

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | MAY 4 - 10, 2023 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS

A first look at the proposed FY 2023-24 budget

County says incoming growth is primary focus for fund allocations

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It’s the most wonderful time of the year: budget season.

Chatham County Commissioners got a first look at the proposed fiscal year 2023-2024 budget Monday night at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. The budget plan features a number of changes from the previ-

ous year including new fees, an increase in revenues and expenses and three dozen new staff positions.

One thing that isn’t changing in the new budget, however, is the proposed tax rate. The proposed budget holds the property tax steady at 66.5 cents per \$100 valuation.

“Looking ahead to the coming year presents many challenges, yet also many opportunities, and we believe that Chatham County is well positioned for continued success,” Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said.

Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson presented the proposal to the board. He said he believed the budget pre-

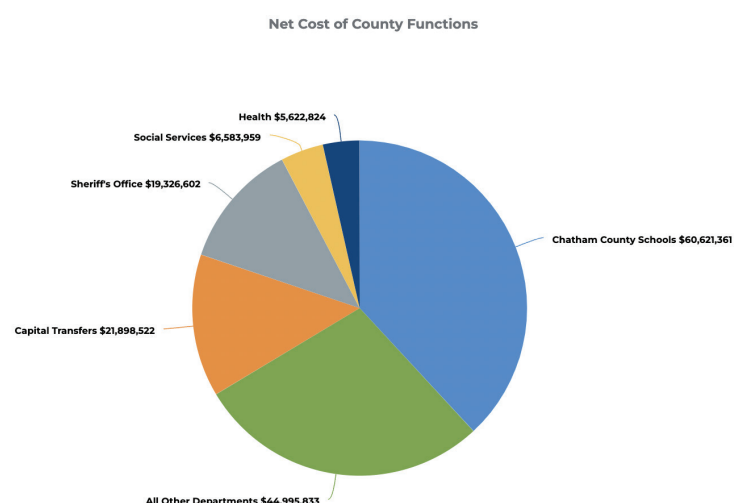
pared the county for incoming growth, and positioned them well to adjust to changing fiscal and environmental circumstances.

General funds

The proposed \$177.4 million general fund represents a 2% increase in planned expenditures and revenues over the previous year.

Digging into the breakdown of those funds, the largest portion of the budget is allocated for Chatham County Schools, which has asked commissioners for a \$4.9 million increase in funds over the previous year, totaling \$46.6 million.

See **BUDGET**, page A7



Courtesy of Chatham County Government

This pie chart shows a breakdown of the proposed county budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Student-designed game wins statewide coding challenge

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — A pixelated globe wearing a birthday cake hat has to escape a pumpkin and make it to the green flag.

Sounds simple enough.

This is just one of the hundreds of possibilities built into the student-designed game “Platformerz.” The platform computer game was designed by two Chatham School of Science & Engineering students, sophomores Brandon Cameron and Jack Triglian-

nos. Recently, the app was named the 2022 winner of the North Carolina Congressional App Challenge. More than 9,000 students across the country registered for this year’s competition — creating

2,707 fully-functioning apps. The competition set the record for most student registrations, most apps submitted and most apps per district submitted.

“We wanted to make a game for people at school to play,” Cameron said. “It really started as something to do when we finished work early in class.”

As a winning team, Cameron and Triglianios were invited to showcase their winning app to Congress in Washington, D.C., during the annual #HouseOfCode festival. The team opted not to attend. Other North Carolina winners included apps teaching about recycling or personal finance. Platformerz was the only game to win the challenge.

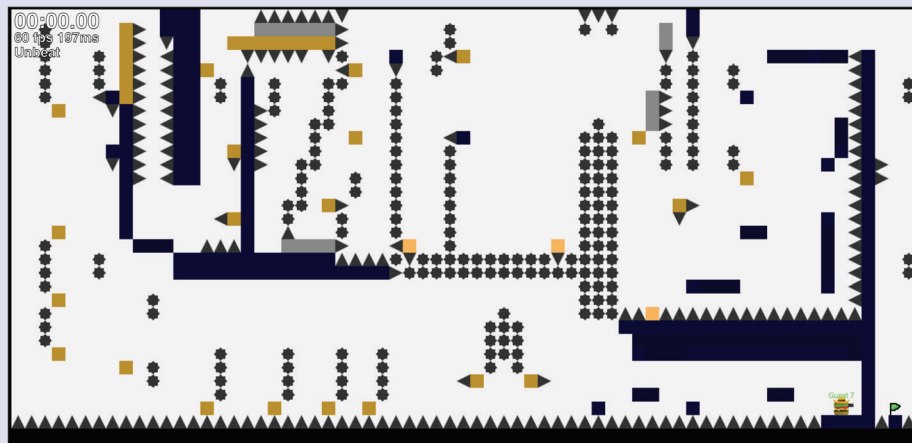
The longtime friends said they’ve

See **GAME**, page A3



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Jack Triglianios (left) and Brandon Cameron (right), sophomores at Chatham School of Science & Engineering, won the 2022 North Carolina Congressional App Challenge for their game ‘Platformerz.’



Screenshot from Platformerz

One of the unique features of the game is that it allows other people to design map levels and share them with other players. This is among the most popular levels entitled ‘morning commute.’

Suspect arrested in shooting

CN+R Staff Reports

The Chatham County Sheriff’s Office has apprehended one suspect in connection with an April 26 shooting and continues to investigate the incident.

At approximately 11:40 a.m. last Wednesday, a shooting occurred at the junction of Moore Mountain Road and Hamlets Chapel Road. The victim’s car was fired upon by a Black male suspect in his late 20s or early 30s. A 17-year-old victim was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and released from the hospital.

See **SHOOTING**, page A3

‘Local on Lorax’ celebrates food, art and music

Sunday’s ‘Farm & Art Dinner’ to benefit Welcome Center

BY BILL HORNER III
CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — For those who attend Sunday’s “Local on Lorax” event, the anticipation may largely be about the food — and spectacular food at that, featuring a multi-course meal assembled by 11 supremely talented Chatham chefs



Courtesy of Local on Lorax

A scene from a prior ‘Local on Main,’ a fundraising event that has been relocated — and rebranded — as Local on Lorax.

IN THE
KNOW

SPORTS: Coaches, ADs split on ‘participation trophy’ bill. **PAGE B1**

STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST CHATHAM COUNTY NEWS



facebook.com/
ChathamNR



twitter.com/ChathamNR
twitter.com/ChathamNRSports



instagram.com/
chathamnewsrecord



6 89076 19216 3

SHOOTING

Continued from page A1

Officials said two people were in the car but only one was struck in the shooting. Investigators said they would not release name of the victim because they are under the age of 18.

During the probe, investigators identified Brian Julius Blackwell, 21, of 1062 Morris Road, Pittsboro, as a potential suspect and located him on Friday at Seaforth High School where he was attempting to pick up another student. Blackwell is not a student at the high school. Upon searching the vehicle Blackwell was driving, drugs were discovered, leading to Blackwell's arrest.

Blackwell is charged with maintaining/selling/delivering/possessing a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of cocaine, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling place for controlled substance, discharging weapon into occupied property, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Blackwell's bond was set at \$125,000. He is scheduled to appear in Chatham District Court on May 15.

The incident is under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call the Chatham County Sheriff's Office at 919-542-2911.

This is a developing news story, updates will be posted as they become available to chathamnewsrecord.com

Chatham Arts Council opens applications for Grassroots Arts Grants

Up to \$15,000 available for local arts organizations

From Chatham Arts Council

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Arts Council is excitedly accepting applications for its annual Grassroots Arts Grants, a program aimed to help organizations do amazing work through the arts. Since 2000, the Chatham Arts Council (CAC) has awarded more than \$210,000 to nonprofits, who in turn, use the money to fund artists and carry the arts into every corner of the county. Applications are now available online.

"Grassroots Arts is such a cool statewide program, and we've been partnering with the N.C. Arts Council on it for more than 20 years," Cheryl Chamblee, CAC artistic director, said. "In that time, we've awarded in excess of \$200,000 to nonprofits in Chatham that are doing fabulous, impactful work through the arts across the entire county. We want to

The CAC serves as the Designated County Partner to the North Carolina Arts Council in awarding the funds to local organizations. The program was established to ensure that every citizen in North Carolina has access to quality arts experiences. Cash grants range from \$500 to \$3,000, and are typically used for program expenses (i.e., artists' fees, space rental) or operating expenses for arts organizations.

make sure that every single person living here has access to the arts for community-building, for self-expression and for mental health."

The CAC serves as the Designated County Partner to the North Carolina Arts Council in awarding the funds to local organizations. The program was established to ensure that every citizen in North Carolina has access to quality arts experiences. Cash grants range from \$500 to \$3,000, and are typically used for program expenses (i.e., artists' fees, space rental) or operating expenses for arts organizations. Areas of particular interest for the CAC are local artist fees/fair payment to artists and outreach to diverse or underserved communities.

New for this year's appli-

cants: Prior to applying for the grant, applicants are required to have a 20-minute individual prep meeting with CAC staff between May 1 and May 10 in-person or via Zoom. Visit <https://bit.ly/GrassrootsGrantMeeting> to sign up for an individual meeting.

Organizations applying must:

- Have been in operation for at least one year as a 501(c)(3);
- Have an arts mission, or a program that uses the arts to help accomplish the organization's mission;
- Be based in Chatham County.

The deadline for applications and supporting materials is Tuesday, May 23.

For questions about this grant, contact Heather

O'Shaughnessy by email at heather@chathamartscouncil.org

Grassroots Arts Grants are made possible by individual contributions to the Chatham Arts Council's general operating fund and through the generous assistance of the Grassroots Arts Program of the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Past recipients have included organizations such as Abundance N.C., Bynum Front Porch, Chatham Artists Guild, Chatham County Partnership for Children, Chatham Trades, Community Organizing for Racial Equality (CORE), Hispanic Liaison of North Carolina, JMarts Foundation, Main Street Pittsboro, N.C. Arts in Action, N.C. Arts Incubator, Pittsboro Elementary, Shakori Hills Community Arts Center, Smelt Art Gallery, Sprott Center for Youth (Moncure), StreetSigns and more.

For more information on the Grassroots Arts Grants, or to apply, visit www.ChathamArtsCouncil.org/grassroots-arts-grants/.

GAME

Continued from page A1

long shared a passion for coding, and making games felt like a way to explore that passion together. And from their classroom boredom came a game that would even-

tually be beloved by the whole school.

"More and more people started liking it and would give us suggestions for how to evolve it," Triglianios said.

When the boys were showing off their game to peers in class one day, it caught the attention

of their teachers Anna Blackwell, Melissa Boyce and Beth Vaughn. Boyce suggested they submit the game to the Congressional App Challenge.

Submitting the app to an official contest seemed like a good excuse to improve the game, so Cameron and Triglianios

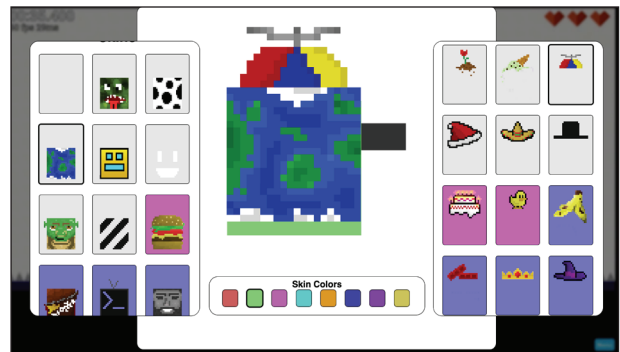
got to work. Platformerz began as a cube moving on a screen, but soon the duo incorporated more math and physics into the coding of the game.

They also stylized the game to make it more visually appealing. Neither Cameron nor Triglianios considered themselves artists, so they left many of the design elements up to their peers. They put out calls to students in their classes and asked for help designing levels, characters and pixel art for the game.

"People got really into it," Triglianios said. "They started giving us a lot of ideas on how to improve the game or help find bugs like 'when you do this something goes wrong' or 'this part looks kind of ugly when you move this way.'"

Feedback from their classmates helped reduce the number of bugs in the game, and the designers said that feedback also brought innovative ideas like multiplayer levels and time trials.

Cameron and Triglianios said they worked on the game six hours daily for more than six months until they submitted the app to the contest. Even after submission, they continued tweaking the game because it had become such a hit in the CSSE hallways.



Screenshot from Platformerz

The game allows players to customize their characters with various skins and hats, all designed by fellow students using pixel art.

"We saw more and more people playing it," Cameron said. "The game was spreading by itself without us even telling people. It was really cool to see."

One of the things that helped spread the game most was the multiplayer format. Here, anyone could design and post a level to the online server, then challenge their friends to beat the level of their creation. The levels people created included spiky mazes, pixel art ducks or convoluted booby traps. This made the game feel communal because students would try to beat levels designed by their friends with the fastest times possible.

Designing the maps was also made even easier with the level editor, which used a click-and-drag format to allow us-

ers to draw any level they could imagine. There are currently more than 200 maps on the server, with the most popular ones being played more than 400 times.

"It was a lot of trial and error," Triglianios said. "We realized we couldn't create levels faster than other people could make them."

Every unique map created increased competition in the school. Who could build the most creative map? Who could design the longest level? Who could complete every level the fastest? It became a sort of community. Everyone moving a little pixel block toward a green flag thanks to the designs of Cameron and Triglianios.

"It was kind of a relief watching it grow," Cameron said. "It showed that those nights I stayed up until midnight making this menu or that button, that's what makes it all worth it."

The final app included eight different online servers and more than 5,000 lines of code in several different coding languages including JavaScript, HTML and CSS. Every line of code was written by the duo themselves.

After the success of Platformerz, the CSSE sophomores are already working on a new game. This app will be a role-playing game, which differs significantly in coding from the platform game. The project is still in early stages and does not yet have a name, but they hope to take lessons from the previous design process into this game.

To play Platformerz for yourself visit platformerz.friedcow.repl.co and for more information about the Congressional App Challenge visit www.congressionalappchallenge.us.

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

Wolfspeed.

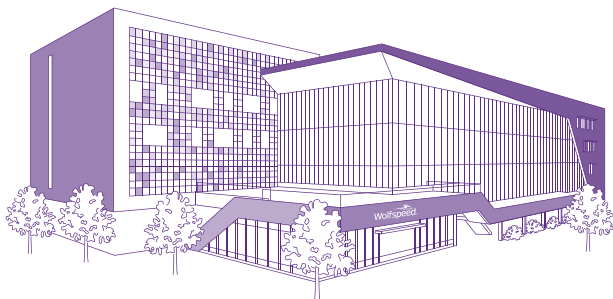
WOLFSPEED IS HOSTING TWO COMMUNITY SESSIONS

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.

THE JOHN PALMOUR MANUFACTURING CENTER FOR SILICON CARBIDE



Residential, Land & Farms, Commercial, and Investment properties since 1989.



Scott Harris
919-498-4077

Renee Kennedy
919-548-1329

Chris Walker
919-768-2811

Billy Williams
919-548-1404



Serving Pittsboro, Siler City, and surrounding areas

1325 N. Second Ave. Siler City, NC | JerryHarrisRealty.com



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

VIEWPOINTS

CHATHAM SCENE | BEN RAPPAPORT

Goldston mayor proves his town is ‘a diamond in the rough’

PITTSBORO — The crowd selfie has become a staple of many artists and performers. They fire up their smartphone on stage, point the front-facing camera toward the crowd and click as the crowd cheers and jostles to be included in the frame.

One may expect this sort of thing when attending a small-venue concert or show. I didn’t, however, expect to see a crowd selfie to be taken at last week’s Development Briefing, hosted by the Chatham Chamber of Commerce at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. It felt like the equivalent of showing off that you’re at a work meeting, or posting on Facebook about how cool it was that you just got to send an email.

But that’s also why Goldston Mayor Jonathan Hensley’s decision to take the crowd selfie was so fantastic.

“My wife’s never going to believe this,” he told the audience, smiling with his phone held high.

The Chamber’s briefing last Wednesday included an array of speakers from across the county touting growth and assessing how different sectors were preparing for challenges. Leaders from local governments, Central Carolina Community College, the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, Chatham Park and more shared updates with the crowd of about 200 community members.

