).

## JERRY LYNN PARSON

July 30, 1952 ~ April 22, 2023

Jerry Lynn Parson, 70, of Sanford, passed away on

Saturday, April 22, 2023, at his home.

The family received friends on Monday, April 24, 2023, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at Shallow Well Church with Dr. Eric Burmahl, Rev. Donnie Thompson and Rev. Robert Thomas officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mr. Parson was the son of the late Edd Parson and Lois Womack Parson. In addition he was preceded in death by a brother, Jimmy Parson. He was retired from both Cape Fear Rural and North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 48 years, Linda; son, Wayne Parson of Broadway; daughter, Jill Parson of Wilmington; and brother, Eddie Parson of Sanford.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to Shallow Well Cemetery Fund, 1220 Broadway Road, Sanford, N.C. 27332.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com).

## STEPHEN 'STEVE' METRO KOTORIS

January 21, 1947 ~ April 23, 2023

Stephen "Steve" Metro Kotoris, 76, of Siler City passed away Sunday, April 23, 2023.

A gathering with family and friends will be held Thursday, April 27, 2023, at Loves Creek Baptist Church. A graveside service will follow in the church cemetery at 2 p.m. with Rev. Kevin Rollins officiating.

Steve was the son of the late Michael and Ollie Mae Stevens Kotoris. He worked and retired after 25 years from Data Mark Graphic in Asheboro. He was a member of Loves Creek Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Deborah "Debbie" Evans Kotoris; daughter, Karen K. Brown; one grandson; and a brother, Mike Kotoris.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the charity of choice.

Online condolences may be made at [www.smithbucknerfh.com](http://www.smithbucknerfh.com)

## CAROLINE FOLASADE (OGUNDIPE) AKINOSHO

January 21, 1955 ~ April 10, 2023

Caroline Folasade (Ogundipe) Akinosho, 68, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, April 10, 2023, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at Cool Springs Baptist Church. Burial followed at Buffalo Jonesboro Cemetery.

See **OBITS**, page A9



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# OBITS

Continued from page A8

## QUZANDOR AERO HEADEN SR.

January 14, 1963 ~ April 8, 2023  
 Quzandor Aero Headen Sr., 60, of St. Albans, New York, formerly of Chapel Hill, passed away on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Select Specialty Hospital Northeast New Jersey Inc. in Rochelle Park, New Jersey.  
 Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

## ELVIN MUNN

June 26, 1955 ~ April 20, 2023  
 Elvin Munn, 67, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at his residence.  
 Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## REBECCA (RIVERA) MERCED

May 9, 1946 ~ April 12, 2023  
 Rebecca (Rivera) Merced, 76, of Chapel Hill, passed away on Saturday, April 12, 2023, at UNC Hospitals.  
 Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.



**Rocky River Baptist Church**  
**Chicken Tender Fundraiser**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**11AM-7PM: Supper**  
**Eat-In or Take-Out!**  
**\$8 Per Plate**  
**Includes Dessert & Drink**  
 4436 Siler City Snow Camp Rd.

**LOVING MEMORY**  
**Ashley Nicole Pyrtle**  
 February 4, 1990 - April 26, 2008

*Our hearts are broken but we will see our Angel again in Heaven one day! We love you, Daddy, Mama, Caroline & Lauren ~ Sleep well my princess, each passing day is a day closer to seeing you again! ~ I love you always, Mom*

*The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of God stands forever. ~Isaiah 40:8*

# Siler City signs SOC with NCDEQ

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — After being under a state-imposed sewer moratorium for almost a year, the town of Siler City signed a Special Order by Consent with the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality, which establishes goals for the town to allow it to receive additional sewer capacity.

The SOC comes after over months of negotiations between Siler City administration and state officials. Siler City Public Utilities Director Chris McCorquodale said the SOC marks the beginning of a new era for development for the town.

“It (the SOC) breaks down the schedule that has certain things that we have to accomplish throughout the next year,” he said.

McCorquodale and his staff, along with Town Manager Hank Raper, worked to negotiate with NCDEQ on lifting the moratorium.

The moratorium prevented the town from adding new sewer connections, effectively putting a halt to developments in Siler City’s planning jurisdiction. NCDEQ cited multiple town violations of the Clean Water Act when it announced the moratorium last May, including elevated nitrogen levels — some above 800% of permitted limits — in discharges from the town’s wastewater facility.

The SOC lays out four phases the town must complete; upon the completion of each phase, the state provides an additional allocation of

gallons per day of sewer the town can grant to proposed developments.

McCorquodale said the first phase of the SOC has already been completed, and his staff are working diligently to have the second phase completed by this summer.

“We completed phase one before the SOC was even signed from either side so we could speed up this process,” he said. “We’ve completed all the milestones in phase one and a majority of our milestones in phase two, so right now we’re just waiting for the state to give us permission to release the 50,000 gallons per day from phase one.”

Each phase of the SOC involves various renovations and additions for the wastewater plant. Raper said having the SOC established will help “make the case” for requesting state funds to help fund the improvements and address infrastructure improvements.

“We are trying to work with the state and going through their budget process to see if we can get some direct appropriations like other communities have received to help with their infrastructure,” Raper said. “I think Siler City has a really good story to tell as to why it needs this allocation ... Siler City can be the epicenter of residential development and business development and can grow on all four sides. So this could be a community where tens of thousands of people could potentially move to fuel all these jobs in this whole region, and this can be the centerpiece ... It gets us on the radar of the state when we have

so much growth that potentially can come to our city. It kind of puts a red flag out there to say Siler City needs some help.”

Being in an SOC is beneficial for both the state and the town, according to Raper. He said the SOC will help make Siler City’s financial requests a priority in the state’s budget, as well as force NCDEQ to stick to a set of terms and conditions.

“The SOC draws attention to say, if we don’t address this and do it in a very short period of time, Siler City is not going to have the ability to grow its system,” Raper said. “You have a contract that binds both sides — we know what’s expected of us and what’s expected from DEQ ... We’ve committed to them that we’re going to follow through and do these things.”

With Wolfsped-related growth coming to Siler City, Raper said it’s in the town’s best interest to address the SOC and other issues involving water and wastewater. He also said the town needs to address water and wastewater rates, since no increases have been implemented since 2016. A hike would help account for inflation and the elevated cost of services and parts needed to maintain the water and wastewater facilities.

“It’s not our intention in any way to ask the residents of Siler City to subsidize Wolfsped or any other industry coming into our city,” Raper said. “On the flip side, that does not mean that we can reduce rates because we have an industry coming. We do need to increase rates be-

cause rates haven’t been increased for years, and inflation applies to water, sewer utilities, just like it does to any other cost.”

According to the N.C. Water and Wastewater report, only about 25% of North Carolina municipalities haven’t updated their rates since 2018 or earlier. Raper said because the town hasn’t raised its rates in almost seven years, the price increase will be more than what it would be if it had been re-evaluated every year. Going forward, however, he wants to look at rates during the budget process every year.

“No one wants to raise it ... but for the long-term sustainability of the system, the best strategy is to get the rates where there’s a small, incremental increase every year. That way, it’s not so dramatic on anybody,” Raper said. “Those little increases over several years time add up to a lot of money — you might make another couple of million dollars that could have addressed other issues just from the little increases that you’re doing instead of going from one big increase to another big increase.”

Between figuring out what future rates need to be and addressing each requirement for the SOC, McCorquodale said he and his staff are working to ensure development in Siler City can continue.

“We’re going to keep chipping away at it and do our best to improve the plants so we can get growth,” he said.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com).

# Chatham County community gives gift of life through employee blood drive

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County employees and residents rolled up their sleeves to give the gift of life April 12 at the County’s Agriculture Building in Pittsboro.

Thirty-one lifesaving blood donations were collected to help hospital patients in need. The Chatham County Employee Blood Drive is held every April with the American Red Cross.

April is National Volunteer Month, and the American Red Cross is celebrating the millions of people who volunteer

to give blood, platelets, and plasma throughout the year. Donors of all blood types are needed now to keep the blood supply strong enough to support critical patient care this spring.

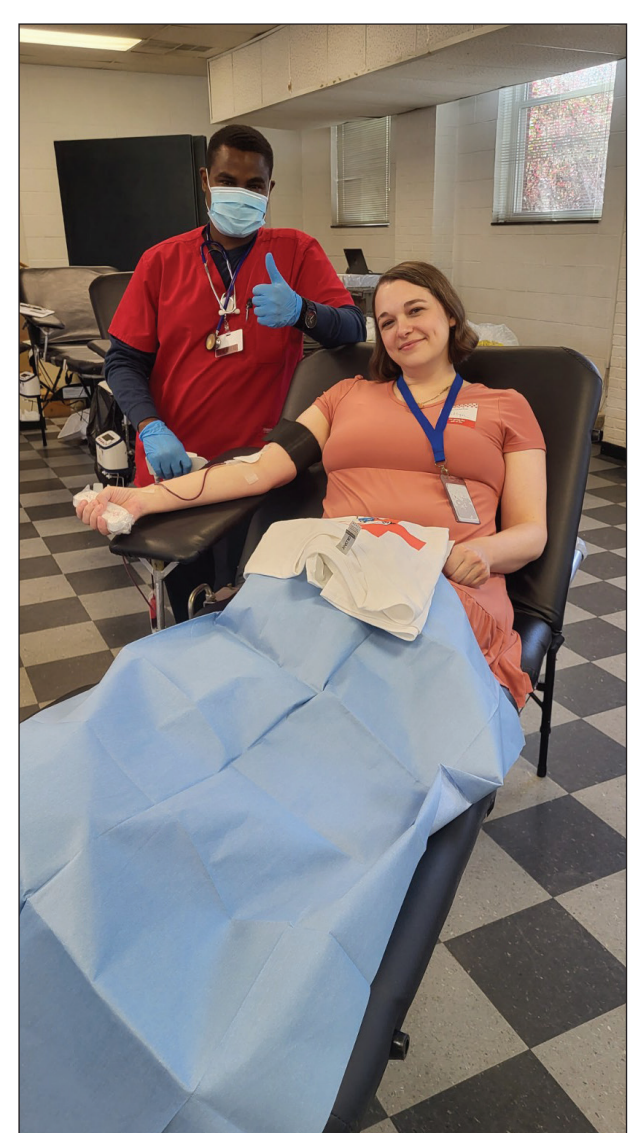
The Red Cross depends on volunteer donors to collect about 12,000 blood donations and nearly 3,000 platelet donations every day. Volunteer donors like Chatham County employee Kaitlyn Warren, whose family members have received blood in the past.

“Knowing people who have required blood before amplifies the need that much more,” Warren said. “I wanted to be able to help others, and having the blood drive here at work makes it really convenient.”

Donated blood has a limited shelf life, so supplies must be continuously replenished to ensure sufficient inventory of blood products. With no substitute for blood and no way to manufacture it, volunteer donors are essential for hospital patients in need of transfusions. Patients need blood for a variety of reasons including individuals who have experienced trauma, people fighting cancers and those with chronic illnesses like sickle cell disease.

Chatham County employee Elizabeth Plata organizes the blood drive, and she has been donating blood for more than 20 years.

“Donating blood is so simple, yet it has such a great impact on saving lives,” she said. “Coordinating the blood drive makes it even more



Courtesy of Chatham County government

**Chatham County employee and blood donor Kaitlyn Warren donates with the assistance of Red Cross Collections Specialist Tom Mwalali.**

special to me, since I get to assist my co-workers and fellow community members in the process as well.”

In addition to donors, the Red Cross needs individuals to volunteer at blood drives. Blood Donor Ambassadors engage donors by greeting, registering, answering questions, providing information, and supporting them through the recovery process at

the refreshments table. The special attention these volunteers provide helps create a favorable impression that encourages ongoing donor support.

Information about blood donation and volunteer opportunities can be found by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

**Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Austen!**

**You’re one of the coolest guys ever!! You’ve accomplished so much this year! We’re so proud... love you more!**

Love, Mom, Dad, Emmett, & Grams



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# CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

**LEARN ABOUT LAND** - Chatham Land Experts, [www.learn-aboutland.com](http://www.learn-aboutland.com) - 919-362-6999 Jy2,tfnc

## APARTMENTS

**OPENING SOON!! Oak View at Siler City** - Multifamily community w/1,2,&3 bedroom apts. Amenities include playground, computer center, on-site laundry facilities, community garden, and much more! Affordable housing: applicants must meet income requirements. Call (919) 283-9922 today to be put on the call list. Or email: [leasingoakview@partnershippp.com](mailto:leasingoakview@partnershippp.com). Credit & criminal background check required. Handicap accessible units subject to availability. Equal Housing Opportunity. Professionally managed by Partnership Property Management. A27,My4,11,18,25,5tc

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

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

## YARD SALE

**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](mailto:rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com), J6,tfnc

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

## SERVICES

**PAY CASH** for junk cars and trucks. Call 336-581-3423. A27,My4,11,18,4tp

**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. F23tfnc

**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,tfnc

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

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

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

## HELP WANTED

**A 72-UNIT APARTMENT COMPLEX** in Siler City, is looking for a Full-time Site Manager to work 40 hours/week. The position requires exceptional customer service skills, positive and professional demeanor, excellent communication, and attention to detail. Job entails taking applications, renting apartment homes, communicating with tenants, and other administrative duties. Basic computer and email skills are a must. Affordable Housing experience a plus but will train the right person. Must pass credit and criminal background check. Email - [jworsham@partnershippp.com](mailto:jworsham@partnershippp.com).

com or call 336-544-2300 ext. 276. Equal opportunity provider and employer. A20,27,My4,11,18,25,6tc

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

**VEGETABLE PLANTS** are ready. Includes German Johnson tomatoes at Vestals, 969 Poe Road, Siler City. Call 919-200-3755. Closed Saturdays and Sundays. A13,20,27,My4,4tc