There’s plenty to be excited about in Chatham, Wednesday’s presenters made clear. Speakers lauded that the county has economic opportunities abound and more on the horizon, that CCCC is creating workforce training opportunities, and new businesses are popping up daily.

Much of the praise for the development of the county included things we’ve all been hearing for months. The highlight, however, came from Hensley.

Despite being the mayor of the small town of Goldston, Hensley often refers to himself

as “not a politician.” He prefers the title of “just a dude.” And in many ways, he is.

It was a breath of fresh air to hear Hensley stray away from the script during his remarks to the crowd.

The most notable progress in Goldston is that the town of just 239 people was recently connected to fiber internet through a partnership with Randolph Communications. Through the partnership, more than 350 locations, including homes and businesses, will be able to access at least 300 Mbps fiber internet.

The project is already underway and the main line is expected to be completed by October.

Hensley highlighted the accomplishment for his town by explaining he would soon be able to win many more “Call of Duty” matches against his friends in other towns because his internet wouldn’t cause the games to lag.

“If you want to see a meltdown, watch me get to the final four remaining only to lose be-

cause of a lag,” Hensley joked.

And while poking fun about Goldston’s small size and improving his video game scores engaged the audience, Hensley is doing more than a stand-up routine. He’s getting things done.

Beyond the fiber internet connection, which is notable as is, Hensley has also led an effort to renovate Goldston’s parks by adding pickleball courts, as well as repaving the tennis and basketball courts.

The town is also in the midst of a downtown beautification project, adding electric vehicle chargers at its library and stop signs to its Main Street intersections.

“I really want Goldston to be a home,” Hensley said. “I want us to be a diamond in the rough.”

The projects Goldston is undertaking don’t have the size of a Wolfsped or VinFast announcement, or generate the same buzz as a workforce training center at CCCC. But that doesn’t make them any less important.

Things like crosswalks and libraries make small towns feel like home. It makes them exciting places to live, work and play. To hear someone like Hensley bring a fresh energy and excited approach to the seemingly mundane are what make communities special.

In the year since I’ve been reporting on Chatham County I’ve gone to at least half a dozen of these kinds of networking breakfasts like the one put on by the Chamber last Wednesday. They start to blur together in topic and scope. But Hensley brought a rejuvenating energy when speaking about his beloved hometown of Goldston, and a desire to share it with Wednesday’s crowd.

It’s that passion for our communities that I believe we could all use more of in this day and age.

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

A good drug problem to have



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

For years — I don’t remember how many — I’ve been hammering out columns for this newspaper. I do remember that day when my boss the editor — the late Alan Resch — in kind of an off-hand way said to me, “Start a column.”

That was about 1991 or so and since then, I’ve had one every week except when there was too much copy or I was late at deadline or otherwise indisposed.

As I hammer out this weekly exercise, I’ve noticed a difference. Some columns are born of great inspiration; some almost write themselves; others are born from great desperation. If you’ve been reading them very long, you’ve likely noticed more of the third kind than the other two.

But as I’ve done them, I’m reminded more and more of a line in the Book of Ecclesiastes that says, “There’s nothing new under the sun.” I’m pretty sure that’s supposed to mean that human nature and all the things that trouble us today aren’t new just to us but instead have been around since time began.

But by the same token I’ve also come to understand that truth is truth no matter where you find it and that I don’t have to be the one and only bearer of it, and that if I can find it somewhere else it’s OK to share it because it’s still the truth even if it isn’t original with me.

With all that in mind, I want to share with you a piece a friend passed on to me some time ago, and let me know later if you found any truth in it.

It seems, the story goes, that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in a nearby county. As two friends were discussing the news, one turned to the other and asked the rhetorical question, “Why didn’t we have drug problems when we were growing up?”

To that, his friend replied this way: “I did have a drug problem when I was young.”

I was drug to church on Sunday mornings. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher or if I didn’t put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom’s garden and flower beds and cockleburrs out of dad’s fields. I was drug to the home of family, friends and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood, and, if mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins, and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroin and, if today’s children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place.

God bless the parents who drugged us.

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



May the Force be with you



ANDREW TAYLOR- TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

This Thursday, May 4, is “Star Wars” Day — May the Fourth be with you! Around the world, fans will gather to watch movies, play video games and eat cookies in the shape of Yoda. There are also huge gatherings in cities where people dress up as characters and talk in the accents.

Of course, the famous Star Wars catchphrase is “May the Force be with you.” This phrase might be derived from the Christian greeting “May the Lord be with you.” There is a book titled “The Gospel According to Star Wars” that argues Christian themes are essential to the message of these movies.

But George Lucas, the revered filmmaker, has described himself as a “Methodist Buddhist,” a nod toward the faith of his childhood and his adult exploration of another religion. As someone who has likewise studied Buddhism, it does

seem to me that the Jedi exhibit Buddhist principles such as mindfulness, compassion and a belief in the interdependence of all things. Yoda can sound like a Zen teacher: “Attachment leads to jealousy. The shadow of greed, that is.”

Yet, might the same ideas be thought of as reflective of Christian teachings? Not the ludicrous “Jesus, Guns, Babies” political mantra being preached in some parts of Georgia, but the rich theology of an ancient world religion. To quote Yoda once again: “My ally is the Force, and a powerful ally it is. Its energy surrounds us and binds us.” This “it” may be called the Force or God, may be thought of as Jesus, Buddha, Allah or many others.

At the same time, uniqueness is important. Not to assert superiority of one faith over another — “Judge not,” another Zen-like teacher once said — but something that is abstract is better understood through a story. That is one of the reasons “Star Wars” is so popular; it is a different world, yet teaches us about our experience.

I have a T-shirt with a picture of

a certain green guy, wrinkled with age, and the words “Yoda Best Dad Ever.” (I like a pun on May 4 and any day of the year.) But I’m not a huge “Star Wars” fan; I haven’t even seen all the movies.

So, when a fellow parent at my children’s school saw my T-shirt and launched into an impersonation of some character, assuming he and I were on the same page, I was quite lost — confused, I was! Still, it was fun to listen to him. Whether “Star Wars” fans or people of different faiths, we can learn a lot from each other.

Finally, our boys ran over to us. They were ready to leave school.

“Come on, Dad,” the other child complained, “you talk too much!”

My son nodded sympathetically, “Is your dad a preacher too?”

Funny, he is!

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

Sticks and stones? (Not.)



JAN HUTTON
This Being Human Thing

Strange, strange, strange. OK, out with it. What’s strange?

My unexpected learning curve, beginning with a golden oldie (the Beatles, the Stones?). No, no, this well-worn chestnut, “sticks

and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” Gimme a break! The refrain harks way back to my childhood days of defensively, but defiantly, responding to name-calling. Yelling it back at an erstwhile bully usually left

me standing straighter and feeling more upstanding. (Look at me! I’m just fine. So there!)

But here’s a modern-day twist for that childhood defensive rejoinder. What if, inadvertently, I’m the one casting a dark shadow of words in my own direction? Whoa. Why would you do that?! You seem to be kind and peaceful. Pretty much, but oh-so human, too. (I’m guessing you’ve already noticed that.) And as humans, well, geez, we are kind of imperfect; certainly not all-seeing and omniscient. (Although, admittedly, I do try to leave that impression sometimes. Another hallmark of being all-too-human ...)

Back to (inadvertently) cast-

ing verbal negativity in my own direction. I do need, initially, to out myself as a brain science nerd. Huh? I love nurturing my behavioral foundation with conscious ways I can ... well, just say it ... OK, yeah, be a better human being. (Was that so difficult to express? “Just sounds so ooey-gooley.” Oh well)

As a result of my nerd inclinations, I tend to follow current brain neuroscience research. (Are you yawning yet? If so, please hang in. It gets more interesting; I promise. Swearing to you on my coveted Girl Scout chocolate Thin Mint cookies.)

Anyway, I bumped into an article

See **STICKS**, page A5

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

Some real common sense on AR-15s, guns

TO THE EDITOR:

For those commenting on guns and mass shootings, if you think that many of these shootings would have occurred without the courage an AR-15 with 50-round clips provides, I feel you are wrong.

Those that believe only the availability of a shotgun, pistol, or .22 gun of any kind would have created the same terrible result, I want some of what you are smoking. The last shooter listed in his manifesto he wanted to show everyone how simple it was to get an assault rifle and all the ammunition you needed, in order to kill as many as possible. Is a waiting period, background check, small magazines or the age of 21 going to cut off your NRA check?

Have some common sense and understand that the Second Amendment was written for protection and possible feeding of a person's family. If you feel we are going to be invaded, have at it. Otherwise please use the rational that hopefully God gives to all of us. We can control an inanimate object like a gun

but rarely, if ever, a human being.

Richard Whitfield
Pittsboro

Time to slow down and reconsider what is at stake

TO THE EDITOR:

A significant proposed amendment to the Small Area Plan for the North Village has been recently submitted by Chatham Park to the town of Pittsboro. This proposed amendment includes major changes to roadways and allocations of parks that would greatly impact the biodiversity across these thousands of acres of currently undeveloped forested land. Some of these changes will no doubt adversely impact the Haw River and areas to the north of this development near Bynum.

I live in the Bynum Mill Village at the trailhead that leads down the Haw River to Pokeberry Creek. I walk that trail everyday. This time of year I am surrounded by bird song as the many different kinds of warblers fly through. This is a haven of biodiversity! I hear the loud thwack of a beaver tail and spot its angular head before it disap-

pears underwater. Not far beyond it I see two otters bobbing up and down, in and out of the river looking at me with curiosity. Wildflowers are in full bloom as I walk.

However, when I get beyond the island that separates the view from the far bank, and I see that far bank, I grieve at what will be. I hear pileated woodpeckers and barred owls on that land across the river that is destined to be clear cut and cut up into small lots with thousands of homes. I reach Pokeberry Creek and spot a blue heron fishing in the river — playing the waiting game — standing completely still until it finds the exact moment to plunge upon its prey. A bald eagle flies overhead and cormorants swim in the river. Turtles sun on rocks.

I fear that the town of Pittsboro is selling all this out. I am trained in environmental studies and anthropology. Therefore I understand both the ecological implications of putting such a mega development right smack beside all this biodiversity. In short, it will not end well. My anthropology background equips me to understand human behavior. I therefore get the lure of economic devel-

opment and “progress” that has whetted the appetite of so many policymakers, developers and town representatives. I realize that plans are already underway.

However, I also realize that there is still opportunity to slow this process of these amendments to the Small Area Plan for North Village and to thoroughly review them in all their detail to fully grasp the implications they have to this precious Pittsboro resource of the natural environment that attracts so many people, families, interest groups (birders, dragonfly experts, etc) and contributes to the town coffers. Also to grasp the implications this has for what these changes will cost to the town itself and to its taxpayers overall. There is much fine print that is critical to consider, communicate about, explore options, etc.

Citizens can learn more about this proposed amendment on the town of Pittsboro's website under the link for Chatham Park and then Small Area Plans R <https://pittsboronc.gov/>.

Susan Crate Bynum
The writer is Professor Emeritus of Environmental Anthropology at George Mason University.

North Carolina ranks high in roads



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

North Carolina can add another item to its crowded shelf of accolades: According to a newly updated study, our state's road system ranks second in the nation in performance and cost-effectiveness.

The Reason Foundation has just released the 27th annual Highway Report. It was the brainchild of my longtime friend and colleague, the late UNC-Charlotte professor David Hartgen, and published in its early years by the John Locke Foundation. After the project moved to Reason, Hartgen and his coauthors continued to improve the study's methodology and presentation. The refinements continued after Hartgen's retirement. He passed away a couple of years ago.

Because of methodological changes, you can't just pull out older versions of the

study and track state performance over time. Fortunately, current coauthors Baruch Feigenbaum, Truong Bui and Thuy Nguyen have recalculated some past rankings based on the latest methodology. So I'm on solid ground in saying that North Carolina's latest ranking — second in the nation, based on 2020 data — represents a significant improvement over our 2018 ranking of 14th.

Reason's model employs 13 categories of data ranging from overhead costs and pavement conditions to traffic congestion and highway fatalities. North Carolina compares favorably in expenditure ratios for administration and maintenance (8th), urban congestion (11th), and the condition of our interstates (15th) and urban arterial roads (7th).

On the negative side, we're below average in the structural soundness of our bridges (30th) and the fatality rate on our two-lane roads and side streets (39th). On our interstates and other major highways, North

Carolina's fatality rates are close to the national average.

How did our state end up ranking second overall, then? Because we outrank most other states on most measures. Our system is consistently high-performing, in other words, while other systems are high in only a few categories (if that).

Back in 2013, the General Assembly and former Gov. Pat McCrory implemented a new funding formula for North Carolina roads. Reducing the influence of pork-barrel considerations, it prioritized projects likely to alleviate congestion and promote economic growth. At the time, David Hartgen called the reform “a very significant step forward.”

It was, indeed — and has surely helped to boost the state's highway ranking. Keep in mind, however, that rankings are, by their very nature, comparative. North Carolinians have enjoyed real and noticeable improvements in mobility, but at the same time

motorists in other places have experienced declines. Both trends played a role in North Carolina's surge to second place.

There are also geographical and philosophical forces at work. It can't be a coincidence that of the top eight states in highway performance — Virginia (1), North Carolina (2), Tennessee (3), Georgia (4), Connecticut (5), South Carolina (6), Kentucky (7) and Florida (8) — all but one are in the Southeast. As for the worst-ranked states, they tend to be progressive-run places such as Washington (46), California (47), and New York (49) or places with challenging topographies such as Hawaii (48) and Alaska (50).

As I've observed many times in the past, simplistic takes on interstate competition for jobs and investment do no one any favors. Conservative analysts are right to identify taxes and regulations as potential barriers. Progressive analysts are also right to point to high-quality public services as potential

magnets.

Where the latter go wrong is assuming that it requires relatively higher taxes to deliver relatively better services. In the real world, states such as New York and California managed to tax and spend a lot while also ranking low in the quality of services. They're losing ground to the likes of Florida, Texas and North Carolina where governments deliver a better bang for the buck.

Now, to say our state scores well in highway performance is not to say we can't do better. In recent years the Department of Transportation has made some bad calls, and a significant gap remains between projected needs and projected revenues from current taxes. Let's keep reforming. But let's also celebrate our progress.

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

STICKS

Continued from page A4

regarding how our very own words affect our brain functions. (A timely “gotcha” from the universe.) Merrily reading along and then, boom, a wake-up call. Big-time. Oh, you're wondering what the wake-up call was? Here you go:

“Science shows us that catastrophizing language ... can negatively affect our mental health. Over time our mind believes what we are saying to ourselves. Optimistic words prime us to see a brighter future. And negative ones keep us stuck.”

Um, well, the word “nightmare” had become a frequent personal refrain when responding to friends' questions about selling my house. “It has been a nightmare” and variations on that theme. And, let's be honest, I also said it to myself, frequently! Oy. So here I am, unknowingly, tossing words of ongoing verbal negativity in my own direction. Yes, it has been hard, but was I serving my wholeness, my emotional health, and my path forward, by characterizing selling the house as a nightmare, again, and again, and again? (And again?) (And again?) Probably not. And the words wounding me, unintentionally, were my own. Ouch.

My reaction to this light bulb activation? Consciously changing my language. Right then and there. “Optimistic words prime us to see a better future.” Dang right. Among my new uplifting repertoire of phrases and actions, I am: “persevering.” Cheerleading (“Yay, Jan!”) and pumping my little fists cheerleader-style; and adding the oh-so-evocative Southern saying, “You go, girl!” (Says she, laughingly, having first judged that expression as non-feminist so many years ago. Nothing like hindsight to offer oneself a good laugh, is there?)

And, you know what? I do feel more optimistic, accepting and empowered. Now, isn't that a surprising sentiment?

Empowered, though? Help me understand. Yes, this has been a challenging road. However, I can still consciously choose self-referential words that bolster and empower me. Although there have been many things I've not been able to control on this journey, my heart and mind still belong to me. You go, girl!

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.

Fooled by Clarence Thomas, not Mark Robinson



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

It happened to me back in 1991 when Clarence Thomas was nominated for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. Thomas, although African American and coming from a poor background, was known to be very conservative. He grew up in a Gullah community near Savannah, Georgia, raised by his grandfather after his father abandoned the family.

I got fooled, thinking that he would modify his hard right views as he dealt with court cases that would remind him of the unfair challenges that he and his family had faced. I thought he would feel a growing responsibility to interpret the law, when possible, to require fair treatment for Black people and others suffering unfair treatment.

I believed, naively, that Thomas's background growing up poor in the segregated South would be a factor in his growth and maturity, and that he would come to realize that the law should be available for the improvement of the lives of Black people and other underserved people.

I was wrong.

When it comes to evaluating the choices for North Carolina's next governor, I won't be fooled again.

I am thinking about our Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, who like Justice Thomas, grew up dealing with the

extra challenges facing poor Black people in our region.

Like Thomas before his confirmation to the Supreme Court, and even more so, Robinson does not hide his strong right-wing views.

Some of these positions have been summarized by a pro-Democratic group, “Donate to Defeat Mark Robinson,” as follows:

Abortion

“Once you make a baby, it's not your body anymore — it's [the public's] body.” [WRAL NEWS]

Anti Semitism

“This foolishness about Hitler disarming MILLIONS of Jews and then marching them off to concentration camps is a bunch of hogwash.” [Mark Robinson's Facebook page]

Black Americans

“African Americans love to kill each other and have no problem embracing deviant, hypersexual behavior.” [Mark Robinson's Facebook]

Climate Change

“I'm sick of these lies about global warming. Stop talking to me about climate change. I know the climate changes, it happens four times a year, it's called seasons!” [Mark Robinson speech]

Guns

“I got them AR-15s at home, and I like to go target shooting and all

that. But that's not what they're there for... I got them AR-15s in case the government gets too big for his britches cause I'm gonna fill the backside of them britches with some lead.” [WRAL NEWS]

LGBTQ+ People

“There's no reason anybody anywhere in America should be telling any child about transgenderism, homosexuality, any of that filth.” [CNN]

Women

“We are called to be led by men,” not women. [WRAL NEWS]

This summary is not exactly neutral, having been prepared and circulated by Democrats. But it is based on actual quotes from Robinson. I think Robinson would not question any of it. He understands that his views are strong and controversial and does not back away from them.

Robinson's forthrightness in acknowledging his positions on these matters persuades me that his background growing up as a struggling, poor Black person does not mean that he will be transformed into a progressive figure fighting for equal rights.

I made that mistake once with Clarence Thomas and will not make it again with Mark Robinson.

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

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 bhorne3@chathamnr.com; or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

A 40-YEAR-OLD IDEA

Chatham writer Peggy Payne releases new fantasy tale

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

Peggy Payne has spent the last four decades creating a world straight from her imagination, and that world became a reality on Monday, May 1. Her book — “My Life on Earth and Elsewhere” — flew onto bookstore shelves and onto online retailers on Monday.

“There were two books I wanted to go back and finish, and this was one of them,” Payne said.

Payne’s passion for writing began in 8th grade when she would enter many essay contests for monetary prizes, which she’d often win. She continued that passion through her time at Duke University, where she studied English and worked for the student newspaper, the Duke Chronicle, as a co-editor for the women’s issues section.

The easiest way Payne thought she could write for a career was if she went into journalism, and that’s exactly what Payne did.

“I did travel writing for about five years ... and I did advertising, writing all kinds of things. But I

hadn’t planned to write fiction,” she said.

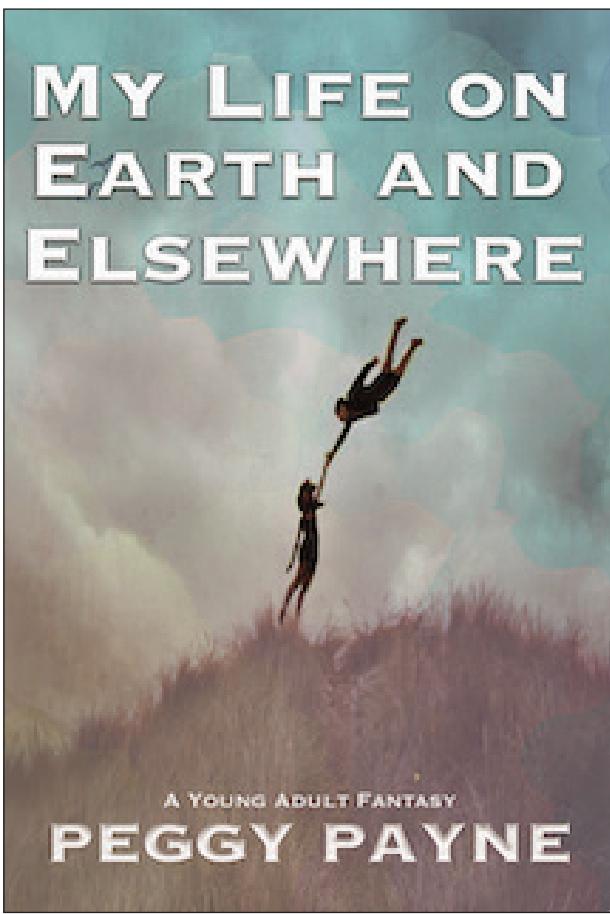
Freelancing allowed for Payne to write for multiple publications, including the Wilmington Morning Star, the Durham Herald-Sun and more. From covering desegregation in North Carolina’s public schools to writing occasional editorials for extra money, Payne was able to gain experience covering a wide variety of topics.

However, Payne started thinking about what stories she would write if she wasn’t a journalist, and the idea hit her.

“I thought if I were going to write a novel, what would it be about or where would I start,” Payne said. “At the time, there was no paranormal stuff, no category of that at all. But that’s what I started with — that girl having an out-of-body experience.”

Now, over four decades later, My Life on Earth and Elsewhere will be released as Payne’s sixth stand-alone novel.

Payne’s other novels have received nods from critics affiliated with the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and other publications. While most



Contributed photo

The cover of Peggy Payne’s latest release, ‘My Life on Earth and Elsewhere.’

of her previous work could be considered contemporary adult fiction, Payne’s latest release will be her first young adult story.

The story focuses on

a 16-year-old girl, Darcy, who finds out her parents are going to divorce. The shock of the news of her parents’ separation results in Darcey having an out-of-body experience.

The book’s plot focuses on the relationship between the couple and the adventures they face as interdimensional beings.

As her soul flies above the trees, she meets an “astral boy,” according to Payne.

“While she’s out of her body, she meets this gorgeous boy, who seems to have no pretense about him,” Payne said. “He is not like any boy in high school, except that he seems to be that age. They fall in love, and they try to work out how to have an interdimensional relationship.”

The book’s plot focuses on the relationship between the couple and the adventures they face as interdimensional beings. Payne said the relationship between the two characters plus the supernatural aspects of the book makes for a unique experience for readers.

“She’s kind of a fringy kid anyway, an outlier, and so she feels like high school can be enough of a challenge without talking about

your astral boyfriend,” Payne said. “She’s trying to integrate him into high school, and that’s not easy ... He nor she really know what they’re capable of — this is something new for both of them. So that’s the situation and then it gets really complicated.”

Payne said this novel has had several iterations over the decades, and in fact, she didn’t originally write it as a young adult fantasy novel. While My Life on Earth and Elsewhere has gone through many changes, Payne said she’s proud of how the final product turned out with Hydra Publications.

“I just got a review that said it would be mesmerizing for YA (young adult) paranormal readers and for lovers of fantasy without regard to age, and I happen to think that too,” she said. “I’m absolutely satisfied and elated to have this completed.”

My Life on Earth and Elsewhere will hit local bookstore shelves and will be available on Amazon on May 1.

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

LORAX

Continued from page A1

from locally sourced ingredients.

There will also be local drink offerings, as well as music and art on display.

But for Greg Lewis — who does turns as chef at his own restaurant, The Sycamore, in Pittsboro — Sunday’s event is about feeding more than just the “Local” patrons.

He says the event, the proceeds of which will benefit the Chatham County Welcome Center, will also help feed the community — in a manner of speaking.

“I’m not just talking in terms of food,” explains Lewis, one of Local on Lorax’s organizers. “I mean economically. I would like to make a distinction, here, between local and locally owned. Shopping local means shopping, or dining, at an establishment in your community. This would include national chains.”

A good thing, he says, to keep tax dollars local and employ residents.

“But even more important is shopping locally owned. In addition to tax dollars, a much higher percentage of business revenue stays circulating within your community when you do so. Locally owned businesses tend to stay local and purchase from their friends and neighbors when seeking supplies and services. They support your local sports teams as well as your local nonprofits.”

The Chatham County Welcome Center, in Pittsboro, which has no other source of funding, helps spotlight and promote that notion of local for visitors. There’s plenty of that here to show off, Lewis says, emphasizing that “locally owned” also brings uniqueness, flavor and charm to the community.

On Sunday, it’s flavor that’ll be in focus. Local on Lorax began as “Local on Main,” a downtown meal in Pittsboro focused on the connection between local chefs and ties to local agriculture.

IF YOU’RE GOING

What: Local on Lorax: A Farm & Art Dinner, a celebration of small family farms, culinary creativity, and visual and performing arts. The event features “one night under the stars” with dishes from local chefs made with ingredients from local farms.

The cause: All proceeds go to benefit Pittsboro’s Welcome Center
When: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sunday, May 7
Where: The Plant, 192 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro
Tickets: \$125 per person; find them at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/local-on-lorax-tickets-597753224987>

It’s since expanded — not only to The Plant, the eco-industrial park east of downtown, but to include other parts of the county. Chefs from Siler City, Goldston and areas north of Pittsboro will have a hand in preparing Sunday’s meal.

The News + Record spoke to Lewis about Local on Lorax:

Let’s dig into it: from a food and artistic standpoint, what local farms and creations will be on display at this event?

From a food perspective, you will see some interesting and creative flavor combinations like Lemonade Pickled Shrimp, a Polenta Bar with field greens, or Beef Bobotie with saffron rice, carrots and toasted coconut. Farms such as Lilly Den Farm, Massey Creek Farms, Lyon Farm and East Branch Ginger will be represented on the menu, as well as local beef from Chatham Meat Co.

Local artistry will be on display with the seven rabbits that were decorated by artists from Pittsboro Gallery of Arts for the Found It! Chatham Rabbit Hunt. We are selling raffle tickets to win one and will hold the drawing at Local on Lorax. Tables will be graced with arrangements created by talented volunteers showcasing beautiful flowers from Heart Song Farm.

All proceeds will benefit the Welcome Center in Pittsboro. Remind us what the Welcome Center delivers for Pittsboro and Chatham County, and why it needs support?

The Welcome Center connects visitors and residents with Chatham County. Whether it’s shopping, dining, recreating, history or enjoying a local event you are looking for, we can help get you there. One of the best things we offer is personal interaction with a friendly face, a person enthusiastic about Chatham County and wanting to help you explore it. I think that is so important for people wanting to connect with the community, especially for those moving to the area. Our staff and volunteers are here to say, “Welcome! Let us help you get to know your new home.”

What can those who go to “Local on Lorax” expect to experience?

A fun, elegant evening which starts with a half hour of butlered hors d’oeuvres and an opportunity to explore some of the offerings at The Plant. During the four-course meal that follows, guests will be entertained by Dave Quick Jazz. There should be plenty of space for dancing, and we hope to see folks taking advantage of that. Lastly, we will have a small auction.

Tickets are \$125 per person. That’s a lot, but those who have attended before say it’s well worth it. Why?

It may seem like a lot, but think about this: you will be experiencing an evening at the always-fun-to-be-at The Plant, where 11 talented Chatham County chefs have come together to prepare a unique menu created just for this event. You will be supporting local



Courtesy of Local on Lorax

Food served at last year’s Local on Lorax featured ingredients from local restaurants. This year’s event will be held at The Plant on May 7.

farms. Our chefs will be using locally sourced ingredients but do not ask farms to donate food. Participating restaurants purchase products for their dishes from the farms, and we reimburse them for those purchases.

Also, please remember, this is our main fundraiser. Our financial support comes solely through private donations and this event. Contrary to what some may believe, we do not receive any funding from the county nor any

municipality.

Which restaurants are involved?

Postal Fish Company, Cafe Root Cellar, The Beagle, Beans Fire Grill, The Traveling Cafe, Lilly Den Farm Meats and Eats, Capp’s Pizzeria and Trattoria, Carolina Cravings, Angelina’s Kitchen, Small B&B Cafe, The Sycamore. Beverages will be available to purchase from Fair Game Beverage Company, Starrlight

Mead, bmc brewing, Vortex Roasters and Chatham Cider Works.

And what’s on the menu?

As you can see, we have a lot of restaurant participation, so the menu is extensive. I’ve mentioned a few items, but to see the full menu and for ticket details, folks can visit our event page: <https://facebook.com/events/s/local-on-lorax-a-farm-art-dinn-6497136453670161/>.

ChathamCares COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Medications and patient assistance programs for uninsured and underinsured residents of Chatham County

FREE blood pressure checks for ALL Chatham County residents: Every Wednesday, 9 am - 1 pm

Get involved! We are in need of:
- Volunteer pharmacists
- Freelance grantwriter



Pharmacy hours | Mon., Tues., Thurs. 10 am - 4 pm; Wed. 9 am - 1 pm
Phone | 919-663-0177 Fax | 919-663-0218 www.ChathamCares.com

127 E. Raleigh Street, Siler City



North Carolina Association of Free & Charitable Clinics
Medical | Pharmacy | Dental | Social Services



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

chathamnewsrecord.com

Chatham News + Record

OBITUARIES

JO ANNE ROGERS HICKS



July 13, 1938 ~ April 25, 2023
Jo Anne Rogers Hicks, 84, of Aberdeen, formerly of Siler City, passed away Tuesday, April 25, 2023.
Jo Anne was born in Alamance County on July 13, 1938, to Alec Lance and Mary Curl Rogers. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis Ralph Hicks and sister, Helen Causey. Mrs. Hicks was owner and operator of Kut 'N Kurl Beauty Shop for 60 years. She was a member of

Moon's Chapel Baptist Church and was a faithful member of the Dig 'N Dream Garden Club for many years.

Jo Anne is survived by her daughter, Melinda Smith and husband, Joe of Aberdeen; grandchild, Jennifer Lynn Sanders and husband, Ryan of Greenville, S.C.; great grandchild, Vivian Kay Sanders; siblings, Harold Rogers and wife, Rita of Pittsboro; Sam C. Moon and wife, Tommie of Bedford, Texas; Joyce Dabbs of Burlington; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, from 10 to 11 a.m. The funeral service followed at 11 a.m. in the church sanctuary with Dr. Patrick Fuller and Michael Rogers officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 175 Moon's Chapel Church Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344 or to the Care Crafters (Knitting Group), The Foundation of FirstHealth, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is serving the Hicks family.

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

MILDRED IRENE BRAFFORD MORRIS



September 4, 1939 ~ April 25, 2023
Mildred Irene Brafford Morris, 83, died at her home on April 25, 2023. She was born September 4, 1939, in Chatham County, N.C. to the late Elmer Brafford and Curtis Roberson Brafford.

Irene is survived by her husband of 66 years, Clarence Morris; two sons, Ricky (Lisa) Morris, Randy (Debbie) Morris; and one daughter, Ronda (Greg) Lemons; nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren; one

brother Wayne Brafford, and three sisters, Alma Stevens, Virginia Morris and Kathy Clark. She was predeceased by her brothers, Willie Brafford, Eugene Brafford and her sister, Margie Johnson.

Irene worked for the Department of Social Services for Chatham County and then after retirement went to work with the U.S. Postal Service as a rural mail carrier, from which she also retired. She loved to attend Bluegrass festivals and she had a passion for mowing the lawn on her riding lawn mower.

Visitation was on Sunday, April 30, 2023, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service was held Monday, May 1, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Chatham United Methodist Church officiated by Rev. Danny Berrier and Dr. Wesley Thomas, with burial immediately following in the church cemetery.

Flowers are welcomed, however, contributions can be made in her memory to Chatham United Methodist Church General Fund.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Morris family.

Condolences can be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

ALICIA LYNN STOUT

November 9, 1977 ~ April 15, 2023

Alicia Lynn Stout, age 45, of Indian Trail passed away surrounded by her loving family at Presbyterian Main in Charlotte on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

She was born November 9, 1977 in Siler City, the late Jimmy Carlton Stout and Paula Pickett Peele. She was preceded in death by Jimmy Stout and stepmother Barbara Stout, maternal grandparents, Albert and Frances Pickett, paternal grandparents, Elbert and Eula Mae Stout, and stepfather, Robert Peele.