## LEGALS

**NOTICE OF SALE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM ACE SELF STORAGE**, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 44A, shall conduct a Public Sale of the Units listed below at its facility located at 105 West Fifth Street, Siler City, N.C. at 11 a.m. on May 12, 2023. We will reserve the right to withdraw any units from the sale. All sales will be cash to highest bidder. Unit: B-5A, Bradley Brooks Unit: B-27, Lesley Ellington Unit: B-3C, Susan Griffin Unit: B-7B, Dakota White A6,A13,A20,A27,M4,5tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 23-E-177 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, Margaret Hsieh McIntosh, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HENRY LIEN HSIEH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the day of July 5th, 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 6th of April 2023. Margaret Hsieh McIntosh, Executor c/o Marie H. Hopper Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 A6,A13,A20,A27,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 472**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executrices of the Estate of **GEORGE WAYNE HORTON**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at their address, 64 Horton Farm Lane, Siler City, North Carolina, 27344, on or before the 12th day of July, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 6th day of April, 2023. Brenda Horton Rimmer, Co-Executor 64 Horton Farm Lane Siler City, North Carolina 27344 Deborah Carolyn Horton, Co-Executor 173 Horton Farm Lane Siler City, North Carolina 27344 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC P. O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 7312-0880 A13,A20,A27,M4,4tc

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM FILE NO.: 21 JT 55**  
IN RE: "J.I.C." DOB: 7/14/13  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PROCESS OF PUBLICATION**  
TO: Jose Antoni Rosado Dominquez/Biological father/unknown father of the above male child, born at UNC Hospital/Chapel Hill, NC to Ashley Cook. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed to terminate your parental rights to the above-referenced minor child. You have forty days from 4/13/23, the first date of publication of this Notice to respond to said Petition by filing a written answer to the petition with the Chatham Clerk of Court. Your parental rights to the juvenile may be

terminated upon failure to answer the petitions within the time prescribed. Any attorney appointed previously in an abuse, neglect or dependency proceeding and still representing you shall continue to represent you. If you are indigent and not already represented by an attorney, you are entitled to a court-appointed attorney by contacting the Chatham County Clerk of Court. STEPHENSON & FLEMING, L.L.P. BY: /s/ ANGENETTE STEPHENSON Attorney for Petitioner, CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES 109 Conner Dr. Suite 208 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 Telephone: (919) 869-7795 A13,A20,A27,3tc

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA LEE COUNTY**  
In the Superior Court Division Before the Lee County Clerk of Court IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LEVI CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE 23 SP 08 BRIDGETT LEANNA MITCHELL: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: **PETITION TO SELL MINOR'S INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY.** You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than May 24, 2023, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This, the 10th day of April, 2023. DEIRDRE M. STEPHENSON Attorney for Petitioner 1518 Elm Street Sanford, NC 27330 A13,A20,A27,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS**, firms and corporations having claims against **LORRAINE VOSS**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C. are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 13, 2023 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of April, 2023. Daren Marc Voss, Executor of the Estate of Lorraine Voss, c/o Paul A. Yokabitus, Atty. 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 104 Raleigh, NC 27605 A13,A20,A27,My4,4tc

**EXECUTOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
All persons having claims against the estate of **SAMUEL BRIGHTWELL LIGON**, of Chatham County, NC, who died on August 1, 2022, are notified to present them on or before July 13, 2023 to David G. Ligon, Executor, c/o Maitland & English Law Firm, 2 Couch Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Michele L. Stiffler MAITLAND & ENGLISH LAW FIRM 2 Couch Road Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Attorney for the Estate A13,A20,A27,My4,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 216**  
All persons having claims against **JULIA WINCHELL LACKEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of April, 2023. ROBERT S. LACKEY, JR. 507 OAK AVENUE CARRBORO, NC 27510 c/o Epting & Hackney 410 Martin Luther King, Jr. PO Drawer 1329 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 A13,A20,A27,My4,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 23 E 212**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **ANTHONY RAY GORE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them

to the undersigned at her address, 2101 Dewitt Smith Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 12th day of July, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 10th day of April, 2023. Denna Christine Graham 2101 Dewitt Smith Road Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC P. O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880 A13,A20,A27,My4,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000155**  
All persons having claims against **JOHN F. EVANS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of April, 2023. Angela J. Bailey, Executor 1516 Great Ridge Parkway Chapel Hill, NC 27516 A13,A20,A27,My4,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000183**  
All persons having claims against **FRANCES T. GOODWIN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of April, 2023. Tina Gale Goodwin, Executor 2611 Tody Goodwin Road Apex, NC 27502 A13,A20,A27,My4,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARTHA ANN HARTSHORN CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO. 2023 E 217**  
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **MARTHA ANN HARTSHORN**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 22, 2023 or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 20th day of April, 2023. Jennifer Anne Grant, Administrator 2026 Terry Road Durham, NC 27712 Attorney, Walter Brodie Burwell, Jr. Envisage Law 2601 Oberlin Road, Suite 100 Raleigh, NC 27608 A20,A27,M4,M11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **JEAN S. HORNEY** late of 1434 Sunset Dr., Siler City, NC 27344, 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 Gavigan Law, PLLC, 10700 Sikes Place, Suite 375, Charlotte, North Carolina 28277, Attn. Timothy B. Gavigan, on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 20th day of April, 2023. Patricia H. Neinast The Estate of Jean S. Horney Timothy B. Gavigan Gavigan Law, PLLC 10700 Sikes Place, Suite 375 Charlotte, North Carolina 28277 A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Special Proceedings No. 22 SP 177**  
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass Date of Sale: MAY 1, 2023 Time of Sale: 3:00 p.m. Place of Sale: **Chatham County Courthouse** Description of Property: See Attached Description Record Owners: Heirs of Mary Pattishall Alston, aka Mary Pattisall Alston Address of Property: 36 Pattis-

**all Road and commonly known as 36 Pattishall Road Pittsboro, NC 27312 Deed of Trust Book: 1681, Page: 452 Dated: April 17, 2013**  
Grantors: Mary Pattishall Alston Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union  
**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.

Philip A. Glass, Substitute

## 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.

Trustee  
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.  
Posted on 4/4/23  
EXHIBIT A  
BEGINNING at a point in the center of Old Chapel Hill Road and running thence North 85 degrees 15 minutes West 219.1 feet to a stake in Betty Sander's line and thence with Sander's line North 16 degrees 16 minutes West 212 feet to a stake; and thence South 78 degrees 53 minutes West 213.4 feet to a stake in the center of Old Chapel Hill Road and thence along and with center line of Old Chapel Hill Road, South 14 degrees 34 minutes East 271.6 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING and containing 1.18 acres, more or less. For further description, see plat of "Property of Frank Alston", prepared by William G. Joyner, RS., May 23, 1970. Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property. PIN: 9742 20 71 7338 Property Address: 36 Pattisall Rd. Pittsboro, NC 27312 and commonly known as 36 Pattishall Rd. Pittsboro, NC 27312 A20,A27,2tc

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**ON-LINE AUCTION**   
ON-LINE Bidding from April 19th - May 2nd at 7pm  
**583 Eden Hills Rd, Siler City NC**  
Personal Property of **Bobby Thornburg, (Moved to Assisted Living)**  
Furniture, Tools, China & Glassware, Antiques, Collectibles,  
Plus LOTS MORE. House and Outbuildings are Full!!  
Preview Friday April 21st 3-6pm and Tuesday May 2nd 3-6pm  
**JerryHarrisAuction.Hibid.com**  
[www.JerryHarrisAuction.Hibid.com](http://www.JerryHarrisAuction.Hibid.com)  
Auctioneer, Scott Harris NCAL#8420 Firm #8086  
919-498-4077 or 919-742-3286 15%BP 

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Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.  
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919-542-5410  
TDD 1-800-735-2962  
Email: [pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com](mailto:pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com)  
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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

  
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Visit [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://www.chathamcountync.gov) and click Jobs.



Notice is hereby given to relatives, both known and unknown, of those individuals buried in the unmapped Cemetery located in Westfall Subdivision near Ravens Lane and Westfall Way in Chatham County of the intent to disinter, and relocate all graves identified in the cemetery, and reinter those said graves

in a documented Cemetery with public access in the same subdivision. Anyone having information about these graves, or the next of kin, or those direct Descendants wishing to comment or inquire on this proposed relocation should contact Clinton's Excavation LLC at (252) 443-0588.  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

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**USMS ONLINE AUCTION**  
Civil Action No. 1:19-CV-626. Bid 4/27 - 5/8. 426 S. Sycamore St., Aberdeen, NC - 5.06+- Acres Warehouse, Rogers Realty & Auction - NCAL #685, full details: [RogersAuctionGroup.com](http://RogersAuctionGroup.com).

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

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The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-866-642-1883

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

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

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, having qualified on the 10th day of April 2023, as Executor of the Estate of **ROSINA BADALAMENTE**, 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 20th day of July 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 20th day of April 2023  
Clifford G. Simpson, Executor of the Estate of Rosina Badalamente  
Wendy C. Brooks, Esquire  
Kennon Craver, PLLC  
4011 University Drive, Suite 300  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 197**  
All persons having claims against **NEWBY JUDSON DARK, III**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 20th day of April, 2023.  
Justin Casey Dark, Administrator  
8321 Hobhouse Circle  
Raleigh, NC 27615  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
David G. Romelotti qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on April 3, 2023 as Ancillary Administrator of the Estate of **DANA PORCH ROMELOTTI**, 2679 Building E. Sable Circle #102, Clearwater, FL 33761.  
This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before the 19th day of July, 2023 or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payments to the undersigned. Payments and claims should be presented to:  
Eddie S. Winstead, III  
P.O. Box 1045  
Sanford, NC 27331-1045.  
A20,A27,M4,M11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, having qualified on the 11th day of April 2023 as Executor of the Estate of **DOROTHY K. MILLER**, 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 20th day of July, 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 20th day of April 2023.  
Mark Miller, Executor of the Estate of Dorothy K. Miller  
C/o Gwendolyn C. Brooks  
Kennon Craver, PLLC  
4011 University Drive, Suite 300  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, Scott Palkoski, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ZENON PALKOSKI**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present such claims to the undersigned in care of the undersigned's Attorney at their address on or before July 20, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said Estate will please make immediate payment to the above-named Executor.  
This the 11th day of April 2023.  
Scott Palkoski, Executor  
Estate of Zenon Palkoski  
Blaire D. McClanahan, Esq.  
c/o Law Offices of Cheryl David  
528 College Rd.  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
Telephone: (336) 547-9999  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000124**  
All persons having claims against **CYNTHIA CLEMMER MOORE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 20th day of April, 2023.  
Meagan Moore Frank, Administrator  
1286 Sandy Branch Ch Road  
Bear Creek, NC 27207

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000192**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANNE STROWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 27th day of April, 2023.  
Richard Elvin Strowd, Executor  
2645 W Marion Avenue  
Unit 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000192**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANNE STROWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 27th day of April, 2023.  
Richard Elvin Strowd, Executor  
2645 W Marion Avenue  
Unit 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000192**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANNE STROWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 27th day of April, 2023.  
Richard Elvin Strowd, Executor  
2645 W Marion Avenue  
Unit 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000192**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANNE STROWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 27th day of April, 2023.  
Richard Elvin Strowd, Executor  
2645 W Marion Avenue  
Unit 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000192**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANNE STROWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 27th day of April, 2023.  
Richard Elvin Strowd, Executor  
2645 W Marion Avenue  
Unit 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000192**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANNE STROWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 27th day of April, 2023.  
Richard Elvin Strowd, Executor  
2645 W Marion Avenue  
Unit 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000192**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANNE STROWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 27th day of April, 2023.  
Richard Elvin Strowd, Executor  
2645 W Marion Avenue  
Unit 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000192**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA ANNE STROWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 27th day of April, 2023.  
Richard Elvin Strowd, Executor  
2645 W Marion Avenue  
Unit 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 220**  
All persons having claims against **JACK JUNIOR HENSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 20th day of April, 2023.  
Jack Gregory Henson, Executor  
296 Howard Gilliland Road  
Siler City, NC 27344  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 222**  
All persons having claims against **COLETTE WILLIAMS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 20th day of April, 2023.  
Erskine R. Glover, Administrator  
24 Quince Place  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230**  
All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 12th day of April, 2023.  
Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor  
8596 Safflower Way  
Leland, NC 28451  
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor  
317 Waverly Hills Drive  
Cary, NC 27519  
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

**CHATHAM COUNTY**

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **JOAN H. ZEBLEY**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Mark O. Costley, Exec., c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515.  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **MARIO FONSECA**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Anita Fonseca-Fiks, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Ruth Anne Bard, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Ruth Anne Bard, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Ruth Anne Bard, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Ruth Anne Bard, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Ruth Anne Bard, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Ruth Anne Bard, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Ruth Anne Bard, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 27th day of April, 2023.  
Ruth Anne Bard, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
A27,My4,My11,My18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **PEGGY BARD**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

# 523 children were abused in Chatham last year. Here's what's being done to help reduce those numbers.

CN+R Staff Report

How do we know child abuse when we see it?

As April — Child Abuse Prevention Month — wraps up, we speak with Cim Brailer, the program administrator and deputy director of Chatham County's Department of Social Services about child abuse, and about what happens when it's reported. For more information, contact Brailer at cim.brailer@chathamcountync.gov.

**What constitutes child abuse? How should we define it, and know it when we see it?**

There are many forms of abuse and neglect. N.C. General Statute 7B defines an abused child as one who sustains a serious injury or the substantial risk of a serious injury, serious emotional damage, or exploitation by a parent, guardian, custodian or caretaker. The types of things that would fall under the abuse category include physical injuries such as cuts, bruises lasting more than 24 hours, fractures and head injuries; sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking; causing serious emotional damage by chronic belittling, yelling, isolation, or withholding of emotional needs.