Alicia was a graduate of UNC-Charlotte and was a Broker/Realtor for Choquette Properties where she worked with her special cousin and treasured friend, Wendy Stout Choquette. She was also a long-time employee of Thomas Street Tavern in Plaza-Midwood where she was fiercely loyal and protective of her large Thomas Street family. She was often referred to as "Wonder Woman" by employees and patrons alike.

Those left to cherish her memories include her long time Fiancé Neil L. Cartrett, Indian Trail; her mother, Paula P. Peele, Oak Island; big brother Michael C. Stout, Greensboro, other big brother Dennis Diegel, Greensboro, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and Thomas Street friends who have been very supportive during this trying time.

Those wishing to honor Alicia's memory may consider donating to The National Kidney Foundation.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

NANCY LANGLEY MARLEY



March 24, 1930 ~ April 29, 2023
ANGIER — Our sweet mother, Nancy Carole Langley Marley, 93, has gone to heaven to join her husband and the love of her life, Jack Marley. Nancy was born in Siler City, North Carolina, to Marvin David and Mettie Eliza "Primp" Langley on March 24, 1930. Oh, what a wonderful day in Chatham County; it was and the beginning of a lifetime of smiles, kisses, laughter, tears, hugs, lifelong friendships, and loving her family

more than you can ever imagine.

The celebration of her life will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary of Angier United Methodist Church. The family will receive visitors after the service at the church. Nancy will be laid to rest at Lakeside Memorial Gardens in Angier on a later date.

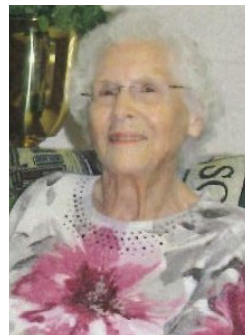
Jack and Nancy are affectionately remembered by their three children, Carole Rae Marley, Cherry Marley Champion, and Wesley J. Marley. Nancy is also survived by her loving sisters, Dixie Smith and Mary Lea Brown and her husband, Norman, as well as nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, Nancy was preceded in death by her brothers, Bob Langley and Bill Langley.

Flowers are appreciated or memorial contributions may be made to a Hospice organization of your choice in Nancy's memory.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.bryan-lee-funeralhome.com.

DOROTHY (DOT) LUCELLA CHANDLER HARRIS



Dorothy (Dot) Lucella Chandler Harris at the age of 96 quietly went to her heavenly home on April 30, 2023.

Dot was a Caswell County native born on November 15, 1926. She was the daughter of the late Dewey Otis Chandler Sr. and Emma Stanfield Chandler. She graduated from Anderson High School and was a member of Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church located in Caswell County.

After marrying Paul Harrell Harris in 1947, they started a family living on May Drive, Burlington, N.C. They moved to Silk Hope, Chatham County, in 1955 and raised four children. South Fork Friends Church and community became a major part of her life as she raised her children. She loved gardening, sewing, word search puzzles and cooking. Her famous chocolate pie and pear preserves became well-known throughout the community. Flowers and birds were some of her favorite hobbies. She will be remembered for her love of a good joke and reading the funnies. After raising her family, she became a teacher assistant for a special needs class at Chatham Middle School in Siler City, N.C. Each and every student held a special place in her heart. After retirement she joined the Siler City bowling league which she loved.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband after 62 years of marriage. Also preceded in death are siblings Ruby (Ross) Stephens, D.O. (Leona) Chandler, Wilbur (Mary Joyce) Chandler and Joe Chandler; son-in-law, Ray Johnson; and grandchild, Wesley Harris.

Family was an important part of her life and she leaves behind: sister-in-law, Patricia Chandler; four children Paulette (Odell) Grumble, Phyllis Johnson, Michael (Judi) Harris, and Patricia (David) Harris-Fullen; five grandchildren, Matthew (Amy) Johnson, Stefanie (Bryce) Kincaid, Megan (Howie) Van Horn, Heather (Brandon) Miller, Josh (Abigail) Harris; nine great grandchildren, Lilly, Mabry, Ansley, and Chanley Johnson, Liam and Olivia Kincaid, Chandler Van Horn, and Micah and Isabel Harris; and as she would say one more Harris on the way!

The family would like to thank Mom's caregivers, Catherine Wright, Sherry Jessup, Carolyn Handley, Dianne York, Erica Smith, Kierra Marsh, Jennifer Culberson, and Caroline Worsham.

A visitation for Dorothy (Dot) Harris will be held at Smith and Buckner Funeral Home located at 230 North Second Ave., Siler City, N.C., on Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. A funeral service will be held at South Fork Friends Church at 359 South Fork Bethel Road, Snow Camp, N.C., on Thursday, May 4th, 2023, at 3 p.m. with Daniel Thames and Andrew Needham officiating.

HOLLY ANNE TEW

February 25, 1973 ~ April 26, 2023

Holly Anne Tew, 50, of Apex, died April 26, 2023, at home.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date at the Local Bar in Apex.

She was the daughter of the late Lynn Jeffrey Tew and Candy House Tew.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Jared Cargill of Apex; one daughter, Chloe Rae Cargill of Apex; and one brother, Jason Tew of Wendell.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Holly's memory to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, 6065 Roswell Road NE, Suite 505, Atlanta, Georgia 30328.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

JAMES LYNN 'BUBBA' BOYD

November 27, 2020 ~ April 25, 2023

James Lynn "Bubba" Boyd, 2, of Bennett, passed away on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

Services will be held at a later date.

Bubba was the son of Ashley Nicole Jackson and Christopher Lee Boyd. He is survived by his parents; grandparents, Elizabeth and Clint Edwards of Bennett and Frankie Jackson of Siler City; grandparents, Karen and Johnny McDaniel of Liberty; and great-grandmother, Marie Epps, of the home.

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

Joyce-Brady Chapel is honored to serve the Boyd Family.

JESSICA MAE COLLINS

September 14, 1991 ~ April 23, 2023

Jessica Mae Collins, 31, passed away on Sunday, April 23, 2023, at her home in Manners.

No services are planned at this time.

Jessica was the daughter of Bob Ranford Collins and Lillie Teresa Collins. She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Jesse Odell and Lillie Mae Whitaker; her father, Bob Ranford Collins; and a sister, Jordan Rebecca Collins.

She is survived by her sons, Jason Alan Baber and Oliver Lucas Baber of Moncure; mother; Lillie Teresa Collins of the home; sister, Melissa Whitaker of Broadway; and brothers, Christopher Cook and Bob Collins II of Manners.

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

See **OBITS**, page A9



We are proud to be serving
Chatham County and the
surrounding areas.

396 West Street, Pittsboro NC 27312

919.542.3057

donaldsonfunerals.com

We offer an on-site Crematory with many options
of Celebration of Life services, Traditional, and
Green Burials. Call us to set an appointment to
come by and learn more.

CHATHAM MONUMENT CO.

*Charles
Campbell*



*Greg
Campbell*

Quality Monuments At Affordable Prices

Phone: **663-3120**

Over 50 years experience designing, lettering and erecting
monuments in Siler City and surrounding area.

Opposite Smith & Buckner Funeral Home



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

chathamnewsrecord.com

Chatham News + Record

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

Up to 25 words — additional words 20¢ each

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

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

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

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@partnershippm.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

GARAGE SALE, 2 FAMILIES - Saturday, May 6, at 7 a.m. (Rain or Shine!!!) Too much to list. 909 Piney Grove Church Road, Siler City. My4,1tp

HUGE YARD SALE, Carbondon Community Center, 6953 Carbondon Road (on Hwy 42 West), Sanford, Thursday May 4, 7am-6pm; and Friday, May 5, 7am-6pm. - Lots of furniture, Household items, Baby and Adult clothing, toys, Home-made Baked Goods, and much, much more. My4,1tc

AUCTIONS

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

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

SERVICES

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-excuvating, 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 COM-

PLEX 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@partnershippm.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 high-est 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 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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE 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

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. Justinn Casey Dark, Administrator 8321 Hobhouse Circle Raleigh, NC 27615 A20,A27,My4,My11,4tp

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,M11,4tp

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 COUNTY OF CHATHAM 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,My11,4tp

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 A20,A27,My4,My11,4tp

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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline Tuesday – Noon

Display ad deadline Monday – 5 p.m.

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

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

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

this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 20th day of April, 2023. Jack Gregory Henson, Executor 296 Howard Gilliland Road Siler City, NC 27344 A20,A27,My4,My11,4tp

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,My11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 230 All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**,



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
Auctioneer, Scott Harris NCAL#8420 Firm #8086
919-498-4077 or 919-742-3286 15%BP



deceased, late of Chatham

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

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

HIRING CNA's ALL SHIFTS

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



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

SPORTS

NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

MAY 4 - 10, 2023

chathamnewsrecord.com/sports

SECTION B

BOYS LACROSSE

Chargers, Hawks to meet again in state playoffs

BY JEREMY VERNON

News + Record Sports Editor

Down 6-0 after the first half of its regular-season finale against Chapel Hill last Thursday, the Northwood boys lacrosse team was in desperate need of a spark.

Enter freshman goalkeeper James Flanagan.

“We need to get right for the playoffs, and if we don’t, we’re going to get rolled on,” Flanagan told his team at the break. “We just have to go out, play 100%, play our game and control possession.”

The Chargers aren’t a team

See **PLAYOFFS**, page B3



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

The Northwood and Seaforth boys lacrosse teams will meet again Friday in the second round of the state playoffs.



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

The Northwood boys lacrosse team defeated Seaforth twice in the regular season, both times by 11-goal margins.

BOYS TENNIS

Seaforth earns top seed

BY JEREMY VERNON

News + Record Sports Editor

This week marked the start of the state playoffs for four Chatham County boys tennis teams.

Leading the pack is Seaforth, which entered its first-round match against East Carteret on Wednesday (occurred after press time) as the No. 1 seed in the east region of the 2A tournament. The Hawks came into the playoffs with a 13-1 overall record, their only loss coming to Franklin Academy, 8-1, on April 3.

Head coach Peter Petrides’ team is headlined by junior Walker Magrinat, who has a 12-1 record in singles play and a 6-1 mark in doubles. Magrinat’s only loss of the season came against Northwood’s Jio Sumogod in the team’s season-opening match back on Feb. 27.

Fellow juniors Felton Burleigh and Owen Strom are a combined 15-4 in singles play, while sophomores Matthew Bowser (11-2), Henry McFall (9-2) and Wakeland Branz (10-2) have also played well.

In doubles play, Seaforth’s top duo is made up of Burleigh and Strom (5-3 at No. 1). Also playing well together are Bowser and Branz, who are 3-0 at the No. 2 spot.

Petrides also led the Seaforth girls tennis team to a No. 1 seed in the 2A tournament this past fall, but the Hawks lost to Triangle Math & Science in the first round. Earlier this spring, the Hawks’ coach told the News + Record that he used what he learned while coaching the girls team while leading the boys this season.

“I took a lot from the girls season,” Petrides said. “That schedule, we tried to make it a little easier toward the end before playoffs to try and get some momentum going. That didn’t work out for us, unfortunately. This season with the boys, we’ve done things differently ... This time around, we hope having some difficult matches at the end of the season will help us figure out

See **SEAFORTH**, page B5

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Chatham teams competing in conference tournaments

BY JEREMY VERNON

News + Record Sports Editor

This week, Chatham County schools are competing in their respective baseball and softball conference tournaments. This is the final tune-up for area programs before the start of next week’s state playoffs.

Because of wet field conditions brought on by weekend storms, only two county teams were in action Monday night. In the Mid-Carolina Conference, the Jordan-Matthews baseball team defeated Cummings, 15-0. Meanwhile, in the Central 1A Tar Heel Conference, the Chatham Charter Knights were victorious over River Mill, 1-0.

Seaforth and Chatham Central’s baseball teams had their first-round matchup postponed until Tuesday night (occurred after press time). The semifinals of the conference tournament take place Wednesday, and the finals are scheduled for Thursday.

Heading into this week’s games, all three baseball teams in the Mid-Carolina Conference were over .500. The Jets won a share of the MCC regular season conference title, splitting it with Bartlett Yancey with a 9-3 conference mark, a half-game above Chatham Central (14-6, 8-4 Conf.) in the standings.

The Bears closed the regular season with a 3-2 loss to the Jets last Tuesday. Head coach Brett Walden’s squad is batting .374 as a team. Leading the charge at the plate for Central this season have been sophomore Matt Murchison (.397, 27 hits, 33 RBI) and seniors Hasten Paige (.388, 26 hits, 15 RBI) and Travis Crissman (.397, 25 hits, 16 RBI).

On the mound, Central junior Anthony Lopossay was 6-4 with a 2-14 ERA and 67 strikeouts over 49 innings coming into the tournament.

See **TOURNEY**, page B4



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

Jordan-Matthews sophomore Quinn Woolford (27) pitches during the Jets’ win Monday in the Mid-Carolina Conference tournament.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

The Chatham Central and Seaforth softball teams met Tuesday in the quarterfinals of the Mid-Carolina Conference tournament.

NC SENATE BILL 430

Coaches, ADs split on ‘participation trophy’ bill

BY JEREMY VERNON

News + Record Sports Editor

On March 30, three North Carolina Republican state senators — Tim Moffitt (R-Dist. 48), Eddie Settle (R-Dist. 36) and Bobby Hanig (R-Dist. 3) — introduced Senate Bill 430, “An Act to Prohibit Awards in Youth Recreation of Local Governments Based Solely on Participation,” in the N.C. legislature.

As its name suggests, the bill requires all youth sports “operated under the authority of the government shall not include awards for participants based solely on their participation in the sport or activity. Awards provided in connection with the activity, if any, shall be based on identified performance achievements.”

The awarding of trophies, medals and ribbons is a common occurrence for youth sports teams at the end of the

season. Regardless of how a team plays, younger participants can usually look forward to bringing home a piece of hardware for their efforts. The practice has been common in American athletics for decades, and along the way conservative politicians have regularly railed against the idea.

In a paper written for The Sport Journal in December 2022, University of Virginia’s College at Wise’s Matthew J. Williams — an associate professor of sport management — said awarding children trophies based solely on participation can have an unwanted effect in the classroom, as well.

“Students believe that if they show up to class or do minimal work in the classroom, they should be rewarded with a higher grade than they deserve,” Williams’ paper states.

Speaking with several members of the Chatham County youth sports

scene, the News + Record found there are some differences in opinion on participation trophies. Most agree, though, that state lawmakers should butt out of the conversation.

“It’s ridiculous,” said Northwood High athletic director Cameron Vernon. “I think that, once again, the legislature needs to stay in its lane. Most of these politicians preach less government, but here they are trying to push stuff like this.”

Vernon, who has been AD at Northwood since the beginning of last school year, has also coached girls basketball and volleyball during his time with the Chargers. He believes the participation trophy bill — like the recent bills in the state legislature trying to limit the power of the NCHSAA and ban transgender girls from competing in girls sports — are wholly unnecessary.

Shawn Murray, who coaches the

West Chatham Little League 12U All-Stars baseball team, agreed with Vernon that politicians should stay out of this debate.

While he does think participation trophies are ultimately detrimental to youth sports, Murray said it should be up to an individual league or conference to determine whether participation trophies are handed out.

“I don’t like the government getting involved in sports, period, but I’m a big proponent of not doing participation trophies,” Murray said. “Unless you’re 4, 5 or 6 years old and playing tee ball — at that age they don’t really know anyhow. But once they start getting 7, 8, 9 or 10, unless you’re in first place, to me, you shouldn’t get the same trophies.”

Seaforth boys lacrosse head coach Joe Hubbard holds similar beliefs, and

See **BILL**, page B5

GIRLS SOCCER

Seaforth’s Erman, Woods Charter’s Cherry leading county in goals scored

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

The race for the Chatham County girls soccer golden boot is heating up with only a handful of games remaining in the regular season. Entering this week’s games, the top goal-scorer in the county was Seaforth sophomore Caitlin Erman, who had netted 27 to go with six assists so far this spring. Erman had a one goal lead on Woods Charter freshman Amelia Cherry, who had 26 goals before Woods Charter’s 9-0 thrashing of Triangle Math & Science on Monday night. In total, five Chatham County girls soccer players had at least 20 goals to their credit before this week’s games. On top of Erman and Cherry, Woods Charter junior Sienna Gray (25), Jordan-Matthews sophomore Jessica Parroquin (24) and Seaforth freshman Sofia Viana (23).