N.C. General Statute 7B defines a neglected juvenile as one whose parent, guardian, custodian or caretaker does not provide proper care, supervision or discipline; has abandoned the juvenile, has not provided or arranged for necessary medical care, creates or allows an environment that is injurious to the juvenile, has participated or attempted to participate in the unlawful transfer of custody of the juvenile, or has placed the juvenile for care or adoption in violation of law. The types of things that fall under neglect include not providing proper supervision to a child sufficient for the child's

age and abilities, creating an injurious environment due to parental substance use, domestic violence, or not providing a safe place to live, abandonment of a child without a plan in place for the care of the child, malnourishment and truancy.

**How prevalent is it here in Chatham County?**

In state fiscal year 2021/2022, Chatham County Child Protective Services (CPS) accepted 300 reports for child abuse, neglect and/or dependency, representing 523 unique children, compared to 289 reports and 632 unique children reported in the previous year. Injurious environment allegations represented nearly 38% of reports, with domestic/family violence reflecting 15%. Substance use represented nearly 13% of the reported allegations for child protective services within the county.

Chatham County mirrors North Carolina and the United States in that the majority of reports received by CPS are for neglect versus abuse. In FY22, reports alleging abuse represented less than 5% of all reports received. Substance use, domestic violence, and/or improper supervision are among the leading causes of CPS reports in the county.

To find national and N.C. statistics, go to <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2021.pdf>.

**How does abuse get reported?**

N.C. law requires all adults to report suspected child maltreatment. Reports are made by calling the local county Department of Social Services (DSS) where the child lives. Chatham County DSS's CPS Hotline is 919-642-6988 during business hours or 919-542-2911 after hours and on weekends. (See 'Prevent Child Abuse N.C.'s Recognizing and

Responding to Suspicions of Child Maltreatment' at [preventchildabusenc.org](http://preventchildabusenc.org).)

The report will be taken by a child welfare social worker using a standardized process. Important information to have available is the name, age, and address of the child and parent, information about the child's condition and the specific nature of the maltreatment, any information about safety concerns such as the presence of weapons, substance use, or other factors that could impact the child or social worker's safety.

After the report is received it will be reviewed and a determination is made as to whether or not it meets the criteria to be assigned for an assessment.

**What typically happens after a report is made? What's the investigative process?**

When a report of abuse or neglect is accepted for an assessment, it is assigned to a Child Protective Services (CPS) social worker. Depending on the nature of the allegations, the social worker will either respond immediately, or within 24 or 72 hours. The social worker will meet with the family, discuss the allegations, interview the children and all adults living in the home, and others who have knowledge of the family, and gather and review records during the course of the assessment. Depending on the family's needs and the issues identified, parents may be referred to services and supports within the community. Most CPS assessments are completed within 45 days, and a case decision is made as to whether further services are needed. If it is determined that no further services are needed the case is closed.

**What happens after that? If the CPS assessment**

finds that further services are needed, the family may be referred for In-Home Services. The primary goal of CPS In-Home Services is to support families to safely maintain their child(ren) in their own home by eliminating identified safety and threat concerns and reducing risk of future child maltreatment.

**What factors determine whether a child is removed from the home of the parent or caregiver? And what happens after that?**

If parents or caregivers are unable or unwilling to provide adequate protection and care for their children a determination is made to file a petition to ask the court to grant custody to DSS, and the child enters foster care. This can happen at any point during a CPS assessment or during an In-Home Services case. When a child enters foster care, the Department immediately tries to locate relatives/kinship families who are able to care for the child(ren.) In Chatham County, between a third and a half of all children in foster care are placed with kinship families with the goal of keeping as many children as possible in their home community and schools with people they know and trust. If this is not possible, they will be placed in family foster homes.

Information about how to become a licensed foster family in Chatham County can be found on the county website or by calling 919-642-6953.

**What can we collectively do as a community to prevent child abuse?**

- Be a connection for a child by volunteering such as with Communities In Schools of Chatham County to be a mentor or to participate in the lunch buddy program. Studies show that it only takes one positive stable adult relationship

to help a child have better outcomes.

- Be a good neighbor and lend a helping hand to families who may be going through a rough patch and need some temporary assistance to get back on their feet.

- Support community agencies providing services to young children such as childcare and early intervention services.

- Concrete supports for families such as food, clothing, housing and transportation are vital to a family's ability to care for their children.

- Increase your knowledge of positive parenting practices, child development, and healthy ways to discipline your child by taking a parenting class or asking for resources.

See Prevent Child Abuse N.C.'s website for more information about Protective Factors:

<https://www.preventchildabusenc.org/resource-hub/protective-factors>

**Are there specific concerns Social Services has that we've not addressed?**

Chatham County has seen an increase in CPS reports involving children who may have access to an unsecured firearm in the home.

Due to the immediate safety risk this creates, DSS is required to respond to these allegations immediately. We ask that all Chatham County residents who own firearms to keep them safely stored, separate from ammunition, in a locked place where children and youth cannot access them. Project ChildSafe gives out free gun locks and safety instructions: [https://projectchildsafe.org/safety\\_kit\\_site/?safety\\_kit\\_state=north-carolina](https://projectchildsafe.org/safety_kit_site/?safety_kit_state=north-carolina)

Find more information about a public health approach to safe gun storage here:

[https://www.ncdhs.gov/public-health-approaches-reduce-vio-](https://www.ncdhs.gov/public-health-approaches-reduce-vio)

lence-and-firearm-misuse-leading-injury-and-death/open

**What services and treatments are available to parents and caregivers?**

- Triple P's- Positive Parenting Program is available free online: <https://www.triplep-parenting.com/nc-en/triple-p>

- DSS can help refer parents and caregivers looking for services and supports like childcare vouchers, Food and Nutrition Services, emergency housing and financial assistance, as well as other community supports and services.

- The Chatham County Partnership for Children can help locate childcare, enroll kids in N.C. Pre-K, and sign up for free books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: <https://chathamkids.org/families> or by calling 1-855-231-8717

- KidScope provides parent education and support as well as mental health consultation at 919-806-6447 or <https://fcrinc.org/portfolio-items/kidscope-early-intervention/#KID>

- Chatham County Court Programs offers domestic violence services, a Family Treatment Court for parents involved with DSS, parenting education, and other supportive services at 919-642-1213.

- Daymark Recovery Services provides walk-in crisis and a variety of behavioral health services and can be reached at 919-663-2955.

- Renaissance Wellness provides behavioral health services and can be reached at 919-704-8449.

- A variety of mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability services are available through Vaya Health. The access line to call for assistance locating services is 1-800-962-9003.

## CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

# Nurturing positive childhoods together

**BY LEAN MCKOY**  
Chatham County Social Services

The 2023 theme for Child Abuse Prevention Month, "Nurturing Positive Childhoods Together," highlights/emphasizes that all children can grow up safe and healthy when we build communities where access to education, healthcare, affordable housing and healthy food is available to everyone. These "protective factors" offset the stressors of life that many face in Chatham County.

Defined in the literature, protective factors are "characteristics, circumstances or conditions that mediate or moderate the effect of exposure to risk factors and stressful life events." Simply put, the good things in each of our lives play an important role in counterbalancing the bad. Other protective factors could be a supportive relationship with a friend or neighbor, a teacher who goes the extra mile to help a student, or an employer who is flexible and allows time off when a child is sick.

Every family experiences stressors, including too many bills, too little income, a healthcare crisis or challenging behaviors of children. When families struggle to manage stress effectively, the risk of abuse or neglect increases.

Protective factors play a critical role in offsetting these risks. When individuals, families and communities are able to work toward increasing protective factors, children can grow up in a nurturing and loving environment.

Recent efforts across non-profit and community members to develop the Chatham Housing Collective is an example of how providing concrete supports are making a difference. As the number of people experiencing housing crises started to increase, concerned residents, non-profits and county government came together to share information and resources and work toward a plan for improvements. In a little over a year, this group has secured funding for several initiatives including increased housing assistance and street outreach for people who are homeless. Secure, stable, long-term housing is a building block of healthy childhoods.

In addition to concrete supports, another protective factor of significance is parental resiliency. Parental resiliency acknowledges all individuals have strengths and can recover when facing negative life events. Whether it's listening to a parent talk through some of their challenges or providing referrals to local

community agencies that may be a resource, each member of the community can support the efforts of parents to be the best versions of themselves. Community members can aid families in regaining hope when experiencing significant stress and transitions.

Here are a few things already happening in Chatham County to nurture positive childhoods and build protective factors for families.

- Promoting kinship and extended family connections to support children remaining within their communities when involved in protective services. (<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/social-services/being-a-foster-or-adoptive-parent>)

- Funds are available to help with childcare expenses for qualifying parents who are working or pursuing additional training/education. (<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/social-services>)

- Nurses are available to help families transition with the addition of a new baby into the home. (<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/public-health/women-s-reproductive-health/>

postpartum-newborn-home-visiting-program?locale=en)

- Comprehensive services aid families impacted by substance use. (<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/court-related-domestic-violence-services/family-treatment-court?lo->

cale=en)

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Let's continue the conversation on how the community can nurture positive relationships and work together to prevent child abuse. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network and Prevent Child Abuse N.C. both provide resour-

ces for families related to the impacts of child abuse and neglect and they share an affiliation of agencies that develop a strong support network.

*LeAnn McKoy is the Human Services Planner & Evaluator for the Chatham County Department of Social Services.*

## ChathamCares

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# SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

APRIL 27 - MAY 3, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

## FROM BANJOS TO BOCCE BALL

# Warrens find their place at Senior Games

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

Kim and Don Warren wouldn't consider themselves athletes. They both offer a hearty laugh at the thought.

Married for 37 years, the Silk Hope residents have both recently retired and spend a lot of their time alongside their two German Shepherds, Diesel and Heidi. But this spring, both Warrens will compete in the Chatham County Senior Games for the second straight year.

Running in the area for the better part of the last decade, the Chatham County Senior Games offer older residents the chance to showcase their abilities in a number of sports and different activities, from archery to table tennis. Those who perform well enough at this year's games — held April 28 through May 11 — will qualify for the North Carolina Senior Games, which take place in September and October. Last year, 49 Chatham County athletes combined to win 31 gold medals at the state games.

The Chatham County Senior Games have grown immensely over the past

few years. In 2021, the local chapter was honored by the N.C. Senior Games for having the highest participation increase over a five-year period. Last spring, a record 262 people participated in the events.

Kim, 61, is planning to compete in bowling, bocce, cornhole, horseshoes and softball/football throwing this year, while Don, 70, will try his hand at bowling, bocce, cornhole, horseshoes and pickleball. While they might not set any records, both Warrens agreed that participating in the senior games has been a welcome change of pace.

"We're both retired, so our interactions with other people are kind of limited to the meet-up groups, our bowling league and the Senior Games," Kim said. "It's nice to get out and interact with more people. I retired right when Covid hit, so when I went home, we were stuck at home. It's nice to be able to get out and do stuff like this."

### \*Banjo music intensifies\*

While they've spent the better

See SENIORS, page B3



Staff photo by Jeremy Vernon

Kim (left) and Don (right) Warren, of Silk Hope, are two of several local athletes who will compete in the Chatham County Senior Games during the spring.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Northwood junior Powell turns heads at EYBL Session 1

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

Northwood boys basketball star Drake Powell has continued to climb up recruiting boards since finishing his junior season.

Earlier this month, Powell rose to No. 19 overall in 247Sports' Class of 2024 rankings and earned that coveted fifth star. He is now the No. 3 player from North Carolina in the rankings, behind North Mecklenburg small forward Isaiah Evans (No. 10) and Seaforth power forward Jarin Stevenson (No. 12).

People who follow Chatham County athletics know how special Powell is. In three seasons at Northwood, he has averaged 16.2 points, 6.4 rebounds and 3.7 assists over 75 career games, and this past season he led the Chargers to the finals of the 3A state tournament.

But the junior has still flown under radar on the national level — that was, at least, until last weekend.

Competing at Session 1 of the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League (EYBL) in Emerson, Georgia, Powell — a 6-foot-6 UNC commit — led Team CP3 to a 4-0 record. He averaged a team-high 20.3 points per game during the showcase, adding 7.0 rebounds and 3.0



File photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Drake Powell competed with Team CP3 at Session 1 of the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League this past weekend in Georgia.

assists. He also shot 53.8% from the field, 40% from 3-point range and 80.8% from the free-throw line.

The Athletic's Brendan Marks — who covers UNC and Duke men's basketball for the website — was at the showcase in Georgia

this past weekend to watch Powell and a few other Tar Heel commits. Speaking with the News + Record earlier this week, Marks said almost everyone in the building was impressed by what the Northwood wing brought to the table.

"When you actually saw him step out there, the physicality was more impressive than I expected," Marks said. "And for all the defensive hype he's gotten — and he does play great defense — this was probably the first time I've seen him being the best offensive player on the whole team."

Powell, who was named first-team all-state by the N.C. Basketball Coaches Association this past season, had a rough shooting performance to start the session. In a win over Team Melo, he scored 12 points while shooting 5-of-16 (31.3%) from the floor. But over his final three games, Powell averaged 23.0 points per game and knocked down 23-of-36 (63.9%) of his field goals.

The highlight of the session was Powell's performance in his final game against Paul George Elite, when he totaled 24 points, eight rebounds and five assists while making three 3-pointers. Marks said many onlookers were impressed with the way Powell carried his team on the offensive end.

"He doesn't do it in a selfish way," Marks said. "He lets the offense flow naturally, but when the shot clock hits five, his

See POWELL, page B5

# The Panthers should pick Anthony Richardson



Draft day is finally upon us.

Thursday night, the Carolina Panthers will open the 2023 NFL Draft by making the No. 1 overall selection. As of writing this, Bryce Young is a -2000 favorite to wind up as the top pick, but is the right call for the future of the franchise?

JEREMY VERNON  
Sports Editor

I have admittedly waffled between who I think the Panthers should take at No. 1. The only thing I've known for certain this whole time is that I don't want them to pick Kentucky's Will Levis. But as the draft has gotten closer and closer, I've decided the best-case scenario would be for Carolina to swing for the fences — and take Florida quarterback Anthony Richardson when the time comes.

Richardson, who stands at 6-foot-4 and 244 pounds, has played third fiddle behind Young and Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud during the pre-draft process, but he started closing ground once he showcased his athleticism at the NFL Combine. At the high-stakes workout in Indianapolis, Richardson ran a 4.43 40-yard dash and set new quarterback records in the vertical jump (40.5 inches) and the broad jump (10 feet, nine inches). He also has one of the strongest arms in the class, which he displayed by hitting the ceiling with a throw during his Pro Day on March 30.

While Young and Stroud put up immense numbers in college, Richardson only started one season at Florida. Playing this past fall, the quarterback completed just 53.8%

See PANTHERS, page B3

## SOFTBALL

# Jets, Bears close in on share of conference title

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

Don't look now, but the Jordan-Matthews softball team is making a late-season push for a share of the regular season Mid-Carolina Conference title.

The Jets took control of their own destiny Friday by taking down county rival Chatham Central, 4-2. Jordan-Matthews (12-3, 8-1 Conf.) lost its first meeting with the Bears (15-1, 11-1 Conf.) this season, by a score of 6-3, but head coach Holly Clark's team got its revenge on the road this time around.

"We've been focusing on

going back to the basics," Clark said. "I tell them every day to take care of the ball, so we focus on taking care of the ball and the wins seem to follow that. They compete every single day, no matter who it is. I'm really proud of how they show up every day."

Chatham Central held a 2-0 lead after one inning Friday thanks to a two-run single from junior Cassie McKiethan, but the Jets wouldn't go down quietly. With two outs in the top of the fourth, J-M scratched across two runs on two Central errors. Then, senior Macy Bearers put the Jets ahead with a two-run single of her own to

plate the winning runs.

In the circle, freshman Lilli Hicks pitched a complete game, allowing seven hits and two runs while striking out two batters and walking five. The key for Jordan-Matthews on Friday was playing sound defense behind its pitcher — the Jets finished the game with zero errors compared to the Bears' five.

"Our pitchers know they can trust the girls behind them," Clark said. "They know they can throw the ball in there and not have to think they need to strike everybody out."

See TITLE, page B5



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Central junior Ashlynn Humphries swings at a pitch in the Bears' 26-0 win over Seaforth last Wednesday.



# Chatham lacrosse teams wrap up regular season

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports  
Editor

It's the final week of the regular season for both boys and girls lacrosse teams across the state, and it looks like both Northwood teams and the Seaforth boys will end up making the state playoffs.

The Charger boys were 13-2 overall heading into Tuesday night's game against Williams. Head coach Randy Cox's team will finish the regular season in second in the Central/Mid-Carolina 2A/3A Conference behind Orange with a 9-2 league record. Both of Northwood's conference losses this season came against the Panthers, who won the conference title with a 12-0 mark against league opponents.

The Chargers could have claimed a share of the conference championship if they defeated Orange at home last week, but the Panthers prevailed, 16-10. Northwood shook off the loss and followed it up with a 15-4 beatdown of Western Alamance last Friday.

Leading the way for the Chargers in attack this spring have been the senior triumvirate of Will Smith (54 goals, 31 assists), Taylor Laberge (53 goals, 30 assists) and Jason Walden (45 goals, 19 assists). The trio have combined to score 65.5% of Northwood's goals this season and have tallied 80 of the team's 124 total assists. Senior William Johnson leads the way with 91 ground balls, while freshman goalie James Flanagan has allowed an average of just 5.8 goals per game in the cage this spring.



The Seaforth boys lacrosse team came into the week ranked No. 8 in the 3A/2A/1A East by MaxPreps.

Staff photo by Matt Ramey

Northwood has already set a new program record for wins this season, but the Chargers have their sights set on making noise in the state playoffs. Last season, Cox's team lost in the first round of the state tournament to Williams, 12-10. Entering this week, Northwood was ranked No. 2 in the 3A/2A/1A East by MaxPreps, meaning they should play at least one playoff game at home.

Also hoping to make it to the postseason are the Seaforth boys, who came into their game against Carrboro on Tuesday (game occurred after press time) with a 7-8 overall record and a 6-6 record in conference play. Despite their below .500 record, the Hawks were still ranked as the No. 8 in the 3A/2A/1A East by MaxPreps entering the week. The top 12 teams in each side of the

classification will earn first-round byes, meaning Seaforth might get to skip the first round entirely if it maintains its ranking.

The Hawks also played Wednesday at Union Pines. Head coach Joe Hubbard's team has made vast improvements this spring after going 3-14 in its inaugural season in 2022. Seaforth does have a negative goal differential, averaging 8.7 goals per game this season compared to 6.2 last spring.

Seaforth's top attacked this season has been sophomore Cameron Exley, who had 51 goals entering the week — 29 more than the next-closest teammate. Freshman Ivan Grimes has chipped in 22 goals and 18 assists, while junior Joshua Stewart has won a team-high 78 face-offs.

On the girls side, Northwood came into Wednesday's regular-sea-

son finale against Jordan with a 9-6 overall record and a 7-4 mark in conference play. The Chargers opened the week with a convincing 21-8 victory over Carrboro, in which seniors Mia Collins and Grace Costa both had five goals. Fellow senior Sophie Cremeans had four assists.

Collins has led the way in attack for the Chargers this season with 60 goals and 13 assists, while Costa and junior Ryan Tinervin have combined for 85 goals and 27 assists. Costa leads the team in ground balls (93) and draw controls (67), while sophomore Silvy Hopp has totaled 90 saves in net.

Last spring, Northwood entered the postseason with an 11-3 record. The Chargers defeated Laney in the first round of the playoffs before falling to Holly Springs, 22-10, in the second.



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

The Northwood boys lacrosse team came into the week with a 13-2 overall record and a 9-2 mark in conference play.

son as a varsity program, the Seaforth girls had a record of 2-9 overall and in league play coming into Wednesday's game against East Chapel Hill. The Hawks have averaged 8.3 goals per game this spring, though they've allowed 15.1 to their opponents. Seaforth has three

players — freshman Renee Rizvi (26), freshman Mia Moore (17) and sophomore Jessica deBerjeois (15) — with at least 15 goals this season. Moore and Rizvi lead the team in ground balls and draw controls, respectively.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com).



**Animal Resources**

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**Low Cost Spay / Neuter - Only \$20**

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

**Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center**  
725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Phone: 919-542-7203 | [facebook.com/chathamsoar](https://www.facebook.com/chathamsoar)

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

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For a printable application, visit:  
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PRESENTS

## Free Document Shredding Events

Wednesday, May 3

Noon - 4 p.m.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center  
365 Hwy. 87 North | Pittsboro

Wednesday, May 17

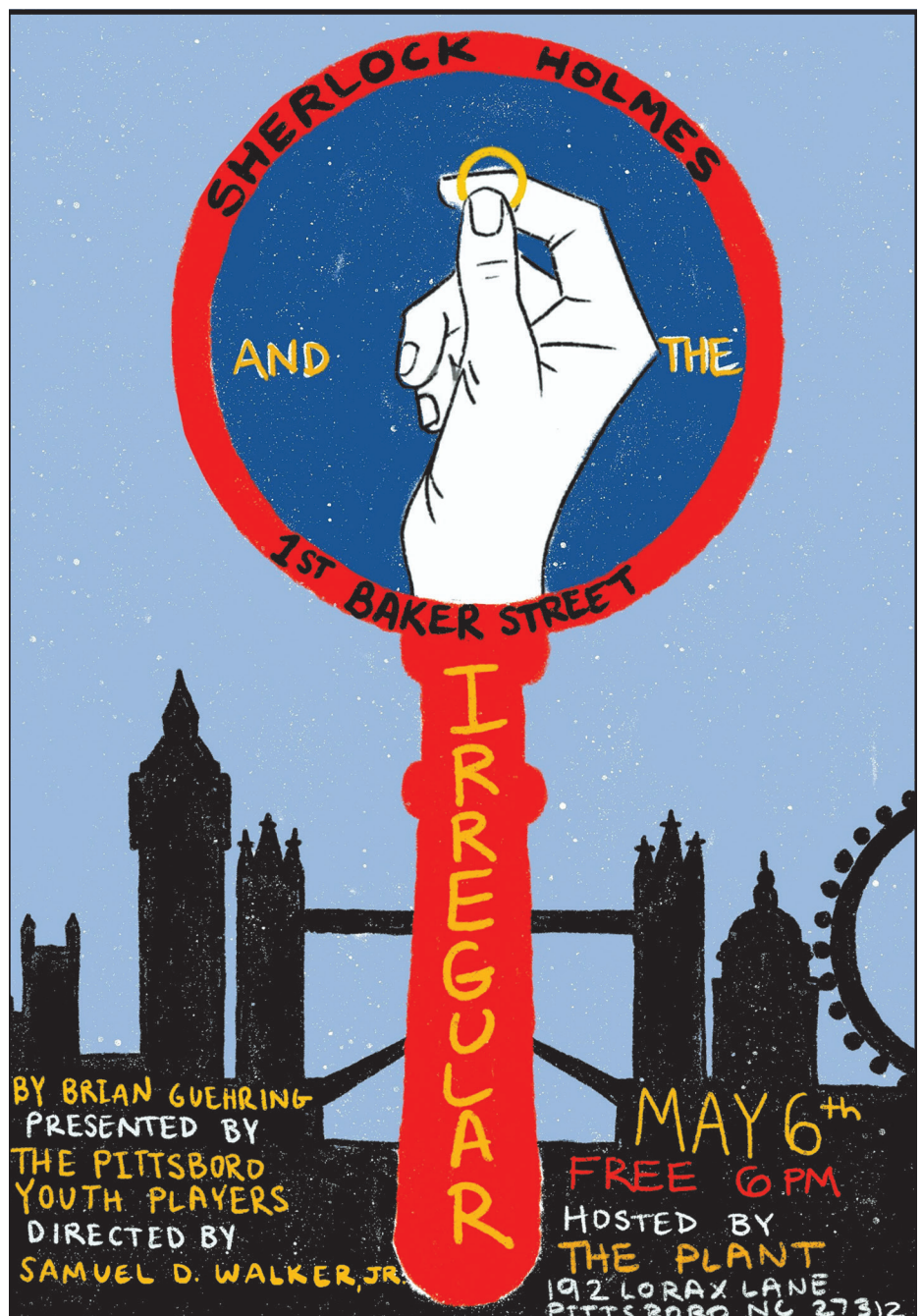
Noon - 4 p.m.

Western Chatham Senior Center  
112 Village Lake Road | Siler City

Open to all  
Chatham residents!

- Drive-thru events (remain in your vehicle; staff will collect items to be shredded)
- Residents may bring up to 3 boxes or bags per vehicle
- No businesses, please

For more information, contact the Eastern Chatham Senior Center at 919-542-4512 or the Western Chatham Senior Center at 919-742-3975



BY BRIAN GUEHRING  
PRESENTED BY  
THE PITTSBORO  
YOUTH PLAYERS  
DIRECTED BY  
SAMUEL D. WALKER, JR.

MAY 6<sup>th</sup>  
FREE 6 PM  
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Thanks to the parents, teachers, artists, and business owners that support these determined youth actors. They lost their theater home yet kept their community together!

Special thanks to The Plant for their generous hospitality.

Questions? 919.260.2045 or [lolasandvik@gmail.com](mailto:lolasandvik@gmail.com)



# SENIORS

Continued from page B1  
part of four decades in Chatham County, neither Don nor Kim were born and raised in the area. Don grew up in Anson County, about an hour southeast of Charlotte. He played football at Bowman High in Wadesboro before graduating in 1971. He also played football his freshman year at UNC, but it was

short-lived. "I realized — they weren't really trying to kill me — but they didn't really care if they did or not," Don joked. Don eventually graduated from UNC and went on to become a school-teacher. But he wouldn't meet Kim until the early 1980s. This time, Kim was a UNC student looking to pick up a new hobby. She checked the local want-ads and found a listing for banjo lessons,

which Don was offering. And she ended up taking lessons from him until they eventually got married in 1986. Talk about a chance encounter. "I had a big, beautiful German Shepherd named Justice, and I'm sure that's what (made her fall for me)," Don said. "She might say something different." Turns out that wasn't far from the truth. "That probably was

the first attraction," Kim joked. From there, the pair went on to have two children together, a son, Justice — named after the dog, and a daughter, Kaitlyn. Don continued to work as a teacher and coach in Moore and Chatham counties until he retired in 2019, teaching at local schools like SAGE Academy in Siler City. Kim, meanwhile, took a position at the Chatham County Public Health Department, where she stayed for 30 years before retiring in 2020.

The couple like to joke that out of their 37 years of marriage, they've had 12 wonderful years, though they've been non-consecutive. On Monday, the pair made a trip to the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City to submit entries for the Chatham County Silver-Arts senior arts competition. Kim submitted a few photos she's taken of her family, while Don entered a piece he made while wood-working. Kim said having different hobbies has kept things fresh for the couple as they approach their 40th anniversary. "It helps if you have your stuff you do together, but also stuff you do

separately," she said. feel like going for a walk, and the dogs are like, 'Oh, you're taking us for a walk,'" she said. "And I just feel so much better after we've done it, just to know I've gotten that physical walk in and being outside, too." The importance was exacerbated by the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic. Locked in the house for days at a time, Don and Kim joked that while it was an adjustment, they managed not to kill each other. What helped them cope was staying active. By the time case numbers began to slow down, they understood the importance these extra-curricular activities can bring to people their age. "I've enjoyed competing. It's been nice meeting other people from the county and having an opportunity to compete." The chance to connect with people was part of the reason they decided to participate in the Chatham County Senior Games starting last spring. And it's something they plan to continue doing as long as they can.