Viana — who is playing varsity soccer for the first time this season — also came into this week leading all county players with 18 assists. The next-closest player is Woods Charter junior Leyla Noronha, who had 14 assists before Monday night’s game. All three teams — the Wolves, the Hawks and the Jets — should earn bids into their respective state playoffs once brackets are released on May 12. The Wolves were 14-1-2 overall ahead of their Wednesday night



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Seaforth sophomore Caitlin Erman (2) has a county-high 27 goals entering this week’s games.



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

Seaforth freshman Sofia Viana (10) is second on the Hawks in goals (23) and first in assists (18).

game against Clover Garden School. Head coach Graeme Stewart’s squad came into the week ranked as the No. 1 team in the 1A East by Max-Preps, meaning it should

play at least its first few playoff games at home. The top team in the 1A West is Christ the King (9-2-2), which defeated the Wolves last season in the 1A state finals.

Woods Charter’s final regular season game is May 11 at home against Cornerstone Charter.

Seaforth also figures to be a high seed in the 2A tournament. The Hawks (12-5-1 overall) tied Williams on Monday night, 3-3, but they are in the driver’s seat in the Mid-Carolina Conference with an 8-0 record entering next Monday’s home game against Jordan-Matthews.

MaxPreps ranks Seaforth as the No. 7 team in the 2A east. Last season, the Hawks came into the 2A tournament as the No. 22 seed in the east region before falling to South Granville in the first round. The Hawks wrap up the regular season next Wednesday on the road at Bartlett Yancey.

Jordan-Matthews, meanwhile, is the No. 14 team right now in the 2A east region. The Jets came into Wednesday’s game at Cummings (game occurred after press time) with an 8-3-3 record, their lone losses coming to North Davidson, Seaforth and Woods Charter, who have a combined record of 36-9-6 this season.

Last spring, Jordan-Matthews went 13-4-3 overall under former head coach and current athletic director Josh Harris. The Jets lost in the second round of last season’s 2A tournament to Raleigh Charter, 3-0.

Jordan-Matthews’ final game of the regular season comes next Thursday at home against South-

western Randolph.

Sports Editor Jeremy

Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @



Low Cost Spay / Neuter - Only \$20

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

Sheriff’s Office Animal Resource Center

725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Phone: 919-542-7203 [facebook.com/chathamsoar](https://www.facebook.com/chathamsoar)

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



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



Rocky River Baptist Church Chicken Tender Fundraiser

FRIDAY, MAY 12th

**11AM-7PM: Supper/Dinner
Eat-In or Take-Out!**

**\$8 Per Plate - includes 3 large chicken
tenders, green beans, slaw, bread,
dessert and drink**

- 100% of our proceeds will support local missions and church projects •

Thank You for your Support!

DELIVERY AVAILABLE AT LUNCH!!!!

(minimum of 5 plates)

Email order to angiemoody76@gmail.com

Or text order to 919-799-9178

Rocky River Baptist Church
4436 Siler City Snow Camp Rd.
Siler City, NC



The NIL is not the end of NC high school sports



JEREMY VERNON
Sports Editor

At a meeting Tuesday, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s Board of Directors considered a proposal to allow high school athletes in the state the ability to profit off their Name, Image and Likeness (NIL).

According to the proposal, student-athletes would be able to “engage in certain commercial activities to receive tangible benefits” during their high school careers. College athletes have been able to profit off NIL deals since July 2021. If this proposal passes, high school athletes could begin signing endorsements as early as July 1 of this year.

The introduction of NIL policies at the college level sparked a debate across the country, with many “purists” arguing the influence of financial compensation would ruin the sanctity of amateur athletics. Those same people think this new proposal would spell doom for North Carolina high school sports. But that isn’t the case.

One big point detractors of NIL policies like to make regards recruiting. Many believe students have been swayed to go to one school over another because of the NIL opportunities afforded to them, with wealthier schools reaping the benefits and smaller schools being left in the dust.

Could that happen in North Carolina if this proposal passes? It seems unlikely. In the write-up of the proposal, the first bullet under “Prohibited NIL Conduct” says school personnel, including coaches, cannot use NIL as a means for recruitment and enrollment.

School officials and coaches are also prohibited from facilitating NIL deals or acting as a student’s agent or marketing representative. Most NIL deals will likely come from local businesses and brands rather than those directly involved in high school athletics, which should curb any conflicts of interest that could arise.

Others believe the introduction of money into the high school athletics landscape will ruin the level of competition across all sports, as athletes will play with dreams of big paydays in their heads rather than aspirations of helping their team win. This argument seems to hold little weight, too, as North Carolina would become the 28th state to introduce an NIL policy

Of the first 27 states, 23 permit full NIL monetization. In those states, there have been no reports showing that the ability of an athlete to profit off their name, image and likeness has had an adverse effect on the level of competition at the high school level.

for high school sports if the proposal passes.

Of the first 27 states, 23 permit full NIL monetization. In those states, there have been no reports showing that the ability of an athlete to profit off their name, image and likeness has had an adverse effect on the level of competition at the high school level.

My argument for the introduction of NIL policies for N.C. high school athletes is the effect even small levels of compensation could have on families struggling to make ends meet. For parents living paycheck to paycheck, having a little extra money coming into the house via NIL policies could have lasting benefits on both the mental and physical well-being of the household. It can also give student-athletes who have struggled to pick up scholarship offers a chance to earn money to further their education.

After the introduction of NIL policies at the college level back in 2021, Lead1 — formerly the Division 1A Athletic Directors Association — held a panel regarding the NIL and high school sports participation that featured National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) executive director Karissa Niehoff as moderator and UNC women’s soccer coach Anson Dorrance and Alexandria, VA director of athletics James Parker as guests. During the panel, one of the trio’s main takeaways was that the introduction of NIL policies at the high school level would “help student-athletes learn more about entrepreneurship and business at a much earlier age” as well and encourage female student-athletes to “start the learning process in terms of maximizing their future earning potential off the field.”

Athletics, like education, should be predicated on providing opportunities rather than taking them away. Allowing North Carolina high school athletes to profit off their name and likeness does far more of the former than the latter.



PRESENTS

FREE Document Shredding Event

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

PLAYOFFS

Continued from page B1

devoid of leadership. Northwood's lineup is boasted by several senior starters — including the attacking trio of Will Smith, Taylor Laberge and Jason Walden, who

have combined for 168 goals and 90 assists this spring. But when the time came to lay out the stakes, Flanagan stepped up and righted the ship.

The halftime wake-up call worked wonders for Northwood. Despite eventually losing the game to Chapel Hill, 9-5, the

Chargers outscored the Tigers 5-3 over the final two quarters. Now, the hope is head coach Randy Cox's team can carry over that momentum into its home matchup with Seaforth on Friday in the second round of the 1A/2A/3A state playoffs. The Chargers (14-3)

and Hawks (9-8) have met twice already this spring, with Northwood winning both games by 11-goal margins, 15-4 and 18-7. This time around, Cox has implored his team not to look past its first postseason opponent.

"Our leadership has been invaluable," Cox said. "You don't overlook any one team and you take it one game at a time and one quarter at a time. It's about every ground ball, and I think they're all focused on that. We're looking forward to (Friday), but we're not looking ahead. We're just trying to focus on the one game that is front of us."

Smith echoed that philosophy, and added that Northwood can't afford to get off to any more slow starts if it wants to make a deep postseason run. Last year, the Chargers fell to conference-foe Williams in the second round of the state tournament, 12-10. Smith scored twice in the season-ending loss, but he's pushed things into an entirely new gear in his senior year this spring. Entering the postseason, he leads Northwood in goals scored (60) and is second in assists (33). In 48 career games, he has a total of 131 goals and 61 assists.

"We're all pretty confident," Smith told the

News + Record. "Seaforth is a good team, so we don't want to look past them. We're going to come in prepared to play our game, and we're all ready to get in a dog fight and compete for a state championship."

Seaforth (8.8 goals per game) doesn't have the same offensive firepower as the Chargers (15.2 goals per game), but it does have quite a few talented players on its roster. Chief among them is sophomore Cameron Exley, whose 55 goals are 30 more than the next-closest Hawks attacker. Exley has scored seven of Seaforth's 11 goals against Northwood this season, including five in the 18-7 loss back on April 6.

Seaforth head coach Joe Hubbard said Exley has been a true professional in the way he has carried himself on and off the field this spring.

"You can see it in the numbers and the stats, but we see it in the locker room, out on the practice field and out on the sidelines. He's continuing to develop as a leader and master his craft. He's continuing to push himself to elevate his complete game and be the best he can be."

Regardless of Friday's result, Seaforth boys

lacrosse figures to be a program on the rise. Last year, their first as a varsity team, the Hawks had a record of 3-14. The improvement to 9-8 this season shows how much progress has already been made. But Hubbard doesn't expect things to stop here.

"A lot of these guys never played before last year. We were teaching the game and really getting down to some of the fundamentals and the roots of the game. When I came in, there was a three-year plan, a five-year plan and a longevity plan of, 'OK, if we can build this foundation with character and doing it together and correct, everything else will fall into place.' And that's sort of what we're seeing now. It's been really exciting."

The winner of Friday's game will advance to the third round of the 1A/2A/3A state tournament, where it will play either No. 2 Croatan on the road or one of either No. 15 North Brunswick or No. 18 South Brunswick at home next Tuesday.

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

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



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

The Northwood boys lacrosse team is 14-3 overall entering the second round of the state playoffs Friday against Seaforth.

AT YOUR

Service

THIS SPOT CAN BE YOURS!

Call Advertising @ 919-663-3232

Bob Atkinson, GRI, CRS, E-PRO
Homes-Land-Investments
C: 919-362-6999

LearnAboutLand.com

Atkinson Properties Group
bobatkinson321@gmail.com

TREE MASTERS

- Brush Chipping
- Tree Climbing
- Stump Removal
- Free Estimates

Tommy Dunigan (919) 775-7408
Cell: (919) 548-3542

D & G PLUMBING

Plumbing Problems?

Commercial and Residential Installation and Service
Located in Siler City

Locally Owned and Operated by Greg and Donna Kennedy
Licensed and Insured
Office: 919-742-4587 Cell: 919-427-2374

JHJ Painting & Power Washing

"We Specialize in All Your Painting & Power Washing Needs"

Deck Washing, Renewal & Repair • Window Washing & Install
Carpentry • Door Install • Other Small Repairs
John Hayes, Jr • 919-548-0474

ASHEBORO TIE YARDS, INC

Beautiful Yards Start Here!

Mushroom Compost • Shredded Hardwood Mulch
Pine Mini Nuggets • Brick Chips • Sand • Top Soil
Black, Brown & Red Mulch • White Pea Gravel • Railroad Ties

205 Hanner Town Rd. Bear Creek
(2 miles South of Bonlee on Old 421)
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM - 4 PM, Fri. 7 AM - 12 PM
(919) 837-2822 • We Deliver!

FIND THE HELP YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

Chatham News + Record Local Service Directory

CHATHAM SCHOOL BOARD

Budget proposal seeks increased funds, reorganization in CCS

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Investments yield outcomes. That’s the pitch Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson is making to county commissioners this budget season. Last Tuesday, Jackson shared the proposed budget with the school board in the first official meeting at the new Chatham County Schools Cen-

tral Services Office on Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro. The proposal, which was approved unanimously by the Chatham County Board of Education, will now be sent to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners for final approval in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget next month. The \$46.6 million proposal calls for an 8.04% annual increase in funds from the county


to Chatham County Schools. That \$4.9 million increase request is meant to cover several challenges facing the district including staffing shortages, the new Central Services building and the impending ESSER funding cliff. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funding was designed to address the safe reopening and sustaining of operations of schools and

address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students. Many of the deadlines for using those funds, though, are fast approaching with most ESSER funds set to expire by the beginning of 2024. “The return on investment is real and evident,” Jackson told the board. “We don’t report to be perfect, but we are making progress. We know investments yield outcomes and we are making sure all our kids benefit from it.”

Tony Messer, CCS chief financial officer, broke down the budget for school board members on Tuesday. The significant line item budget changes are employee salary supplement, classroom teachers, instructional support, maintenance, charter school payments and school building administration, according to Messer. Examining the line item breakdown of the proposed CCS budget, which compares the FY 2022-23 with the proposed FY 2023-24, there are some striking percentage changes in certain categories. For example, the proposal shows a 1393.13% increase for the finance & budget department in the new year and a 636% increase for middle school education ser-


vices. Those increases sound startling, but Messer explained to the board that the daunting figures are really just a result of shuffling funds and consolidating line items to make the budget easier to read. “We’ve budgeted areas to where they’re actually operating in,” Messer said. “Instead of having everything under Central Services, we put the salaries of the employees under those specific line items.” Messer said this means the budget will better show departmental costs, and make the budget more understandable for the public. For example, the person in charge of middle school education services used to be categorized under “Central Services,” but the restructuring of the budget better shows which departments are allocated which funds. The board agreed with this interpretation. Chairperson Gary Leonard said this approach “cleans up” the budget. A full copy of the CCS FY 2023-24 budget proposal is available at chathamnewsrecord.com. The board also unanimously approved its FY 2023-2024 proposed Capital Outlay Budget, totaling \$2.3 million. Projects under the COB are one-

time expenditures with the goal of addressing school-level needs. Approved projects include AC unit replacements at Margaret Pollard Middle School, a new alarm system at George Moses Horton Middle School and roof replacement at Jordan-Matthews High School. CCS Assistant Superintendent for Operations Chris Blice presented the COB to the board. He said several projects not approved under the COB could seek funds from grants and other avenues. COB projects are also funded through the county, and final approval comes from the county’s board of commissioners. That board — the county’s — will meet for its budget workshops throughout the month, with final approval of the budget expected in early June. The next Chatham Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 8. The meeting will be held at the new Chatham County Schools Central Services Office in the Board Room located at 468 Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro. Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport



Research shows that teachers matter more to student achievement than any other aspect of schooling.

DID YOU KNOW?



CHATHAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Teachers, get your applications in for a Bright Ideas education grant!

Teachers, are you looking for new opportunities to fund projects for your classroom? Central Electric is awarding up to \$15,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to local educators in K-12 classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year. The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 15, but don’t wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa® gift cards. Scan the QR code or visit NCBrightIdeas.com for more information or to apply!





Central Electric
Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



SEAFORTH

Continued from page B1 how we might fare going forward.” The other Chatham County team competing in the 2A tournament is Jordan-Matthews (8-5), which earned the No. 13 seed in the east and played its first-round match on the road at No. 3 Franklin Academy on Wednesday. The Jets came into that matchup as underdogs, but they have had a solid season overall under head coach Nia Marsh-Pope. Heading into the playoffs, Jordan-Matthews’ was led by a core group of seniors. Weldon Thornton (5-4), Paul Lujan (8-5), Ricardo Rocha Benitez (9-4) and Angel Gonzalez Suarez (10-3) are a combined 32-16 in singles play. In doubles, the Jets’ top duos have been Lujan and Thornton (4-2) and Gonzalez Suarez and Rocha Benitez (9-4). Last spring, Jordan-Matthews lost to Washington in the first round of the state playoffs. Chatham Central and Chatham Charter both earned bids to the 1A tournament. The No. 9 Bears (3-8) played on the road Wednesday at Clover Garden, while the Knights (1-15) faced Southern Wake Academy. During the regular season, Chatham Central’s top singles player was junior Jacob Gilliland, who was 9-2

at the No. 1 spot. Fellow Juniors Jonaven Martin and Gage Backman have combined to go 10-12 in singles play. In doubles play, twins Jacob and Seth Gilliland were 5-1 at the No. 1 spot. The Knights, meanwhile, struggled during the regular season. The team’s lone singles player with a record over .500 were freshmen Thomas Bjork (8-4) and Eli Christenbury (3-3). In doubles play, Bjork and Noah Hayhurst are 6-1. Luckily for Chatham Charter, they only have one senior on the team, right-hander Ben Pickens. The rest of the Knights’ roster is expected back next spring, including junior captain Colton Todd.