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

## Council on Aging Weekly Activities Calendar

- Monday, April 17**  
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. - Sr. Games Practice w/Alan (Bocce, Cornhole, Horseshoes); Golf at Siler City Country Club
  - 2 p.m. - Table Tennis; Senior Games Croquet Practice (Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro)
  - 3 p.m. - Caregiver Support Group
- Western Chatham Senior Center**
- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
  - 10 a.m. - Cornhole
  - 10:30 a.m. - Brody McCurdy, Voices of Chatham
  - 2 p.m. - Geri-Fit
- Tuesday, April 18**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 8:15 - 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. - Chatham Striders Walk & Learn
  - 1 p.m. - Rummikub
- Western Chatham Senior Center**
- 9:45 a.m. - Chair Exercises (in-person and Zoom)
  - 10:30 a.m. - Ping Pong
  - 1 p.m. - Rook/Phase 10/Rummikub; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering
  - 2 p.m. - Fitness Room Orientation
- Wednesday, April 19**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie
  - 10:00 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz; Coffee & Games w/Pittsboro Police Department
  - 1 p.m. - Open Art Studio (Learn to Basket Weave w/Carolyn, RSVP with Jackie required)
  - 6:30 p.m. - League of Women Voters: "How the Court System Works" (via Zoom)
- Western Chatham Senior Center**
- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
  - 10 a.m. - Bible Study
  - 11:30 a.m. - Nutrition Education w/Ann Clark
  - 2 p.m. - Crafting w/Kathryn
  - 3:30 p.m. - Beginning Quilting
- Thursday, April 20**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie
  - 10 a.m. - Crafts & Chat; Chair Volleyball
  - 11 a.m. - NC Legal Aid w/Allison on Wills, Healthcare Proxy, Power of Attorneys, Living Wills
  - 1 p.m. - Games/Cards
  - 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. - Bocce & Horseshoes; Music Jam Session
  - 1 p.m. - Book Club
  - 2 p.m. - Geri-Fit
  - 3 p.m. - Thursday Social (Bocce and Horseshoes)
- Friday, April 21**  
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie
  - 10 a.m. - Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie
  - 11:15 a.m. - Cornhole & Shuffleboard
  - 1 p.m. - Games/Euchre
- Western Chatham Senior Center**
- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
  - 10 a.m. - Shuffleboard, Beginning Quilting; Grief Support Group
  - 10:30 a.m. - Drawing with Lacy
  - 1 p.m. - Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, Ag Center
  - 7 p.m. - Friday Night Dance (fee required for participation)



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](http://www.chathamcoa.org)

## PANTHERS

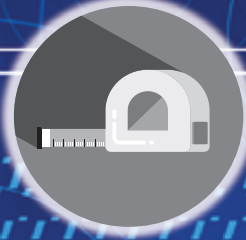
Continued from page B1

of his passes for 2,549 yards and 17 touchdowns against nine interceptions. While those numbers are concerning, he did run for 654 yards and nine touchdowns and showed flashes of truly elite athleticism during his time in Gainesville. Richardson is, admittedly, one of the rawest prospects in this class, but his ceiling is arguably higher than any player set to be drafted, regardless of position. While it might not make sense for some teams to take on the risk, the Panthers are uniquely set up to maximize on Richardson's potential. Carolina has an all-star coaching staff led by Frank Reich, a former quarterback who has worked with Peyton Manning and Phillip Rivers during his coaching tenure in the league. Quarterbacks coach Josh McCown played 16 years in the league and started

76 career games. And Jim Caldwell — who is serving as a senior assistant to Reich — has been credited with developing Manning and Matt Stafford early in their careers. If Richardson becomes a Panther, he'll have the perfect trio of coaches to learn from as he tries to improve the more technical aspects of his game, namely his mechanics, footwork and processing. He'll also have a veteran quarterback in the locker room alongside him in Andy Dalton, whom Carolina signed as a free agent this offseason. All this sets up well for Richardson, who could very well follow the Josh Allen career trajectory if things go well. Allen was considered the rawest prospect in the 2018 NFL Draft when Buffalo took him seventh overall, but he has developed into arguably the most dangerous dual-threat quarterback in the league over the last five years. Like Richardson, Allen had limited college starting experience,

and he completed just 56.2% of his passes over 27 games played with 44 touchdowns and 21 interceptions. While his completion percentage was lower in 2022, Richardson's tape shows a number of drops and poor plays by receivers that could have contributed to the low number. The dream scenario for the Panthers is that Richardson could become a player of the same caliber as Cam Newton, the franchise's all-time leader in passing yards, passing touchdowns and rushing touchdowns whom they selected No. 1 overall back in the 2011 Draft. Richardson is way more raw than Newton — who won the Heisman Trophy — was coming out of college, but it's hard to overlook the similarity in size, shape and play style. Newton is a legend to the franchise, and if everything goes according to plan, Richardson could be that special too. All the Panthers have to do is take a chance.

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**SCORES & SCHEDULES**

**SCORES**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18**

**Softball**

Chatham Charter 15, River Mill 2  
Seaforth 19, Graham 4

**Baseball**

Orange 6, Northwood 1  
Chatham Central 7, Seaforth 1  
Jordan-Matthews 5, Bartlett Yancey 2

**Girls soccer**

Seaforth 9, Graham 0

**Boys lacrosse**

Northwood 19, Eastern Alamance 4

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**

**Track and field**

Seaforth sweeps meet against Cummings and Chatham Central.

**Boys tennis**

Seaforth 8, Orange 1  
Western Alamance 8, Northwood 1  
Chatham Central 5, North Moore 4

**Girls lacrosse**

East Chapel Hill 18, Northwood 9

**Girls soccer**

Woods Charter 12, Chatham Charter 0  
Jordan-Matthews 9, Bartlett Yancey 0  
Northwood 4, Cedar Ridge 2

**Softball**

Southern Lee 16, Northwood 1  
Jordan-Matthews 21, Graham 1  
Chatham Central 26, Seaforth 0

**Boys lacrosse**

Orange 16, Northwood 10

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20**

**Track and field**

Northwood sweeps quad meet with Williams, Cedar Ridge and Western Alamance.

Jordan-Matthews sweeps meet with Chatham Charter, Woods Charter and others.

**Boys tennis**

Research Triangle 8, Chatham Charter 1  
Seaforth 6, Northwood 3

**Girls soccer**

Union Pines 4, Northwood 1  
Seaforth 2, Orange 1

**Softball**

Chatham Charter at Ascend Leadership (4 p.m.)  
Sanderson 12, Northwood 1

**Baseball**

Chatham Charter at Triangle Math & Science (3:30 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews at Chapel Hill (7 p.m.)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 21**

**Girls lacrosse**

Chapel Hill 21, Northwood 6

**Softball**

Bartlett Yancey 14, Seaforth 4  
Orange 22, Northwood 2  
Jordan-Matthews 4, Chatham Central 2

**Boys lacrosse**

Seaforth 11, Williams 5  
Northwood 15, Western Alamance 4

**Baseball**

Orange 12, Northwood 5  
Chatham Central 7, Seaforth 3  
Bartlett Yancey 11, Jordan-Matthews 10

**Girls soccer**

Woods Charter 2, Carrboro 2

**MONDAY, APRIL 24**

**Boys tennis**

River Mill 5, Chatham Charter 4

**Girls soccer**

Northwood 11, Person 0  
Seaforth 9, Cummings 0

**Girls lacrosse**

Northwood 21, Carrboro 8

**Softball**

Gray Stone Day 13, Chatham Charter 3

**SCHEDULES**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25**

**Boys tennis**

Northwood vs TBA (Conference championships, 1 p.m.)  
Seaforth at Carrboro (4 p.m.)

**Boys golf**

Northwood vs. Williams at Alamance Country Club (2 p.m.)

**Softball**

Seaforth vs. North Moore (double-header, 4:30 p.m.)  
Chatham Charter vs. Bethany Community (5 p.m.)

**Softball**

Northwood at Eastern Alamance (6 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews vs. Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.)

**Baseball**

Seaforth vs. Graham (double-header, 4:30 p.m.)  
Northwood at Western Alamance (6 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews vs. Chatham Central (7 p.m.)

**Girls soccer**

Chatham Charter vs. Bethany Community (4:30 p.m.)  
Seaforth vs. North Moore (6 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews at Graham (6 p.m.)

**Boys lacrosse**

Seaforth at Carrboro (6 p.m.)  
Northwood at Williams (6 p.m.)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**

**Boys tennis**

Jordan-Matthews vs. North Moore (1 p.m.)  
Chatham Charter vs. TBA in 1A Central Tar Heel Conference Tournament (1 p.m.)

**Track and field**

Seaforth, Chatham Central at Cummings in conference meet (4 p.m.)  
Northwood at Williams in conference meet (4 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews at Graham (4:30 p.m.)

**Girls soccer**

Chatham Charter at Clover Garden (4 p.m.)  
Woods Charter at River Mill (4 p.m.)

**Girls lacrosse**

Seaforth at East Chapel Hill (5 p.m.)  
Northwood vs. Jordan (6 p.m.)

**Boys lacrosse**

Seaforth at Union Pines (6 p.m.)

**Baseball**

Chatham Central vs. Asheboro (6 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews vs. Southwestern Randolph (7 p.m.)

**Softball**

Jordan-Matthews vs. Seaforth (6 p.m.)  
Northwood vs. Cedar Ridge (6 p.m.)  
Chatham Central at Eastern Randolph (6:30 p.m.)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

**Boys golf**

Northwood vs. Eastern Alamance at Mill Creek Golf Club (2 p.m.)

**Girls lacrosse**

Northwood vs. Carrboro (5 p.m.)  
Seaforth vs. Riverside (6 p.m.)

**Boys lacrosse**

Northwood at Chapel Hill (6 p.m.)

**Baseball**

Chatham Charter at River Mill (3:30 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews vs. Cummings (double-header, 5 p.m.)  
Chatham Central at Ragsdale (6 p.m.)  
Seaforth at North Moore (7 p.m.)

**Softball**

Chatham Charter at River Mill (3:30 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews vs. Cummings (double-header, 5 p.m.)

**Girls soccer**

Chatham Charter vs. River Mill (4:30 p.m.)  
Woods Charter at Cornerstone Charter (5 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews vs. Southwestern Randolph (6 p.m.)  
Seaforth at Cedar Ridge (7 p.m.)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28**

**Softball**

Northwood vs. Western Alamance (6 p.m.)

**Baseball**

Chatham Charter at Clover Garden (4 p.m.)  
Northwood vs. Western Alamance (6 p.m.)

**Girls soccer**

Jordan-Matthews vs. Northwood (6 p.m.)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29**

**Baseball**

Seaforth at Carrboro (12 p.m.)

**MONDAY, MAY 1**

**Boys golf**

Seaforth vs. North Moore at Beacon Ridge Country Club (1 p.m.)  
Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews vs. TBA in Mid-Carolina Conference Tournament (3:30 p.m.)

**Softball**

Mid-Carolina Conference Tournament (all day)

**Girls soccer**

Woods Charter at Triangle Math & Science (5 p.m.)  
Jordan-Matthews at North Moore (6 p.m.)  
Seaforth at Williams (6:30 p.m.)  
Northwood vs. Orange (6:45 p.m.)



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# TITLE

Continued from page B1

And offensively, our one through nine, we have confidence in whoever is up at the plate.”

With a 12-3 overall record and a 8-1 mark in conference play, Jordan-Matthews came into Tuesday’s game against Bartlett Yancey (occurred after press time) needing to win its final conference games to claim at least a share of the Mid-Carolina Conference regular season title. The Jets wrap up the regular season Thursday at home with a double-header against Cummings, which was winless entering the week.

Chatham Central, meanwhile, clinched a share of the MCC on Monday with a road win over Graham. The Bears also played Wednesday away from home against Eastern Randolph.

Despite losing to the Jets last week, Central figures to earn a high seed in the upcoming 1A state tournament. The Bears came into this week ranked seventh in

the 1A East by MaxPreps.

The top players for Chatham Central at the plate this season have been senior Jaylee Williams (.617 average, 29 hits, 16 RBI), sophomore Emma Burke (.528, 19 hits, 20 RBI), sophomore Caleigh Warf (.386, 17 hits, 21 RBI) and McK-eithan (.450, 18 hits, 24 RBI). In the circle, senior Mary Gaines has won 12 games and has 64 strikeouts against five walks over 57 innings pitched.

The third Chatham County team in the Mid-Carolina Conference, Seaforth, was 4-10 overall and 4-6 in league play ahead of Tuesday’s game against North Moore. Entering this week, the Hawks were led at the plate by freshman Cami Brinkley (.655, 19 hits, five RBI), freshman Emma Strong (.500, 18 hits, 12 RBI) and sophomore Addison Clarke (.407, 11 hits, 13 RBI).

Ranked 15th in the 1A East by MaxPreps, Chatham Charter was 7-1 overall coming into Tuesday’s game against Bethany Community. The Knights are also 2-0 in Central 1A Tar Heel

Conference play, winning both of its games against River Mill, the only other member of the conference. Chatham Charter closes its regular season against River Mill on the road Thursday.

Leading the way for the Knights this season have been freshman Kynzie Jordan (.810, 17 hits, four RBI), sophomore Ella Ingle (.700, 14 hits, three RBI), junior Delana Loflin (.550, 11 hits, 10 RBI) and senior Hallie Edmondson (.588, 10 hits, 10 RBI). Edmondson is also the team’s top pitcher with a 6.74 ERA and 25 strikeouts over 27 innings.

Playing what could be their final season at the 3A level with possible realignment on the way, Northwood was 5-14 overall and 1-7 in league play entering Tuesday’s game at Eastern Ala-mance. Coming into the week, the team’s top hitters were senior Zoe Hatzidakis (.429, 21 hits, 11 RBI), junior Sarah Warford (.486, 20 hits, 12 RBI) and junior Callan Perchinsky (.412, seven hits, 10 RBI in seven games).

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Chatham athletes hitting stride with regionals approaching

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

With regional and state championships around the corner, Chatham County high school track and field athletes hope to peak at the right time over the next several weeks.

At the 3A level, Northwood will compete in the 3A mideast regionals on May 12 at Franklinton High. The Chargers came into this week’s conference-meet against Williams and Cedar Ridge having put together some impressive recent showings.

At a quad meet last Thursday, Northwood swept the team competitions. The Charger boys did most of their damage in the field events, as senior Jack Nicholson won the triple jump and discus events. Fellow senior Cameron Stevenson took first place in the shot put, while junior Felix Cibulski won the pole vault with a height of nine feet. The only Northwood boy to win an individual event was senior Ethan Wilson, who took first in the 110-meter hurdles.

On the girls side, junior Rokie Sissoko won the 200- and 400-meter dashes, while freshman Sydney Gray dominated the 800-meter race. Freshman Laney Babo won the 300-meter hurdles. In the field events, Northwood saw freshman Shaylah Glover, junior Skylar Adams and senior Sophia Cremeans win the high jump, triple jump and pole vault, respectively.

Junior Noah Nielson didn’t compete with Northwood on Thursday, instead saving his energy for the Carolina Distance Carnival on Saturday in Matthews. Competing in the 800-meter race, Nielson finished in fourth with a time of 1:55.38, which would have ranked second at last year’s 3A outdoor state championships.

Northwood’s last big meet of the regular season is the 3A Central Conference championships, which will take place May 4. At last year’s conference meet, the Chargers won the girls championship but finished second in the boys competition to Orange.

Seaforth is another local team looking to make some noise over the next several weeks. The Hawks swept their last meet against conference opponents, besting both Cummings and Chatham Central last Wednesday.

Sophomore Walter Entrekin won the 400-meter dash, while Will Cuicchi took first in the 800-meter race by almost 15 seconds. In the 1,600-meter run Chatham Central junior Kolton Phillips led the way with a time of 4:55.9. In

**Seaforth, along with Chatham Central and Jordan-Matthews, will compete at the NCHSAA 2A Mideast Regionals on May 13. The Jets are coming off a meet last week against Chatham Charter, Woods Charter and a few non-county teams that saw them sweep both the boys and girls competitions.**

the field events, Seaforth sophomore Sebastian Calderon won the high and long jumps. Hawks’ freshman Ryan Yoder won the pole vault, while Bears’ senior Austin Reed took first in the discus throw.

On the girls side, Seaforth sophomore Malana McLean won the 100-meter dash, sophomore Maja Boer won the 400-meter dash, sophomore Claire Morgan won the 800-meter run and sophomore Juana Jimenez won the 1,600-meter run. Morgan also won the pole vault, while sophomore Anavi Smith was victorious in the long jump. Central saw two athletes — senior Livvy Brooks and junior Mattie Caviness — win the discus and shot put, respectively.

Seaforth, along with Chatham Central and Jordan-Matthews, will compete at the NCHSAA 2A Mideast Regionals on May 13. The Jets are coming off a meet last week against Chatham Charter, Woods Charter and a few non-county teams that saw them sweep both the boys and girls competitions.

The Jets were led by senior Jasmine Basilio, who took first in the girls 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs. Basilio was one of two J-M athletes, along with senior Ahmod McCrimmon (boys long jump, triple jump), to win multiple events at the meet.

Chatham Charter, meanwhile, saw its usual suspects perform well at the meet. Senior Tamaya Walden won the girls 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes, while junior Lucas Smith won the boys 100- and 400- and finished second in the 200-meter dash. In the field events, junior Meah Brooks won both the discus and shot put.

Chatham Charter and Woods Charter will compete at the 1A mideast regionals May 13 at Pender High in Burgaw.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@jbo\\_ernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_ernon).*

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**Events Offered**

**April**

- 18 Archery
- 24 SilverArts Intake
- 28 T-Shirt and Packet 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

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## POWELL

Continued from page B1

teammates are looking at him and giving him the ball. He’s able to create off the dribble, and he hit a really nice moving three with a hand in his face on the first night. He can also drive and score around the rim.”

Powell is part of UNC’s

top-ranked 2024 recruiting class. The Tar Heels have two other commits — shooting guard Ian Jackson (No. 5) and point guard Elliott Cadeau (No. 11) — ranked inside the top 20, while center James Brown is ranked 47th in the class. The last time UNC brought in the No. 1 recruiting class in the nation was in 2006, when they signed Bran-

dan Wright, Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington.

UNC assistant coaches Sean May and Brad Fred-erick were in attendance for the EYBL showcase. Marks said he heard about other coaches coming up to them and telling them Powell looks like “the kind of kid who plays at Carolina when Carolina is good.”

It’s still going to be a while before Powell joins UNC’s team and official-ly steps on campus as a student, and he still has some unfinished business at the high school level. In 2023-24, he’ll try to lead Northwood back to the 3A state championship game and give his team some redemption after two runner-up finishes over the past three years. If he continues to improve at the pace he’s done the last few years, Powell could check off that goal while continuing to grow his national presence.

“I think when he first signed, you looked at him and could project him to be a very capable player and be that connective tissue, because he does a little bit of everything,” Marks said. “But this weekend I think opened a lot of eyes nationally, and also the coaches at UNC, that this kid is still getting better, and I think when all is said and done, he could be a top-10 player in this class.”

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@jbo\\_ernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_ernon).*



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# POLICE REPORTS

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

On April 18, Rashud Leantriney Farrar, 34, of 2063 Stockyard Road, Staley, was arrested by Deputy John Lacy for assault on a female, assault inflicting serious injury, assault with a deadly weapon and communicating threats. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 26. Farrar was also arrested by Deputy Lacy for failure to appear in Randolph County. He was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on May 8. On April 20, Farrar was also arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear in Randolph County. He was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on May 8.

On April 18, Jeremy Josue Deinhammer, 21, no address, was arrested by Deputy Lacy for assault on a female. He was held on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on May 2.

On April 18, Tammy Sue Hopkins, 55, of 589 Pete Thomas Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Mitchell for failure to appear. She was issued a \$260 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 2.

On April 18, Joseph Alan Lindsey, 62, of 11222 Bethel Church Road, Midland, was arrested by Deputy Mitchell for failure to appear

in Stanly County. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Stanly County District Court in Albemarle on May 2. He was also arrested by Deputy Mitchell for failure to appear in Stanly County. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Stanly County District Court in Albemarle on May 2.

On April 18, Aaron Steven Coble, 22, of 17297 Hwy. 64, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for three counts of failure to comply with pretrial release order. He was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 15. On April 19, Coble was arrested by Deputy Amer for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting a public officer, and breaking/entering. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 24.

On April 19, Liliانا Nava, 26, of 1109 Pony Farm Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Lacy for failure to appear. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 25.

On April 19, Falan Cheyann Ivey, 28, of 1489 New Hope Church Road, Apex, was arrested by SSgt. Ashley Ellington for violation of pretrial release. She was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 26.

On April 20, Geoffery

Andre Evans, 45, of 1746 Morris Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Mitchell for breaking/entering to terrorize/injure, assault on a female, and injury to real property. He was held on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 23.

On April 20, Angela Jo Farmer, 50, of 222 Searcy Lane, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Wesley Chafa for failure to appear for Guilford County. She was issued a written promise to appear in Guilford County District Court in Greensboro on May 3.

On April 20, Ly-Sandore Moye, 47, of 2123 Wythe St., Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for two counts of failure to appear and resisting a public officer. He was issued a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 8.

On April 20, Jimmy Ray Hardin, 55, of 349 Brittany Lane, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Lacy for possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a stolen motor vehicle and possession of stolen goods/property. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 15.

On April 20, Janine Marie Cummings, 41, of 1407 Vance Drive, Lumberton, was arrested by Deputy Mitchell for five counts of failure to appear. She was issued a \$10,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Durham County District Court in

Durham on May 9.

On April 20, Donnie Levon Buie Jr., 34, of 611 W. 2nd St., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Mitchell for felony possession of Schedule I Controlled Substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a written promise to appear and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 15.

On April 23, David Martin Sparrow, Jr., 53, of 3190 Hamlets Chapel Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Jessie Taub for resisting a public officer and driving while license revoked/

impaired. He was issued a written promise to appear and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 3.

On April 23, Alexander Roger Johnson, 28, of 854 Clark Road, Snow Camp, was arrested by Deputy Taub for breaking/entering with intent to terrorize/injure, communicating threats, injury to real property, and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 24.

On April 24, Matthew

Robert Sens, 52, of 1040 N. Rocky River Road, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Moises Carvajal for assault on a female. He was held on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 26.

On April 24, Orlando Antonio Rivera, 5002 Windy Hill Drive, Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Carvajal for failure to appear. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on May 1.



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## National conference premieres new research on closing early learning gaps

From Waterford.org



The annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago will feature groundbreaking research that could mean big changes for children entering kindergarten, including those in Chatham County.

Waterford.org Vice President of Research and Chief Scientist Haya Shamir will present results from a new summer program during the April conference, scheduled for this week.

Improved early learning opportunities could be a game changer for literacy rates across the country, Shamir said. A summer learning program being tested in states across the nation is showing strong results. Research from early education nonprofit Waterford.org is showing that involving families and providing equitable access to personalized learning could be a game changer for literacy rates. That research is being revealed publicly for the first time at this conference.

“Educators nationwide are seeking solutions that position children across all demographics for success in school,” according to Waterford. “Results from a multistate Waterford.org study show meaningful gains among Summer Learning Path participants.”

Chatham County Schools uses Waterford resources.

How it works: Summer Learning

Path is flexible, done in the home and provides children and caregivers with resources including a computer, internet access and coaching. The program provides personalized online curriculum in reading, math and science done in just minutes a day, while also supporting families with offline, interactive activities. Waterford.org secures funding that allows families to receive those resources at no financial cost.

During a summer 2022 randomized controlled trial including mostly rural students in South Dakota and Wyoming, children who participated in Summer Learning Path performed better on a math assessment than their peers who did not use the program to prepare for kindergarten.

During a 2020-22 randomized controlled trial including multi-language learners in Nevada, children who participated in Waterford Upstart performed better on a math assessment than their peers at both the beginning and end of kindergarten (a year after program completion).

Addressing resource gaps with research-based, educational technology helps families overcome early education barriers including both proximity to and the ability to afford placement in child care centers.

## Some ‘Did-You-Knows’ About Estate Plans

If you’ve done any estate planning, or even if you’re just familiar with it, you probably know the basics — that is, a comprehensive estate plan can help you pass on assets to your family while also achieving other goals, such as designating someone to take care of your affairs if you become unable to do so. But you may not know about some other estate-planning issues that could prove important in your life:

- **Power of attorney for students** – Children heading off to college may be considered legal adults in many states. Consequently, you, as a parent, may not have any control over medical treatment if your child faces a sudden, serious illness or is involved in an accident. Instead, a doctor who doesn’t know your child or your family may decide on a course of action of which you might not approve. To help prevent this, you may want to have your college student sign a medical power of attorney form, which will allow you to make decisions on your child’s behalf if doctors don’t think your child can make those choices. You might also want to combine the medical power of attorney with an advance health care directive or living will, which lets you specify actions you do or don’t want to happen. In any case, consult with your legal advisor before taking any of these steps.

- **Community property versus common law** – Not all states treat married couples’ possessions equally. If you live in a community property state, the property you acquire during your marriage is generally considered to be owned in equal halves by each spouse, with some exceptions. But if you live in a common law state, the property you obtain while you’re married is not automatically owned by both spouses. In these states, if you buy some property, you own it, unless you decide to put it in the name of yourself and your spouse.

This doesn’t necessarily mean, however, that your spouse has no rights, because common law states typically have rules that guard surviving spouses from being disinherited. But here’s the key point: If you move from a community property state to a common law state, or vice versa, you might not want to assume that your and your spouse’s property ownership situations will remain the same. Consequently, if you do move, you may want to consult an estate-planning attorney in your new state to determine where you stand.

- **Pet trusts** – You always strive to take good care of your pets. But what might happen to them if you become incapacitated in some way? Unless you have a close family member or friend who’s willing to take over care for your pet, you might want to consider setting up a pet trust, which can take effect either during your lifetime or after you pass away. A trustee typically will make payments to the caregiver you’ve designated for your pet, with payments continuing for the pet’s lifetime or a set number of years. Again, an estate-planning attorney can help you with this arrangement.

Estate planning certainly involves the big-picture issue of leaving a legacy to the next generation. But the issues we’ve discussed can also be meaningful to you, so you’ll want to address them properly.

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

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PITTSBORO COMMISSIONERS

# Board holds public hearing for new multi-family housing community

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The board of commissioners met for their last meeting of the month, where they held a public hearing to discuss a rezoning request for a proposed multi-family dwelling community. The rezoning request was approved unanimously after commissioners shared concerns with the lack of affordable housing proposed in the development.

Pittsboro Planner II Janie Phelps presented the request to the board, which would be located off Suttles Road near Chatham Park. Property owners, Grantham Family, LLC, asked to rezone the 76 acre plot from R-A2 Residential Agriculture 2 acre to MR-CZ Multi-Family Conditional Zoning. The MR-CZ classification would allow for developers to build a wide array of housing types, including single-family detached dwellings, duplex homes, townhouses, apartments, public parks or recreation facilities, private recreation/entertainment facilities and

more. All housing units are proposed to be rentals, according to the applicant.

The planning board voted unanimously to approve the request as they found the rezoning request was “consistent with all provisions of the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) and Code of Ordinances.”

“We’re just working with the tools this board has created within the UDO toolbox,” Nick Robinson, the attorney representing the applicant, said.

While the multi-family conditional zoning would allow for a diverse selection of housing types, the plans for this development only included single-family detached homes, town houses and apartments.