BILL

Continued from page B1

said he thought the bill was a good idea. A parent of a 10-year-old, Hubbard believes receiving a

trophy at the end of the year or at the end of a tournament regardless of performance ends up hurting the development of youth athletes as they progress to more advanced levels of play. “I was at a youth tournament (Sunday), and it’s like, you want them to compete and you want them to learn from it,” Hubbard said. “You have to compete to win. But along the way, if you don’t end up winning, getting a trophy says, ‘Well, that’s OK. You won anyway.’” According to the N.C. Legislature’s website, Senate Bill 430 passed its first reading on April 3 and was referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations the same day. There haven’t been any updates on the status of the legislation since then, though the bill has drawn plenty of criticism from national media, including from Fox News hosts Greg Gutfeld and Dana Perino, who called the move to ban participation trophies “nonsense” and a “waste of time.”

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



BOLD
CONSTRUCTION

CUSTOM HOMES & RENOVATIONS

BUILD WITH PASSION. BUILD BOLD.



CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION! **919.929.6288**

POLICE REPORTS

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

On April 26, John Monroy-Pulido, 32, of 23 Glendale Drive, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Zackary Gross for resisting, delaying and obstructing-non-physical, delaying, obstructing, and trespassing. He was issued a \$2,000

secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 24.

On April 30, Michael Alan Phillips, 50, of 2682 Mt. View Church Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Conner Bussey for out-of-state fugitive warrant. He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is

scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 15.

On April 30, Anthony Michael Colonel-lo, 49, of 200 Vander Oldham Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for assault and battery. He was issued a written promise to appear and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County

District Court in Pittsboro on May 23.

On May 1, Milvia J. Villatoro-Velasquez, 20, was arrested by Cpl. Robert Pelkey for simple assault and resisting a public officer. She was held on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 17.

KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF

Sierra Socks to sell unsold stock, starting at \$1 a set

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The warehouse where Sierra Socks retails its goods online is tucked inside a building behind Pittsboro's Fire Department, on Fayetteville Street.

From there, owner Veli Sevim sells socks and a selection of casual wear on a number of e-commerce sites.

"You might not even know we are here unless you happened to get turned around by the traffic circle and had to find your way back to Highway 64," says Darla Sandoval, who, along with Sevim and warehouse manager Nehmet Goktan make the entirety of Sierra Socks' workforce.

The company markets under two brands — Sierra Socks and Wear Sierra — and it's in the warehouse where the

team's focus has been lately: A re-organization and a "non-stop cleaning" of the space to prepare for changes in the company's sales strategies made Sandoval realize something.

"We discovered we had a lot of socks — and when I say we have a lot of socks, I mean there are a LOT of socks," she said.

The unsold socks — thousands of pairs, she said, imported from Sevim's home country of Turkey and made from high-quality moisture-wicking fibers — will go on sale over the weekend. Socks, most retailing for \$10 or more a pair, will be sold at prices beginning at \$1. The sale, at 136 Fayetteville St., will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, and will include some clothing items.

The ultimate objective of the two-day effort: making room for a bit of a

re-set. Sierra Socks wants to eventually retail to the public on a regular basis, and with that resume a program it began in 2008: a "buy one, give one" charitable effort that will result in the donation of one pair of socks to Chatham's homeless and aging population, and select nonprofits, for every pair sold.

The company's motto is "Change Your Socks, Change Your World." Owner Sevim imports products made by "earth/people friendly yarns" and created by artisans — many from his home country — who are trying to earn a fair wage for their work. The company has evolved over two decades from a private-label seller working directly with retail giants to a more direct-to-consumer business model.

"Making money is one thing," Sandoval said, "but the way we'll do it is pretty

cool in that these socks, when you're selling online, go for more than \$10 a pair, just because of the quality. So we simply could put them on our website and

list them and sell them at that price. But we're really trying to make a focus on the community, on North Carolina, right? And help out folks — to get on to the

'next thing' that we want to do, with our give-back program."

For information about the company, go to sierra-socks.com.

SILER CITY

Commissioners hold public hearing on pool codes

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town's board of commissioners held a public hearing about updating codes and ordinances for pools at in town residences. The board voted unanimously to approve the updated ordinance.

Planning Director Jennifer Baptiste presented the board with proposed

amendments for new regulations residents would have to follow to install either above-ground or in-ground pools. According to the drafted ordinance, all sized pools must be located at the rear of each residence. All pools, hot tubs or spas with a depth of more than 48 inches (four feet) must be enclosed by a fence or barrier and must have a permit to be installed. The enclosures for the pools must meet N.C. standards.

Climate Advisory Committee discusses 'climate dashboard' for county

BY EVEY WEISBLAT
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Climate Advisory Committee, tasked with advising the commissioners on how to adapt to and mitigate climate change, met last Thursday to discuss topics ranging from additions to the county's sustainable infrastructure to climate recommendations for the fiscal year 2023-24 budget.

The committee also announced a letter of support for a quantitative tracking system of climate goals, as presented as a budget item for next year's fiscal budget.

"This is a proposal from the Planning Department that we in our committee have been very supportive of, and that reflects some of our work with the attempts to develop a climate dashboard that monitors Chatham's progress on a range of environmental and climate issues," Committee Co-Chairperson Robbie Cox said.

The proposal asks for funds to get outside expertise for the county to develop a system of "consensus-based metrics" to track the

environmental goals previously included in the 2017 Comprehensive Plan, "and then monitor the county's progress on those," Cox said.

Kevin Lindley, director of the Environmental Health Department, said the resolution is expected to be included in the county manager's budget recommendations for FY 2023-24. He said officials seemed to have a "general favorable attitude" toward the budget item.

Lindley also gave an update on the county's sustainability division's progress. He reported that the electric vehicle charging station at the Goldston Library was up and running. He was excited about the charger's completion and said he appreciated the enthusiasm he saw about it from the community.

"Almost every time I go in the library, there's somebody from the community asking me questions about it," Lindley said. "I had a lady when I pulled into the [charging] spot, she actually didn't even let me get out of my car! She came over and started knocking on my window. It was really funny, and she just wanted to know how electric cars worked — and just had all kinds of

questions about them, and so I thought that was great. So it's at least starting conversations."

Lindley also reported that the solar panels recently installed at the county's Agricultural & Conference Center had passed inspection. The new energy system is expected to generate approximately 154-kilowatts and reduce the building's electric bill by at least \$12,000 annually.

The committee also discussed supporting the county's ability to provide sustainability resources to residents. For example, they are hoping to spread the word about the Rewiring America calculator, a digital tool that estimates the availability of energy-efficiency tax credits and rebates. Households that chose to implement more sustainable appliances, such as electric cars and heat pumps, may be able to qualify for rebates under the Inflation Reduction Act that passed last summer.

CCAC will hold its next monthly meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, via Zoom. A meeting link can be found here: <https://www.chatham-countync.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/38909/4930>.

Can You Benefit From A 529 Plan?

Another school year is coming to a close. And if you have young children, they're now a year closer to heading off to college or some other type of post-secondary education or training. So, if you haven't already done so, you may want to start preparing for these costs.

And they can be considerable. During the 2022-23 school year, the average estimated annual cost (tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation and other personal expenses) was nearly \$28,000 for public four-year in-state schools and more than \$57,000 for private nonprofit four-year schools, according to the College Board.

Of course, some students don't pay the full bill for college. Any grants and scholarships they receive can bring down the "sticker price." Still, there's often a sizable amount that students and their families must come up with. To help fill this gap, you may want to explore various strategies, one of which is a 529 education savings plan.

A 529 plan offers several key benefits. First of all, your earnings can grow tax deferred and your withdrawals are federally tax free when used for qualified education expenses, such as tuition, fees, books and so on. You may be eligible to invest in a 529 plan in most states, but depending on where you live, you may be able to deduct your contributions from your state income tax or possibly receive a state tax credit for investing in your home state's 529 plan. Tax issues for 529 plans can be complex. Please consult your tax advisory about your situation.

And 529 plans aren't just for college. You may be able to use one to pay K-12 expenses, up to \$10,000 per student per year. (However, not all states comply with this 529 expansion for K-12, so you might not be able to claim deductions and your withdrawals could be subject to state tax penalties.)

A 529 plan can also be used to pay for most expenses connected to apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor. These programs are often available at community colleges and combine classroom education with on-the-job training.

Furthermore, you can now withdraw funds from a 529 plan to repay qualified federal private and student loans, up to \$10,000 for each 529 plan beneficiary and another \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary's siblings.

But what if you've named a child as a 529 plan beneficiary and that child doesn't want to pursue any type of advanced education? If this happens, you, as the account owner, are free to name another family member as beneficiary.

And beginning in 2024, you may have even more flexibility if a child foregoes college or other post-secondary education. Due to the passing of the Secure Act 2.0 in December 2022, unused 529 plan funds of up to \$35,000 may be eligible to roll over to a Roth IRA of the designated beneficiary.

One of the qualifications for this rollover is to have had your 529 plan for at least 15 years. To determine if you qualify for this rollover, you will want to consult your tax advisor.

A 529 plan has a lot to offer — and it might be something to consider for your family's future.

Withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal and state taxes, plus a 10% penalty. Make sure to discuss the potential financial aid impacts with a financial aid professional.

Edward Jones, its financial advisors and employees cannot provide tax or legal advice.

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

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

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

Pittsboro
Blake Stewart
114 Russet Run Suite 120
919-542-3020

Chapel Hill
Eric C Williams, AAMS®
190 Chatham Downs Dr
Suite 103
919-960-6119

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

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

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

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

[edwardjones.com](https://www.edwardjones.com)

Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Community gathers to voice vision for future of Moncure

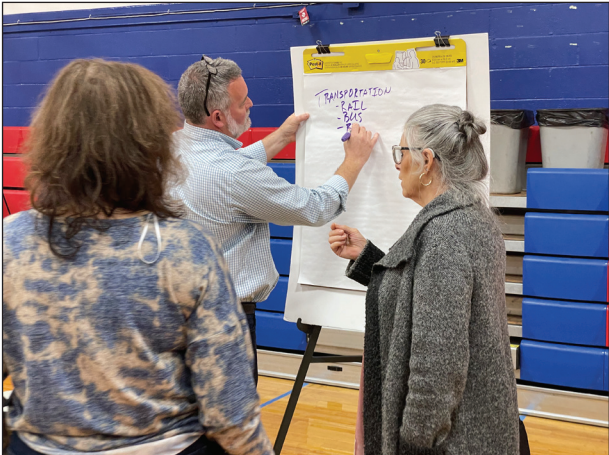
BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

MONCURE — It takes a lot to get Louis Teleky out of the house.

The 75-year-old disabled Vietnam veteran needs a powered scooter to get around most places and it's difficult for him to navigate new spaces. So when his neighbors and fellow residents saw him at Moncure School last Thursday, it came as a surprise.

Teleky's home, which sits less than a quarter-mile from Merry Oaks Baptist Church on Old U.S. Hwy. 1, has proper ADA accommodations for him to do everything he needs. But the railings and ramps — along with the home he's lived in all his life — may soon be taken to make way for the VinFast automotive manufacturing facility in Moncure.

Plans from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation for roadway improvements in Moncure leading to the VinFast facility continue to show 27 homes, five businesses and Merry Oaks Baptist Church being taken by the state. Teleky's resi-



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Jason Sullivan, Chatham County planning director, takes notes as Moncure residents share their desires for the future of their community. Transportation connectivity was top of mind for several residents.

dence is one of those 27.

"I can't afford to move anywhere in the county," Teleky said. "Even if I could, I don't know how I'd move all my stuff given my condition. I'm just at a loss for all that this is bringing onto us."

'Still feel lost'

For months, Teleky and his wife have been looking for a potential new home in the county. But nothing is affordable to them, they say. The median home sales price in Chatham County

is more than \$600,000, according to recent estimates. Teleky said the lowest-priced residence he found for sale was \$300,000, which was still well out of his price range.

That price doesn't include the ADA accommodations, which were installed in his current home using a one-time fund he received from Veterans Affairs.

To voice his concerns, and seek potential solutions, Teleky made the trip to Moncure School

as part of a listening session for the small area plan, Plan Moncure. The plan is meant to balance the needs of the existing community with the economic opportunities coming to the region through VinFast and other growth.

Designing the small area plan was triggered as soon as VinFast announced last year it would construct an electric vehicle manufacturing plant in Moncure. A condition in the 2017 Unified Development Ordinance, Plan Chatham, said that once a tenant was found for Triangle Innovation Point in Moncure, a small area plan would be designed.

The listening session, like the previous Plan Moncure community engagement event, was hosted by consultants and county staff. The evening was split into two parts: an open forum where residents could ask questions of the consultants and staff, or share their worries with other attendees; and a small group discussion where facilitators took notes on residents' vision for the future of their



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Last Thursday, consultants and county staff hosted a listening session at Moncure School for the small area plan, Plan Moncure. The plan is currently in its second phase of gathering community input.

community.

About two dozen residents came to Moncure School for the event. Notably absent from the event in Teleky's opinion, however, were representatives from NCDOT. Consultants with Plan Moncure said they invited NCDOT, but representatives were unable to attend. NCDOT reps did attend the previous listening session for the project in March.

"I still feel lost," Teleky told the News + Record after speaking with consultants. "We just don't know what's happening. All we know is what the consultants here are doing, but we don't know what NCDOT is doing."

Teleky said he believes many of the anxieties

and desires he has for his community are not under the scope of what Plan Moncure can accomplish. He and his neighbors have questions such as, will this home be taken? Or how will we mitigate traffic from all the growth? These are questions under the jurisdiction of NCDOT, and cannot be addressed by Plan Moncure.

'Moncure our way'

During the open forum, several residents voiced confusion about which entity was in charge of which plans and changes.

Ben Hitchings is one of the lead consultants for Plan Moncure. He said the goal of the evening

See **MONCURE**, page B8

NEWS BRIEFS

The Guild at Mosaic to celebrate grand opening

The Chatham Chamber of Commerce invites you to help celebrate the Grand Opening, Art Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 15 at The Guild at Mosaic, located north of Pittsboro. The event will start with a Leaning in Art Dedication at 4 p.m. The ribbon cutting, grand opening and reception will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres, art display walk, drinks and more will be featured.

Please contact the Chatham Chamber of Commerce with any questions at 919-742-3333, 984-265-9172, or by email at maryb@ccucc.net.

VinFast gets additional \$2.5 billion invesment

MONCURE — Vietnamese EV automaker VinFast is getting a \$2.5 billion infusion of capital as it continues planning its manufacturing facility in Chatham County, according to TechCrunch.com.

Billionaire Pham Nhat Vuong, who founded VinFast's parent company, Vingroup, last Wednesday pledged to invest \$1 billion of his personal wealth through a grant to the EV company. Vingroup, the country's largest conglomerate, will invest \$500 million. The parent company has also agreed to loan VinFast an additional \$1 billion with a maturity of up to five years.

In a statement, Vuong said he is donating some of his personal assets to "energize VinFast during the pivotal acceleration period to create a mark of Vietnam in the world's electric vehicle market."

"The growth potential of VinFast has been demonstrated in the past five years," Vingroup CEO Nguyen Viet Quang said in a statement. "This is a pivotal period for VinFast to accelerate towards a solid competitive position in the world's electric vehicle market."

Singer-songwriter Jordan Pickett to highlight JMarts songwriting workshop

SILER CITY — Singer-songwriter Jordan Pickett will be the guest artist at "Sharing Our Musical Voices," a free public concert next week to conclude the JMarts songwriting workshop held this spring at Jordan-Matthews High School.

The "Sharing Our Musical

Voices" outdoor concert is set for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, at the Rotary Stage, next to The Chatham Rabbit and N.C. Arts Incubator in downtown Siler City. It also serves as the fourth and final session of the songwriting workshop taught by singer-songwriter Mark Dillon and funded by a grant from the Galloway Ridge Chatham County Charitable Fund.

Earlier workshop sessions introduced students to songwriting basics and techniques — including production methods and how to copyright original work — and provided individual advice to help them compose original songs. This finale concert features songwriting students presenting their original work.

Guest artist Pickett, a Silk Hope native, is a 20-year-old singer-songwriter specializing in country and Christian music. While music has always been part of his life, it wasn't until age 16 that he wrote his first song, opening his eyes to the true passion he had for music. About one year later, Pickett began to perform live music at local venues before gradually performing out of state.