Commissioners shared they wished to see more options in the development as the zoning would allow for various housing types.

Commissioner John Bonitz asked about subsidized affordable housing and if it would make up a portion of the proposed development. Robinson said since the affordable housing incentive program in Pittsboro is optional, the

developers opted to not plan for subsidized units.

However, Robinson said there would be “affordable options” for buyers or renters interested in the proposed community.

“It’s not technically affordable under the legal definition,” Robinson said. “I just mean more affordable than what would be allowed under the current zoning.”

Bonitz said he was concerned because of what he said is a lack of affordable units.

“It’s not the density that concerns me, it’s the lack of density that concerns me,” he said. “With this larger acreage also not offering any affordable housing, I think Chatham Park investors are running out of land in proximity to the current activity centers ... and a close proximity to those services is absolutely vital and critical to affordable housing, so what is the plan?”

Robinson said developers are looking to update a small area plan for Chatham Park, which would help determine a centralized location to place up

to 1,200 affordable housing units.

However, Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin voiced the same concern as Bonitz, saying she wants to see more diverse, affordable housing options.

“Basically, when you say affordable, you’re not talking about subsidized homes,” Baldwin said. “We’re talking about those workforce homes so people who work in the town of Pittsboro ... can afford to at least buy condo if not a single-family home. That’s my concern.”

Commissioner Kyle Shipp said he shared the same concerns as Bonitz and Baldwin, but he said the rezoning request would help create an opportunity to build various housing types, which could allow for more affordable options.

“Going from RA-2 to this many multifamily units is what we’re trying to do to make things more affordable,” he said. “I just think we’re limited in what we’re able to compel in these cases.”

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com).

# Council on Aging holds volunteer appreciation event

BY JIMMY LEWIS  
Chatham County Council on Aging

PITTSBORO — The odds and numbers were not in the favor of Council on Aging staff last week at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

As the agency gathered to honor the backbone of its daily operations at its annual volunteer appreciation luncheon, one fact was quickly apparent. There were a handful of staff members — and an army of volunteers that easily eclipsed the century mark.

“You look around this room, and you can see there’s more (volunteers) than there is of (staff),” Volunteer Coordinator Linda Saum said. “So don’t think of any kind of, what do you call it, what do you call it when you take over something?”

Predictably, the assistance came from a volunteer. “Mutiny!” the shout came.

“That’s it!” Saum said.

“Don’t think of a mutiny or anything, OK?”

Indeed, there was no need to worry. With the atmosphere that of a carnival setting which included games and carnival food, Saum assured the Council’s volunteers that when they arrived to contribute their time and talents to Chatham County’s older adults, they didn’t spend time “clowning around.”

“You matter,” Saum said. “You make a difference. Your great generosity has had a profound and lasting impact on Chatham County seniors. Your willingness to share your time and talent by volunteering with the Council on Aging says a lot about each of you as human beings. Your willingness to give selflessly to help others speaks to your strength and the quality of your character.”

COA volunteers touch every aspect of agency operations, from Meals on Wheels delivery, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, and providing a steady



Courtesy of the Chatham Council on Aging

The Council on Aging held its volunteer appreciation luncheon on Friday at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

set of hands as part of its Minor Home Repair program.

Volunteer drivers in the Council’s Meals on Wheels program serve as the proverbial “eyes and ears” for staff in the field, observing if a homebound client is feeling unwell or is experiencing any issues that warrant further follow-up. Meals are delivered to an average of 146 clients each day.

“You, the drivers, keep the Council updated on the well-being of the

seniors and keep me on track with direction corrections,” Saum said.

For those who are able to travel to either the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro or the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City, a noon meal is served daily at each site. Volunteers are essential in the preparation and service of these meals, enabling an average of 241 seniors to receive more than 9,000 meals.

“Words cannot adequately express the

gratitude that I, the board of directors and the staff of the Council on Aging wish to convey,” Saum said.

The Minor Home Repair program, which addresses such home safety projects as railings, shower grab bars, faucet repair, has been responsible for 21 total projects in 2023.

In the SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program), Medicare counseling was provided to an average

of 80 seniors, while the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program assisted a record 665 families in the recently concluded tax year. As a result of this volunteer work, a total of \$966,872 in refunds were identified and returned to clients in this free program for those that qualify.

Chatham County Senior Games, which runs April 29 through May 11, will host a record 313 participants in 2023.

The volunteer touch also extends to the Council’s activities and wellness piece, including woodworking and the popular Open Art Studio.

“The areas you help in are very widespread, including but not limited to front-desk coverage, folding and stuffing envelopes, newsletter folding, gardening, painting, goody bag stuffing, staffing events, putting up and taking down tables and decorations, phone calls, assembling packets and mailing birthday cards, which all lead to brightening seniors lives,” Saum said.



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Marianne Maschal and Dr. Janice Giles, principal at North Chatham Elementary School, cut the ribbon on the new Jaguar Trail on Saturday.

## RAKES, WHEELBARROWS AND SMILES

# North Chatham ‘Trail-a-bration’ opens window to outdoor education

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — It was the middle of the pandemic, and Marianne Maschal was exhausted.

Watching over three small children who were

around at all hours of the day — while she cooked and cleaned — she sought some relief. One of the ways her family found that relief was through nature walks at nearby trails.

As an outdoor educator, Maschal would teach her kids about the native plants, what poison ivy looked like and the importance of being good stewards of the land they inherited.

When her three little ones returned to North Chatham Elementary School in 2021, masks still on to prevent the spread of Covid-19, she realized there was a need for that natural beauty at school, too.

“These kids need a nature walk,” Maschal said. “And we need to make it a really good one.”

That vision was realized on Saturday at the North Chatham “Trail-a-bration” as more than 40 volunteers came to the school — gardening tools in hand — to help mulch, weed and plant that nature trail. The school also officially cut the ribbon on the trail.

When completed, the Jaguar Trail at North Chatham Elementary



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

People of all ages helped make the nature trail into a reality.

will be four feet wide, and wrap around the entire campus, creating a one-mile loop for students, and the community to enjoy.

### Trail-blazing

It was because of Maschal’s spark and desire for a vibrant outdoor space that the trail became a reality. Less than six months ago, the area beside the pickup and drop-off area at the entrance of the school was shrouded in wisteria, overgrown branches and ivy.

It looked more like the entrance to a forbidden forest than the entry to

an outdoor education trail.

But Maschal could see it in her mind’s eye. She envisioned teachers preparing outdoor lessons on various types of local birds, children touching the plants with their own two hands and an adaptive trail space so that kids of all abilities could appreciate the magic of the outdoors.

She drew up a rough map of the potential trail and with some encouragement from the NCES Parent Teachers Association, Maschal applied for a \$1,000 grant to begin the

See **OUTDOOR**, page B8

**Chatham County Schools ranks 10th out of 115 districts for ACT scores.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**





# OUTDOOR

Continued from page B7

work. The grant covered machinery to come and clear out large patches of the wisteria.

When Maschal began walking in the future trail area she uncovered something unexpected: evidence of the past. She found old birdhouses, bridges and piles of stones.

"It was kind of like being an anthropologist," Maschal said. "We discovered a nature trail that was already here."

North Chatham was a K-8 school prior to the opening of Margaret Pollard Middle School in 2011. Dr. Janice Giles, NCES principal, said the trail had been used as the cross-country trail for the middle school team. But when the team left, so did the maintenance of the Jaguar Trail.

"Marianne has spent countless hours here and she is really transforming our school," Giles said.

## Seeds of community

Rediscovering the trail, and making it into something new, has been a community effort of volunteers. Maschal visits the school at least three times per week and often brings other parents along with her to help prepare the trail. "We're doing this wild and crazy thing, but it's really been quite magical," Maschal said. "We learned how important nature was to our mental health, our healing, relationships and our community."

She said the community that came together Saturday — fittingly, it was Earth Day — was a perfect example of the type of buy-in needed to make this space impactful for students when completed.

Volunteers from Farrington Village, the Chatham County Democratic Party and other local church groups helped with a variety of tasks before a storm rolled in.

One of those volunteers was Vickie Atkinson, a neighbor of Maschal and a volunteer with the Chatham Democrats. She said she was in awe of the space students would have access to when the trail was completed.

"We actually vote at this school on Election Day," Atkinson said. "So I think it's important that we don't just pester folks once every two years, but show we care about our community, and especially the children who will get



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

**Rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows and smiles were in abundance Saturday. More than 40 volunteers brought their gardening tools to help beautify the Jaguar Trail.**



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

**Volunteers from Women of Farrington helped on Saturday to plant, weed and mulch the area around North Chatham Elementary School.**

to utilize this fabulous trail."

The trail itself also features marks of the community. For example, the entrance to the Jaguar Trail is lined with plants donated by Rachel's Native Plants, a new plant shop in Pittsboro. Chapel Hill Grit contributed an adaptive grit to make sure the trail is usable for people in wheelchairs, strollers and wagons.

"We've invested a lot in making sure it's not just a nature trail, but making sure it's a trail for everyone," Maschal said. "That's a priority. It's important that people who are always shut off from nature are not shut out here."

## Nature cleanse

Saturday's ribbon-cutting also came with an announcement of future opportunities for NCES. The trail was named a recipient of the North Carolina Schools Go Outside Grant. The funds, worth \$10,000, will be used to purchase a variety of outdoor education materials for students including a greenhouse, sensory water tables and gardening equipment.

According to its website, Go Outside Grants provide North Carolina's students access to the outdoors and opportunities for direct experience and to learn by doing.

Maschal said she has

big intentions for integrating the new funds into outdoor education lessons. Her vision is to make NCES into a nature-friendly haven for students to learn about gardening, pick their own flowers and crops and find a deep appreciation for nature.

Along with the nature trail, Maschal also helps maintain a community garden on campus. Students tend to the garden during recess, where she teaches them about seeds and how to care for the soil.

Attendees Saturday had the chance to walk the Jaguar Trail, and no more than a quarter-mile in it becomes clear why a space like this can be so powerful. Several walkers remarked that it felt like they were in the deep woods — that sense of green serenity cleansing the soul. It was on that walk that others realized the relief that Maschal had envisioned all along.

For more information about the garden, including how to volunteer, donate to the PTA or provide seeds and plants to the garden, visit Facebook.com/ncesgardenclub or Instagram @ncesgardenclub.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.

# Host boaters being sought for wounded vets fishing event

CN+R Staff Report

Kids aren't the only people who need to go fishing.

So, too, do wounded and disabled veterans. And it's for that reason that Operation North State exists.

Each year, ONS holds nine fishing festivals across the state for those wounded warriors, including at Chatham County's Jordan Lake. This year's local event is Thursday, May 4, and organizers need some help.

Fifty vets have signed up to fish and, so far, only about half the needed host boats and boaters are on board. ONS requires a vet and caregiver per boat to accompany the host for a day of fishing, snacks, dinner and fellowship.

The local festival kicks off at 7 a.m. at the Farrington Point Boat Ramp off SR 1008 and is free for everyone involved. Rods, reels, life vests, bait and snacks are provided by ONS and fishing licenses are waived for the day. No alcohol is allowed and at the end of the day, everyone is treated to dinner at nearby Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

ONS is an all-volunteer organization founded several years ago by retired Winston-Salem businessman Terry Snyder.

"One day, some friends and I were sort of fussing about how little is done



Courtesy of ONS

**A wounded veteran shows off a catch at a previous ONS event.**

for our veterans and the light came on in our minds and I said, 'what are we doing for them?'" Snyder said. "That was the start."

Since the first festivals in 2013, ONS has grown to the nine freshwater lake festivals, a deep-sea fishing excursion, trips to professional ball games, golf and bicycle outings and more.

"Really, anything that helps our vets is what we're after," Snyder says. "Some of these folks are dealing with significant health and emotional needs, and the therapy of getting out on the water works miracles. Not all of them have the benefit of support and ONS helps fill in those gaps."

All the funding and gifts that come to ONS go to its programs. There is no salary or administra-

tive costs other than postage and some printing expenses.

"It literally is all volunteer," Snyder said. "The disabled vets are super excited to have this opportunity for a day on the water. And, likewise, our host boaters tell us how honored they are to be part of the Festival and have the opportunity to give back and say 'thanks' to these warriors."

There's no entry fee for host boaters and it's easy to register to host. Interested boaters can send an email to Snyder at [mailbox@operationnorthstate.com](mailto:mailbox@operationnorthstate.com) or call 336-764-5967. Provide your name, email address, telephone number and your North Carolina hometown. Host boaters must have liability insurance coverage on their boat.

# EDC hires Pendergraph

From the Chatham Economic Development Corporation

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Economic Development Corporation is pleased to announce that Jack Pendergraph has joined the organization as a business retention and expansion specialist, handling existing industry development efforts for the organization.

Pendergraph earned his bachelor's degree in political science at East Carolina University, with a concentration in public administration. Following his degree, Pendergraph enrolled in a Master of Public Administration program at UNC-Chapel Hill, from which he will graduate this May.

"We know Jack will be a great fit for our team," EDC President Michael Smith said. "His related work experience, educational background and understanding of the economic development process in North Carolina will be very helpful for our community during this time of new development in Chatham."

Pendergraph is joining the EDC as Chatham County is amid a transformation, with VinFast, Wolfspeed and several other new companies commit-

ting 9,000 jobs and over \$9 billion of investment. Pendergraph will work closely with Chatham County's existing industries to ensure their success and expansion within the county to preserve and create high-quality jobs for Chatham citizens.