After finding acclaim through the Carolina Country Music Association, he formed the Jordan Pickett Band, which made its debut performance at the CCMAs in January as Pickett was nominated for the CCMA's 2022 Entertainer of the Year.

While student performances have not yet been confirmed, "Sharing Our Musical Voices" workshop participants included Delaney Clark, Sandra Lopez, Serena Pietri, Mitchell Rist, Clara Rojas, Maggie Thornton and Samantha Wieber.

Workshop instructor Dillon, a former Jordan-Matthews teacher, was born into a musical family. His first memories are of sitting on Dolly Parton's lap while watching his great-uncle Lloyd's country radio show. After finishing a degree in music theory and then a master's degree in guitar building, he started a business repairing guitars while playing music most nights in the Chicago area. Later, he became a high school music teacher and specialized in teaching popular music and recording.

Dillon went on to earn a master's degree and Ph.D. in music education. He currently performs regularly, including with The Zinc Kings folk and string band, and teaches commercial music at Guilford Technical Community College and songwriting at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The Galloway Ridge Cha-

tham County Charitable Fund, which provided funding for "Sharing Our Musical Voices," awards community grants to Chatham County not-for-profits, public schools and county government agencies to support food, shelter, education and community services projects.

Information about JMarts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, including a schedule of all upcoming arts events and information on membership, is available at JMarts.org. More about the professional musicians participating in the workshop is available for Mark Dillon at markdillonmusic.com and for Jordan Pickett at jordanpickettmusic.com.

Chatham County Parks and Recreation to host Dog Days Event

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Parks and Recreation invites the community to bring Fido and all his canine friends to Dog Days at The Park at Briar Chapel from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 6. The event will be held in the dog park within the park, located at 1015 Andrews Store Rd. in Pittsboro.

Dog Days will feature dog and family-friendly activities for folks of all ages — even those who don't have a dog will have a barking good time. Activities will include adoptable dogs, trick contest (starting at 10 a.m.), paw print station, owner and pet look-alike contest (costumes encouraged), free doggie treats, and multiple animal and pet vendors.

"We are excited to offer this fun and free event for Chatham County dog lovers and anyone who just wants to have a good time," Chatham County Parks and Recreation Director Tracy Burnett said. "Dog Days is one of many events that Parks and Recreation is planning, and we hope our community members will come on out to these events throughout the spring and summer."

The dog park includes shaded benches, water fountains and dog waste stations. Please note that all dogs must be leashed until safely inside the park, and dogs must be licensed and vaccinated for rabies and with the canine distemper shot (DHLPP). Owners are required to stay inside the fence with their dogs at all times.

For more information, individuals may visit the Dog Days event on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CCParksandRecNC/events>, or contact Mallory Peterson at

919-642-7086 or mallory.peter-son@chathamcountync.gov.

Libraries to host Summer Reading Challenge: All Together Now

PITTSBORO — Children and teens are invited to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge: All Together Now at Chatham County Public Libraries branches from June 1 through July 31. The Summer Reading Challenge is designed to encourage kids to continue reading during the summer months and beat the summer slide.

Chatham County Public Libraries branches are Chatham Community Library, Goldston Library and Wren Memorial Library.

The Summer Reading Challenge, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to children and teens ages 2 to 18.

Readers participate by picking up a reading log at their local library branch and reading for 10 hours to earn a free book, up to three books per participant (while supplies last). All participants who read for at least 10 hours will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Certificate to McIntyre's Books.

Special events will be presented at Chatham County libraries throughout the summer, including a kickoff program at Chatham Community Library on June 1, at 6 p.m., with live music by Big Bang Boom. For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge, or other youth events with Chatham County Public Libraries, contact youth.services@chatham-libraries.org.

County's Board of Health seeks new representative

PITTSBORO — Chatham County is recruiting a new member of the public to serve on the Chatham County Board of Health. Any current Chatham County adult may apply, and the position will become available in June.

Applications must be received by Wednesday, May 31, through the website linked below.

The 11-member Board of Health is the policymaking, rule-making, and deliberative body for the Chatham County Public Health Department. The Board of Health plays an important leadership role in guiding the direction of the

Public Health Department and advancing its mission to "build a healthy Chatham County through community partnerships and a commitment to equity."

The Board of Health will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, who will appoint the selected candidate to serve a three-year term. The appointed member will be eligible to serve an additional three-year term once the first term expires and up to three consecutive terms in total.

Board of Health meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month in Pittsboro, beginning at 6 p.m., with dinner provided and reimbursement for mileage. Meetings are not held in July and December.

The application to serve can be completed online: <https://chathamnc.seamlessdocs.com/f/CommitteeForm>. Applicants also may contact Lindsay Ray at 919-545-8302 or lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov to get an email version or printed copy. Those with questions about serving on the Board of Health may call 919-545-8391.

The Chatham County Board of Health strives for diverse representation among its members reflective of the county's population. Residents of all demographic backgrounds, identities, and perspectives are encouraged to apply.

More information about the Board of Health can be found on the Chatham County website.

Haw River Fest set for Saturday

The Haw River Assembly's annual Haw River Fest will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, in Saxapahaw. It will feature a celebration of the Haw River and the organization's advocacy work and an all around good time.

This event will be kicking off the 2023 "Saturdays in Saxapahaw" series. Participants have a chance to win our raffle by buying raffle tickets for a kayak at the Saxapahaw General Store. They will also be able to buy them on the day of the festival.

The silent auction has over 30 items. There will be canoe rides for kids and a guided riverwalk by a local specialist in forestry agriculture. The Paperhand Puppet Intervention will be hosting a Puppet Parade, and we will host a river monitoring activity to find river critters on the Saxapahaw Island. All donations support the work of Haw River Assembly.

Please contact Hannah Welborn-Lewis with any questions at events@hawriver.org.

Siler City opens SCDO grant applications

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Business owners in Siler City will have the opportunity to apply for either a Downtown Building Rehab grant or a Downtown Façade grant through the Siler City Development Organization (SCDO).

Community Development Director Jack Meadows said these grants will allow business owners to request up to \$2,500 from the SCDO for revitalization or renovations for downtown buildings.

“Façade grants and building rehab grants are an idea that had been around for a long time in other communities,” Meadows said. “These grants encourage property owners, merchants and residents to enhance, preserve and promote a downtown area and to promote downtown’s unique character and identity.”

The grant program through SCDO started in 2013, but isn’t always available because of the funds needed to fulfill requests. This year’s grants are funded through donations from individuals in town and a grant from Duke Energy, according to Meadows.

Two types of grants are being offered by SCDO: the downtown façade grant and the downtown building rehab grant. The façade grant would “provide matching grants to encourage improvements and/or upgrades to the exterior of downtown buildings to make them more attractive for new, existing and expanding businesses,” according to the application. The rehab grants are designed to “encourage property owners, merchants, and residents to recognize, enhance, preserve, and promote a downtown area’s unique character and identity.”

Meadows said the grants allow for the town to invest in Siler City businesses as a part of its goal to help preserve the character of downtown.

“Downtown is one of those places and locations in town that has been defined as a priority for redevelopment,” he said. “I think that’s the encouragement behind supporting façade grants and doing rehab grants to rehabilitate those underutilized, vacant buildings and also improve the appearance of downtown.”

Each application requires the business owners to include construction drawings, proposed project budgets, two or more quotes from contractors for the project and proof of ownership or executed lease with the landlord’s consent.

From there, the SCDO board of directors will review through each application before signing off on approving the funds. The grants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis until the funds run out, according to Meadows.

“Once I received the application, I package it up and share it with the SCDO board and discuss it in their monthly meetings,” he said. “They make a decision on what to award and how much to award.”

Meadows said the \$2,500 limit may not be enough to entirely fund a single project a business may propose, but it at least allows for more businesses to receive support from the town.

By giving more businesses a set amount, Meadows said the town would in turn see a greater “return on its investment.”

“We could invest \$10,000 into a single application, or we could give four good applications \$2,500 and each one of them would be able to do a project,” he said. “That’s another thing these grants could do: give the town a great return on its investment through these programs.”

The SCDO grant programs are crucial in preserving and restoring downtown Siler City, according to Meadows. He said the town’s investment in its historic districts is essential to providing a vibrant atmosphere in Siler City.

“A lot of downtown is on the National Register of Historic Places,” Meadows said. “It was originally a commercial corridor of downtown and we’d like to maintain that as a commercial mixed use corridor as well. Folks are promoting and investing in downtown and will encourage you to extend that to new development.”

Business owners interested in applying for SCDO’s building rehab or façade grants can contact Meadows at jmeadows@silercity.org for more information.

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

Council on Aging Weekly Activities Calendar

- Monday, May 8**
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz; Senior Games Croquet at Carolina Meadows
 - 11 a.m. - Senior Games Golf at Siler City Country Club
 - 11 a.m. - Mind Games w/Alan
 - 2 p.m. - Table Tennis
- Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
 - 10 a.m. - Cornhole; Birthday Party for May Birthdays
 - 2 p.m. - Geri-Fit
 - 3 p.m. - Caregiver Support Group
- Tuesday, May 9**
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - 3G's Men's Group; Senior Games Pickleball
 - 10 a.m. - Woodcarvers; Cardio Drumming
 - 10:30 a.m. - Gym Orientation
 - 10:30 a.m. - Mothers Day Tea and May Birthday Party
 - 1 p.m. - Rummikub
 - 2 p.m. - Zumba Gold Intro; Senior Games Table Tennis (Carolina Preserve)
- Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - Cardio Drumming
 - 9:30 a.m. - Arthritis Exercises (in-person and Zoom)
 - 10:30 a.m. - Property Tax Relief w/Christy Blackburn
 - 1 p.m. - Rook/Phase 10/Rummikub; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering
 - 2 p.m. - Fitness Room Orientation
- Wednesday, May 10**
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - Senior Games Pickleball
 - 10 a.m. - Craft w/Wynne
 - 11 a.m. - Activity w/Alan
 - 1 p.m. - Open Art Studio (Learn to Basketweave w/Carolyn)
 - 2 p.m. - Intro to Photoshop Class for Seniors w/Alan
- Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
 - 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study
 - 10:30 a.m. - Diabetes Discussion w/Laura Hearn
 - 2 p.m. - Crafting w/Kathryn
- Thursday, May 11**
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie
 - 9 a.m. - Senior Games Men's Bocce at Carolina Meadows
 - 10 a.m. - Crafts & Chat, Bingo w/Joe
 - 11 a.m. - Diabetes Discussion Group - Diabetes Plate Method and CHO Sources w/Laura Hearn
 - 1 p.m. - Games/Cards; Bridge
 - 1:30 p.m. - Line Dancing
 - 3 p.m. - Gentle Yoga w/Liz
- Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - Men's Coffee & Conversations
 - 9:30 a.m. - Arthritis Exercises (in-person and Zoom)
 - 10 a.m. - Bocce & Horseshoes; Music Jam Session;
- Visual/Heritage Arts Pickup
- 10:30 a.m. - Hearing Loss & State Programs w/Kim Calabretta
 - 1 p.m. - Book Club
 - 2 p.m. - Geri-Fit; Thursday Social: "Spring Tea"
- Friday, May 12**
Eastern Chatham Senior Center
- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie
 - 10 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Jackie
 - 11:15 a.m. - Cornhole
 - 1 p.m. - Games/Euchre
 - 3 p.m. - Jukebox Live! (Live w/Larry)
- Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
 - 10 a.m. - Grief Support Group; Beginning Quilting
 - 10:30 a.m. - Drawing w/Lacy
 - 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

MONCURE

Continued from page B7

was to help clarify many of those misunderstandings and gather input for the plan.

“At the end of this process, we want residents to say ‘We are building Moncure our way; this is what we want Moncure to look like going forward,’” Hightings told the crowd before the forum.

More than a dozen residents took the microphone to share their thoughts with the consultants and staff. They addressed a variety of issues, including the desire for a closer shopping center, safer street

design and the environmental impact of the new VinFast facility.

“Most of us in the community have to drive 20-30 minutes to the nearest grocery store,” Gordon Parker, a Moncure resident, said during the forum. “Chatham County just opened a very elaborate ABC Store right up the road ... I’m sure if we can have an ABC Store, we can also have a daggum grocery store.”

Parker said he’d also like to see more restaurants and shops in the Moncure area to minimize commute times to community amenities.

Other residents feared the developments in the

region may lead to higher taxes and price them out of the community.

Next steps: scenario planning

The listening session was part of phase two of Plan Moncure: gathering input. The data gathered from the session and online surveys will be used for phase three of the plan: scenario planning.

In this stage, the Plan Moncure team will devise four different scenarios for the potential future of the town based on feedback gathered from residents. This could include scenarios like changing land use policies, deciding on the speed of devel-

opment or understanding the environmental threats caused by certain decisions. For example, a scenario could include building a grocery store in Moncure, and data would also show how many homes and other amenities are needed to support that store.

By evaluating the impact of these choices, the Plan Moncure team hopes to guide future decision-making. Consultants say this will help ensure Moncure’s growth is built on a shared vision of residents and opportunities.

The scenario planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, at Moncure School. More information about Plan Moncure can be found at www.recodechathamnc.org/planmoncure.



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Chance Mullins, Chatham County planner and lead staff for Plan Moncure, takes notes on residents’ concerns. Last Thursday at Moncure School, the Plan Moncure team hosted a listening session and small group discussion.

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

Reporter Ben Rappaport

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



With hundreds of options, you are sure to find the style right for your life!

At Dossenbach's, we take pride in getting to know you and what you're looking for in your furniture needs. Modern, contemporary, or farmhouse, we offer a wide variety of fabrics and finishes to create a look that suits YOUR lifestyle.

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

*New Inventory Arriving Daily.



Mental Health Services that Meet Your Needs.



RENAISSANCE WELLNESS SERVICES LLC

RWS

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

919-704-8449 • rwellnessservices.com

288 East St, Suite 1001-F7
Pittsboro, NC 27312

235 E Raleigh St.
Siler City, NC 27344

CN+R ENTERTAINMENT

GET IN *line.*

Amusement parks and retirement communities do have one thing in common. *Long wait times.*

EXPLORE MORE AT
GALLOWAYRIDGE.COM

GALLOWAY
RIDGE
AT FEARRINGTON



Your Chatham Real Estate Source
Featured Agent of the Week!

Lisa Barnes
919-619-3771
lisagailbarnes@yahoo.com

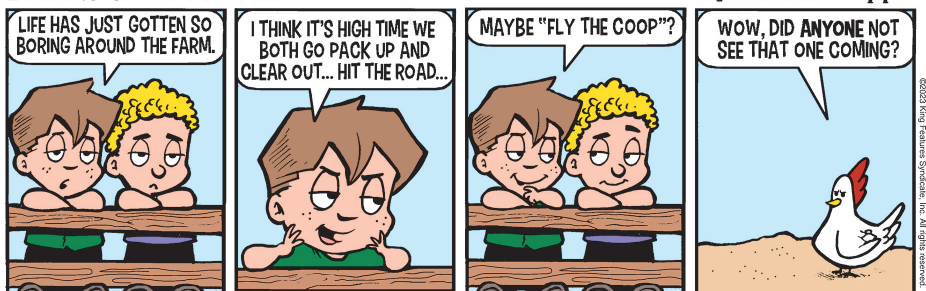


490 West St.
Pittsboro
919-545-2333

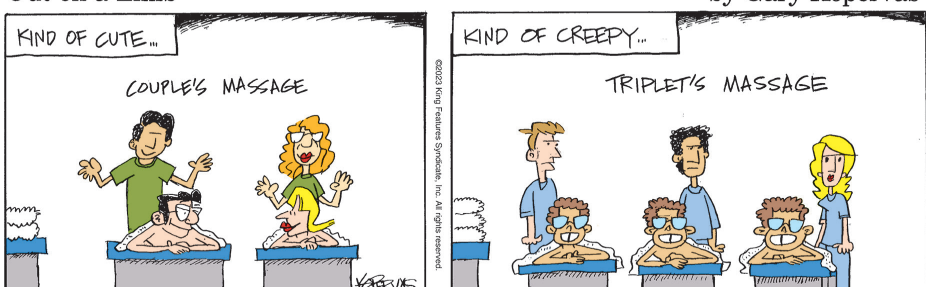
110 E. Raleigh St.
Siler City
919-663-0073

chathamhomesrealty.com

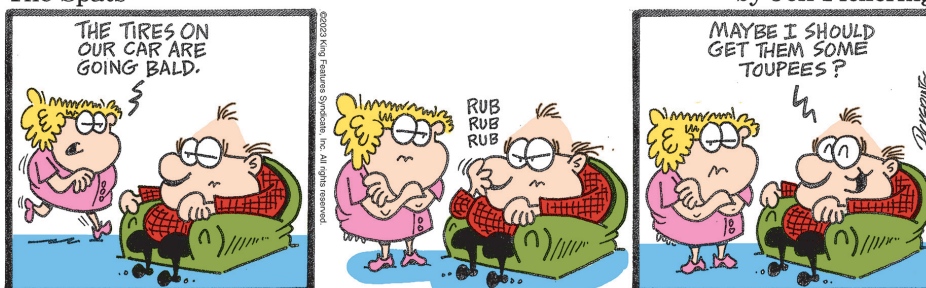
Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



The Spats



Don't give her a robe,

Give Mom a VACATION!

Let us help you give her the world!

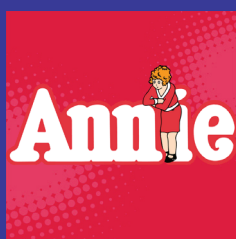
CALL NC TRAVEL

919-742-2839 or Email Amy: apugh@northcarolinatravel.net

Check out our website: www.nctravel.world

105 N. Chatham Ave, Siler City, NC

TEMPLE THEATRE
(919)774-4155 www.templeshows.org



**2023-2024 SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS
AVAILABLE NOW!**

**AMERICA'S
BEST STORAGE SPACE**

*Need Space?
We have it!*

**Receive
\$50 off
Your Second
Month!**



Our facility features:

- Conference Room
- Drive-Up Access
- Fully Fenced Property
- Electronic Gated Entry
- Secure Units
- Online Bill Pay

60 Andrews Store Rd.,
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-968-8705
americasbeststoragespace.com

PROUDLY SERVING CHATHAM COUNTY



HARRIS & COMPANY

Insurance Since 1935

Auto - Home - Business - Life

60 Mosaic Blvd., Ste. 130 Pittsboro
919-726-3003
www.HC1935.com

An Independent
Agent Representing



PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BODILY ACTIVITY

ACROSS	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN
1 Hair salon workers	56 Second purchase	97 Film director DuVernay	2 Baltimore ball team, for short	36 "—, vidi, vici"	79 Wood-shaping tool
8 Visits briefly	57 — Lanka	98 Weighed down (with)	3 Decade parts	37 Fixed maximum	80 At that time
15 Sharp-image flat-screens, e.g.	58 Everyone	99 Support one who ultimately fails	4 Caused	38 Forest den	82 Discusses in detail, with "out"
20 Very fast cat	59 1978-89 New York mayor	105 2009-17, politically	5 Jazz singer James	39 Fatty tissue of animals	85 Actress
21 Not challenging enough	61 Like a player who has hit a triple	106 Equal: Prefix	6 Enthusiastic	40 — -Cuban (jazz genre)	86 French
22 Balcony window, perhaps	63 Chinese temple	107 "The Addams Family" cousin	7 Hen or heifer	41 Joel or Ethan of film	87 "Ta-da!"
23 Be on track	66 — Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group)	108 Poker holding	8 Mix together	42 Misplaced	90 Zig or zag
25 D.C.	67 Do speaking motions voicelessly	112 "Nick and — Infinite Playlist" (2008 film)	9 Wearing dapper duds, with "out"	43 Ogden's state	91 Vast time spans
26 Bricklayer's blend	71 Actress Bingham of "Baywatch" series	113 Car navig. aid	10 "— -la-la!"	48 Male lead	92 Former senator
27 Unit of work	75 Akron native	115 Actor Kilmer	11 Dog or cat owner's concern	49 Brand of 120-Down	94 On hold
28 2015-16 CBS "Cyber" series	76 Collector of useless items	117 Consumed no cooked food	12 Tooth tools	51 Actor — Ray	96 Make damp
29 Send again, as a parcel	81 12.5% fraction	119 Kriss Kringle	13 Bible book before Jeremiah	53 Email giggle	99 Tiny tree
30 — buco	83 Actress Sothorn	120 Conform to one's political group	14 Big Apple team, on sports tickers	54 Superb serve	100 On a train or plane
31 Kin of "Ruff!"	84 Cavaliers, on sports tickers	123 1989 Disney princess	15 Four-bagger	55 "How come?"	101 Singer
33 Greek "H"	87 Capital of Saudi Arabia	124 Captivates	16 Fixtures for displaying wedding gowns, say	58 Bureau	102 Farmer cart
35 Repulsed by	88 Fencing sword	125 Kind of spray	17 Donated 10%	60 Apostle	103 Rule over
37 Assume an onerous duty	89 Enthusiastic	126 Latin "that is"	18 Cinéma — (filmmaking technique)	62 Couple	104 — Island
40 "I haven't —" ("No idea")	91 Focus on what you'll get if you win	127 Really foolish	19 Apply messily	64 "I've got it!"	108 Ancient serf
44 Strapped garment	93 Bulk beer buy	128 Paternity prover, perhaps	24 Renovates, in brief	65 Dadaist Jean	109 Come to light
45 Meadowland	95 Angry music genre		29 Partial refund	68 Bangkok native	110 Thin iPods
46 Pop's mama			32 Judge's garb	69 Impede	111 Resided
47 Pay			34 Notify	70 Take a risk	114 Mani —
50 Café addition				71 No-frills shirt	116 Church nook
52 Lobster limb				72 Split	118 Model
				73 Census stat	119 Church trapping situations
				77 Actress Sedgwick	120 Steeped drink
				78 FBI attack	121 "Bali —"
					122 "Super cool!"

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

ChathamCares
COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Free blood pressure checks for ALL Chatham County residents!

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
each Wednesday

127 E. Raleigh St.
Siler City



919-663-0177



Downtown Siler City

OLD NORTH STATE



INSURANCE SERVICES

Storms? Accidents? Fire!

Let us help you avoid the major costs of the "What Ifs" of life

Kim Lindley, CISR

919-742-3422 Ext #2 | kim@oldnorthstateins.com

Kevin Reavis, CRM, CIC, CPIW

919-742-3422 Ext #7 | kevin@oldnorthstateins.com

CN+R ENTERTAINMENT

chatham
brew

Chatham News + Record
chathamnewsrecord.com

6,500 readers, 4 times a week.
subscribe at chathamnewsrecord.com



SILER CITY CENTER NOW HIRING
RNs, LPNs, and CNAs
Siler City Center offers shift differentials, benefits, 401k, updated wages, and new sign-on bonuses:
RN-\$15,000
LPN-\$15,000
CNA-\$5,000
Contact Brittany Burton with inquiries or to apply:
brittany.burton@genesishcc.com

Genesis
Vitality for Living

900 West Dolphin St, Siler City, NC 27344 • 919-663-3431


A Unique Boutique in Pittsboro
Women's Apparel & Shoes and
Gifts for the whole family.
53 Hillsboro Street
(919) 542-7366
Monday - Saturday 10 - 6
Every Sunday 12 - 5


Provisions for Work, Travel &
Outdoor Adventure!
674 West St, Pittsboro, NC
M-F 10-6 Sat 9-5 Sun 11-5
(919) 542-5487


THE INTELLIGENT CHOICE IN
COLLISION REPAIR

To ensure the operation of safety systems as intended by the manufacturer, our staff is **"Factory Trained & Certified"** to repair your vehicle--this helps to keep you, and your family, safe in the event of another accident

Now Serving Three Locations

Chapel Hill
1174 US Hwy 15-501 N
919-537-0770

Pittsboro
1022 Sanford Rd
919-542-2334

Burlington
1238 Rahut St
336-228-6684

www.carsmartcollision.com



MAGIC MAZE

●

COMMON FRENCH WORDS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: GOOD MORNING

Amour
Au revoir
Bonsoir
Excusez-moi

Femme
Fille
Homme
Madame

Mademoiselle
Merci beaucoup
Monde
Non

Oui
Raison
Temps

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

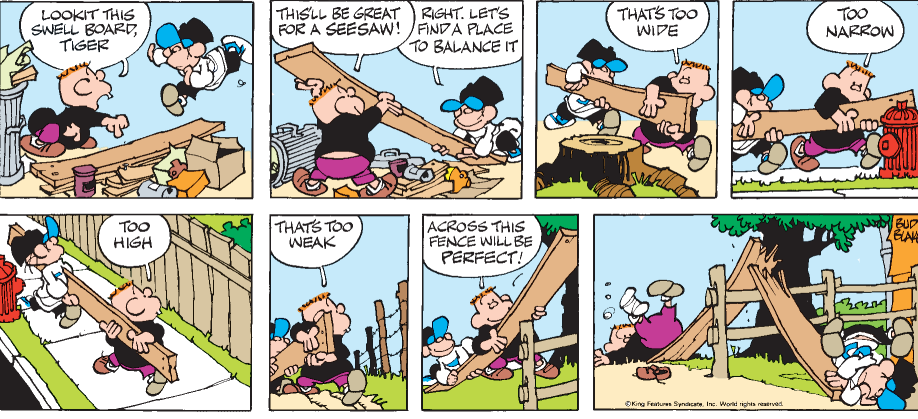
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦


♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!


© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.


TIGER


by BUD BLAKE





John Cheesborough, MD


Dawn E. Kleinman, MD


Mary Candace Seagle, PA-C


Brittany Atkinson, PA-C



Candace L. Marin, APRN

Sanford Dermatology
Conveniently located in
Platinum Commons
959 East Street, Suite B - Pittsboro
919-775-7926
www.sanforddermatology.com


Accepting New Patients Any Age
Self-Pay & Insurance
Medical & Cosmetic Dermatology
Dysport, Botox & Fillers

Proudly serving Chatham County over 30 years!

GRILL OUT FOR LESS THIS SUMMER
20# TANKS FILLED FOR \$15.98 + TAX
WE FILL ALL SIZES!
STOP IN TODAY!




STRICK'S L.P. GAS
919-704-8589
Pittsboro, NC
1968




193 Lowes Dr., Suite 110,
Pittsboro
919-704-8589
strickslpgas.com

Just Like Cats & Dogs
by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT
by Wayne



CN+R ENTERTAINMENT

Working tirelessly to provide you with a beautiful, lasting tribute to your loved one

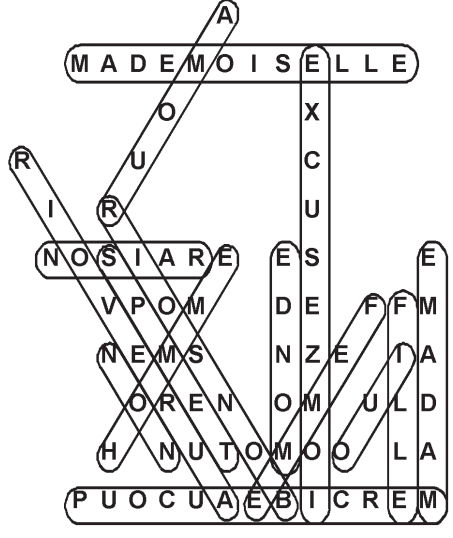
Thank you
for allowing us
to serve your
families for more
than 60 years

Knotts
FUNERAL HOME
SANFORD: 719 Wall St • 919-776-4345
CHAPEL HILL: 113 N. Graham St • 919.968.7780
PITTSBORO: 50 Masonic St • 919-542-6180
knottsfuneralhome.com



SERVING PITTSBORO,
CHAPEL HILL AND DURHAM
919.230.1230

COMMON FRENCH WORDS



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Let’s get a couple of things straight



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

New York-style, Chicago deep dish ... they are all well and good, but if you want to meet a tribe dead-ly serious about “pie,” come to

New Jersey. (Although if we were being honest, I think we can pretty much all agree that Chicago pizza flat-out weird. I kind of feel like Chicagoans actually think it’s weird too, but defend it out of civic, Windy City pride).

The people of New Jersey, the state of my mother’s birth, have the highest of standards for pizza. But it’s not a style, or a topping, or a shape, or a novel interpretation of the concept of the food itself.

Nope. In a food fanaticism/demand for perfection that rivals the French’s attitude toward bread, it’s the quality of the finished product and the adherence to some commonsense parameters that is what makes one pizza, from one pizzeria, sublime, and the other a maddening, saddening, ill-formed attempt.

I’ve heard it said that bad pizza is still pizza, and better than no pizza at all.

I couldn’t disagree more. But I have enjoyed some really crappy food stuffs that were called “pizza.”

This pitiful hamburger sprinkled pie from the “Ye Olde Pizza Shoppe” (honest to dog Gentle Reader, the actual name) at the strip center were the base exchange was, was

Reheating pizza

I’ve been playing around with reheating pizza to get it as close to parlor fresh as possible. Foil and baking works pretty well, but you often get a soggy bottom.

My oven has a convection setting, which is the same thing as an air fryer. The pizza in the photo was my first try, a little tinkering is still obviously needed.

I urge you to also play around with the air fryer/convection to get a crispy bottom, gooey cheese top.

Just rest it on a cooling try, or that crispy bottom you’ve struggled for will get a soggy as a tissue at a wedding.

horrible. But enjoyable if not considered pizza, but something ... uh ... some type of edible food product?

The deep-dish from one chain pizza joint is kinda good enjoyed as unhealthy food delivered on this crispy, buttery, pillowy crust-type thing. Sorta like the enjoyment of the infrequent Big Mac.

But. If you are going to run an establishment shouting to all and sundry that you make the most authentic pizza in the village, then you gosh darn better do it, or you get no love from me.

If you have a pizza joint and like a type of pizza, but with a twist, then acknowledge if in the name. Don’t put something on the menu, call it a pepperoni pizza and include the unexpected, “interesting” ingredient of squid.

Call it, “Horrific twist on an already problematic pizza.”

The pizza that I’ve called you here today upon which to expound is the white pizza.

The operative word here, as anyone who has even the most basic comprehension of reading the English language should know, is white.

As in marshmallows in a snowstorm and a writer’s empty page.

Spinach is none of those things.

Nor is tomato ... nor is bacon, red onion, or green, red or yellow pepper.

So, for the love of those who hail from the Garden State and its descendants, knock it off with the color!

Think of white pizza like Vichyssoise, the white, chilled potato soup from France. There is no color in the traditional version. They take the no color thing so seriously, it should be seasoned with only salt and white pepper.

Classic: mozzarella, ricotta, garlic. Classic optional: sweated onions, leeks or white mushrooms.

On the menu call it “thoughtful twist on a delicious pie”: sliced potatoes, brie or white asparagus.

I think the state of New Jersey’s attitude toward “pie” is so strong within me that it (and my Aunt Bobby’s amazing cooking) informed my existential beliefs about everything culinary that came after.

Terrific if you dine at my table, because the foundation of my cooking is the quality of both ingredient and treatment.

Probably less so if the topic of food is less than riveting to you.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

There’s an art to re-heating leftover pizza. This slice of white pizza obviously wasn’t done perfectly.



We are cooperative, social-minded, curious, inclusive, searching.
A niche firm with an environmental ethic.

Reach out to Weaver Street Realty when it’s time for a change.

919-929-5658 • info@WeaverStreetRealty.com

WeaverStreetRealty.com

The local pharmacy you can trust to provide the best personalized care, professional advice, and convenient services. We offer FREE* walk-in Shingles vaccinations Have allergies? We have solutions!

Angelynn Fox McClary
Pharmacist Manager & Owner



202-A East Raleigh Street
Siler City, NC 27344

T: 919-663-5541

www.silercitypharmacy.com
info@silercitypharmacy.com

*Cost covered by most insurance plans

GROW YOUR CAREER WITH MOUNTAIRE



CDL DRIVERS GET A \$5,000 SIGN-ON BONUS



MOUNTAIREJOBS.COM

1100 E THIRD STREET | SILER CITY | NC
4411 W GATE CITY BLVD. | GREENSBORO | NC
8 AM - 5 PM | MONDAY - FRIDAY
(919) 663-6712