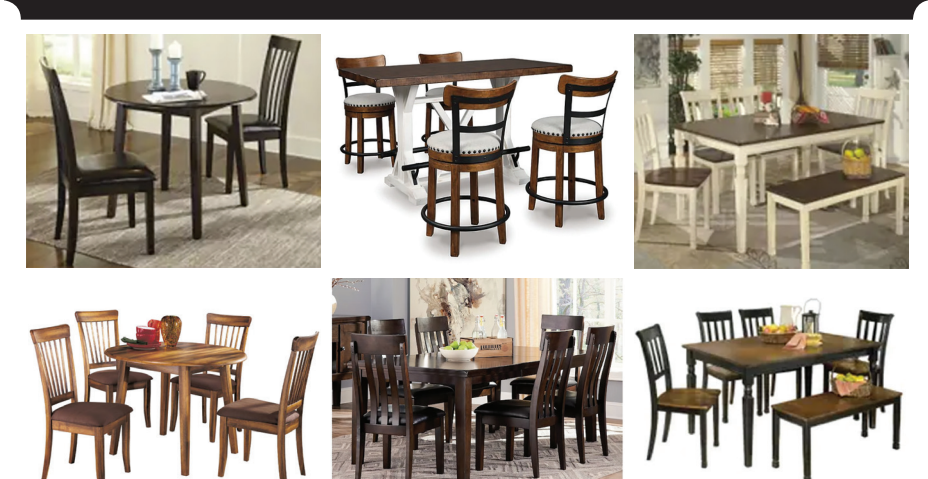
Greg Lewis, the chairperson of EDC board of directors, said the organization has been "very much looking forward" to having Pendergraph on board.

"He stood out as the best candidate for the job of supporting Chatham's employers with his background in economic development and local government," Lewis said. "With Jack on the team, the EDC will continue to strengthen the county's industrial tax base and help connect our industries with the community."

While pursuing his master's degree, Pendergraph held positions throughout North Carolina, including with the Mid-East Commission as a disaster recovery specialist in Economic Development Planning, as a performance analyst with the Village of Pinehurst, and time working with Beaufort County Economic Development as an intern.

Pendergraph's first day with the EDC was April 17.

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**PREMIER CROSSWORD/** By Frank A. Longo

**ACROSS**

1 Teenage witch played by Melissa Joan Hart  
8 Breakwater embankment  
15 Nintendo title  
20 Germ-free  
21 Singer with the 2018 hit "Boo'd Up"  
22 Put up, as a building  
23 Patti Smith  
25 Flat, as cola  
26 One of the two Pro Bowl gps.  
27 Frankle  
28 Notices  
30 Hero type  
31 Nina Simone  
39 Napoli's nation  
41 Alien-seeking proj.  
42 City near Disney World  
43 Manicure tool  
46 Oxidizes  
49 Put the kibosh on  
50 Missy Elliott  
53 Dir. from Miss. to Mich.  
56 Pre-CIA gp.  
57 Ad featuring Smokey Bear, e.g.

58 "Science Guy" with multiple Emmys  
59 Honorable  
60 Busy airport  
63 George Strait  
69 World capital in the Andes  
74 '60s war  
75 2010-14 Mets member  
76 Britney Spears  
79 Plane ticket detail  
80 Large musical disk  
81 Encyc. unit  
82 Tosses out of the game, for short  
85 "Law & Order" spinoff, in brief  
88 Busy insect  
89 Bessie Smith  
97 Plane ticket detail, for short  
98 Mafia boss  
99 Narrates  
100 Running rather quickly  
104 "This Is Life" journalist  
106 Totally in favor of  
107 Chuck Berry

112 "Casablanca" woman  
113 "Dies —" (Latin hymn)  
114 — Schwarz  
115 Peculiar  
118 Just making, with "out"  
120 Liza Minnelli  
127 Roaring cat  
128 Remove loose coverings from  
129 "Tartuffe" playwright  
130 Thick  
131 Ancient Jewish ascetics  
132 Slung mud at

13 Thin streets  
14 "In this way"  
15 Spanish for "month"  
16 Skilled crafter  
17 Go further in the book, say  
18 Apple digital storage service  
19 Verdi opera  
24 Mess up  
29 Hercules player Kevin  
32 Afflictions  
33 Natural talent  
34 Greet loudly  
35 Architect  
36 Double — (Oreo option)  
37 Wife on "The Addams Family," casually  
38 Big to-do  
39 Lowdown  
40 Mai — (rum drinks)  
44 Track circuit  
45 Mag staffers  
47 Ex-Yankee  
48 James Bond genre, in brief  
51 Ox of Tibet  
52 "Doggone it!"  
53 Punishment for a tube watcher  
54 "Me neither"

55 Rival of Ben & Jerry's  
59 Nibble (on)  
60 Suspend  
61 Scanned market ID  
62 Busy insect  
64 With one flat, musically  
65 Brief snooze  
66 Biotech-created food  
67 Atop, in verse  
68 Japanese salad green  
69 Links gp. for women  
70 Club for a 69-Down member  
71 Small fortune  
72 Letters of invitation?  
73 American assn.  
77 Margarine, quaintly  
78 Acrobats suffix  
83 Fourth of a yr.  
84 That girl  
85 Large yellow bloom  
86 Put on the kibosh  
87 KGB's land  
89 Paree "to be"  
90 Native New Zealander

91 WWII battle town in France  
92 Glue — (brand of adhesive in a tube)  
93 Hog sound  
94 Tesla auto, e.g.  
95 String necktie  
96 Quiet stretch  
97 Fuel gases  
100 Off-track  
101 New film type in the 1920s  
102 What "@ " is  
103 Rotational force  
105 Big blunders  
108 Man-goat deities  
109 Marsh plants  
110 Capture  
111 Campus buildings  
116 Have the guts  
117 Made blond, maybe  
119 Test for college srs.  
121 Prior to, in sonnets  
122 Indian flatbread  
123 Not closed, in verse  
124 —pah band  
125 Heady brew  
126 Day, to Diego

**Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps

RAISING YOU CHICKENS IS NOT SO EASY.

YOU'RE NOISY, MESSY AND SOMETIMES I JUST DON'T HAVE A CLUE...

WHAT IS GOING THROUGH THAT HEAD OF YOURS.

WOW, AND THIS COMING FROM A 10-YEAR-OLD.

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A NAME FOR GAMBLING WINNINGS THAT PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER...

HOW ABOUT "JIM POT"?

OR "JOE POT"?

"OR GEORGE POT?"

NOPE... I'M NOT SURE ANY OF THESE WORK...

SHUT UP, JACK! YOU'RE NOT HELPING!!!

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

TWO NIGHTS AGO I DREAMT I WAS A PECAN

...AND LAST NIGHT I DREAMT I WAS AN ALMOND.

MAYBE YOU'RE NUTS?

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

S	P	O	T		O	H	M	S		O	R	B	I	T	S		J	A	I	L	
A	R	R	O		R	O	O		N	O	I	S	E	S		A	L	K	A		
H	A	R	D	E	A	R	N	E	D	C	A	S	H	E	W		M	A	N	I	
I	D	I	O		T		S	T	P	A	U	L	S			J	A	M	E	S	
B	A	N	S		D	E	R		B	E	D	E	W	P	I	L	L	O	W	S	
					R	O	D	E	O		T	I	E	T	O		D	I	E		
S	C	A	R	E	R		A	R	L	E	S		I	R	S		G	E	T	Z	
C	A	R	D	I	N	A	L	S	I	N	E	W		M	A	L	I				
A	L	A	S	K	A	N		O	R	D	E	R	S		G	O	T	H	I	C	
R	O	B	I	N	T	O		A	S	K	E	W	T	O	O	M	U	C	H		
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## MAGIC MAZE ● — TRAIL

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: HO CHI — TRAIL

- |             |              |          |       |
|-------------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Appalachian | Cattle       | Mountain | Ski   |
| Audit       | Condensation | Oregon   | Vapor |
| Blaze       | Deer         | Paper    | Wagon |
| Campaign    | Iditarod     | Santa Fe |       |

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### TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

Panel 1: Tiger: "WHAT'S THAT, TIGER?"  
Panel 2: "I BOUGHT A PLANT TO GIVE MOM."  
Panel 3: "WHAT'S THIS LITTLE YELLOW TAG SAY?"  
Panel 4: "IT SAYS YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT HAS DIRECT SUNLIGHT TWO HOURS DAILY."  
Panel 5: "I PUNNO."  
Panel 6: "...AND YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT MOIST BUT NOT OVER WATER IT."  
Panel 7: "...AND YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT PLANT FOOD AT MONTHLY INTERVALS."  
Panel 8: "...AND YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE LEAVES JUST FREE BY SPRAYING OR WITH A PAMP CLOTH."  
Panel 9: "...AND YOU HAVE TO PROTECT IT FROM DRAFTS AND TRIM OFF DEAD BLOSSOMS."  
Panel 10: "HEY, PUNKINHEAD! HERE'S A PLANT FOR YOU TO GIVE MOM."  
Panel 11: "SEE, THANKS! I CAN'T READ THIS LITTLE YELLOW TAG."  
Panel 12: "IT'S JUST THE OWNERS MANUAL."

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### Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

AHH, GEEZ! NOW I SEE WHY THEY ONLY GIVE YOU A LITTLE PLATE FOR THESE FANCY APPETIZERS.

### GRIN and BEAR IT

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"He doesn't bring me flowers anymore! He never did!"



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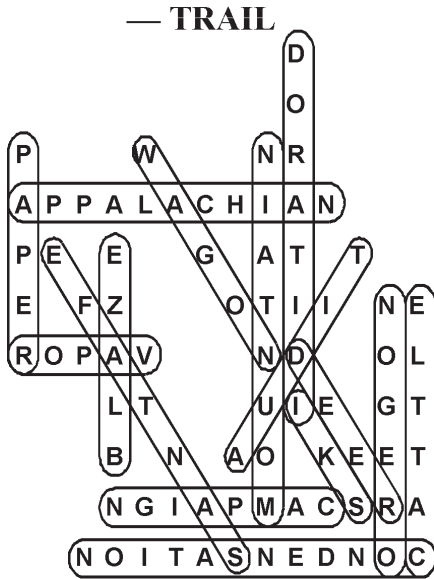
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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answer

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

## Lunching at The Washington Duke



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

This version of white chocolate pistachio cheesecake is based on one made at the Washington Duke Inn in Durham.



**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

Years ago, I got an email from my editor about a bloggers' luncheon in the Fairview dining room at the Washington Duke Inn in Durham. She asked if I was interested.

Yes, on so many levels.

Even though I'd lived in Durham for more than a quarter of a century, and driven past there hundreds of times, I'd never visited the inn. Going to lunch, I came down Erwin Road from the freeway until I turned onto Cameron. It was the usual frenzy around hospital and clinics.

Once I turned off Erwin, the short remainder was quiet, and wooded.

On the beautiful grounds of the inn, the gardens were bursting with spring, and landscaped to near perfection. Before I could grab my bag and jump out of the car, a fully uniformed valet had arrived to whisk it away.

The behavior of the staff at Chez Blue Devil was so impressive it kind of freaked me out.

I am not kidding. It seemed that every employee I encountered knew me by sight. I've no idea how they did it (apologies to Petey and his theory), but the suit types called me Debbie, and the folks wearing uniforms referred to me as Ms Matthews. After the surprise wore off, I was uncomfortable and sorta charmed in equal measure.

For some of the greatest customer service I've ever encountered (and I spent years in retail, so I'm including my own best attempts), it isn't even a race; the Washington Duke wins.

Jason Cunningham, the executive chef at the Fairview dining room, shared with us his new spring menu. It was four courses of striking, thoughtful food. Chef Jason was an attentive host, coming out to our tables on the terrace, to serve a bit (he poured my thick, spring pea soup himself), and to see if we were enjoying his creations.

The weather was beautiful, and the food fresh, flavorful and delicious.

Every ingredient was respected, and had been brought to it fullest by care and attention, just like I always nag about.

**White Chocolate Pistachio Cheesecake**

Recipe courtesy of Chef Jason Cunningham and the Washington Duke Inn.

Yield: 1 standard springform Pan  
For the Crust:

¾ cup Graham Cracker Crumbs  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Wrap the outside of a springform pan in foil and grease the inside.

Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl and mix thoroughly.

Press firmly and evenly into the bottom of the pan and one inch up the sides

Place on center oven rack and bake for 10 minutes, remove from the oven and allow to cool.

**For the Cheesecake:**

8 oz white chocolate (squares or chips)

24 oz cream cheese, softened at room temperature

¾ c granulated sugar  
Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Place cream cheese, sugar and flour, and pistachio paste in a mixing bowl and cream until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Scrape bowl.

Melt the white chocolate. Using an electric mixer, on low speed mix melted chocolate into the cream cheese mixture. Keeping the mixer on low, slowly beat in the Vanilla and the cream and blend well.

Pour the mixture into the prepared pan on top of the crust. Place cheesecake pan in a warm water bath and bake at 300 degrees on center oven rack for 50 minutes or until the center is just firm. Remove from oven and the water bath and allow to cool at room temperature for one hour. Refrigerate until set before removing from the pan.

**Notes:**

Pistachio paste can be found in a specialty foods store such as A Southern Season or online. It has a tremendous shelf life and can usually be purchased in small quantities.

For service in the Fairview we "deconstruct" this cheesecake for presentation of an individually made portion. The recipe for the crust is scaled down to produce about ¼ of what we prepare in our kitchen. We mix all ingredients and bake it on sheet pans and then crumble it up for presentation on the plate.

The cheesecakes we serve are baked in individual portion silicone molds.

The method is the same but we produce a batch of cheesecake batter that is three times what is listed in the recipe here. The batter is poured into the molds and the molds placed in a water bath on sheet pans. Once cooked, we allow the cheesecakes to set and then we freeze them before unmolding. Once removed from the molds we dip the sides of the cheesecake in white chocolate for added texture and flavor.

In the four courses, through at least 15 individual items, my favorite was part of a large dessert sampling: an ethereal, flavorful, pistachio cheesecake.

I really wanted to try to get this recipe.

The chef's email came right back. "Sure thing!" He just wanted to know if he could get to me in a day so that he and his pastry chef, Corey Mansfield, could make it home-user friendly.

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



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