

# CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

THE CHATHAM COUNTY EDITION OF THE NORTH STATE JOURNAL



a MATT RAMEY | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD



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**Chef Sera Cuni is the owner at Cafe Root Cellar in Pittsboro. She recently won an episode of Food Network's 'Supermarket Stakeout.'**

## Pittsboro Chef Sera Cuni uses creativity to win Food Network show

By Ben Rappaport  
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — The aromas of warm cinnamon crumb cake wafted through the air as tensions rose.

The cake melded with the nostalgic flavors of peanut butter and jelly in a gooey delight. Then, a creamy finish of ice cream topped off the whole experience. It was an amalgamation of flavors that, when combined, felt sinful in all the best ways.

Just as this sacrilegious ice cream sandwich hit the taste buds of attendees at Cafe Root Cellar in Pittsboro, there were shrieks of elation.

The cries of joy were not only for the decadent dessert, but also because Chef Sera Cuni, owner of the Pittsboro establishment, had been named the winner of "Super-

market Stakeout," a Food Network competition show.

In the episode "Fast Food Frenzy," which aired last Tuesday, Cuni demonstrated her quick thinking and culinary skills through three rounds of competition, wowing the show's judges, including celebrity host Chef Alex Guarnaschelli, who awarded Cuni the grand prize of \$10,000.

The show features a pop-up kitchen outside of a grocery store, where chefs must convince shoppers to sell their recently purchased groceries, with hopes of snagging needed ingredients to complete their assigned themed dishes. In the Cuni's episode, chefs were challenged with themes of burgers, tacos and ice cream.

The appearance was Cuni's third time on a Food Network competition show, but the first time she took home a top prize. She credits the victory to her wit, creativity and willingness to break the rules in the kitchen.

"I felt really good going into

**"I felt really good going into the last round, so it was exciting finally hearing my name called."**

Sera Cuni

See CUNI, page A3

## From dream to nightmare: Siler City home in disrepair despite inspections approvals

By Ben Rappaport  
Chatham News & Record

SILER CITY — A big home, 10 acres of land and a space to call their own. The Muehlbachs thought their investment in the home off of Pleasant Hill Church Road was their own slice of the American dream.

Instead, it's cost them their life savings, and the living conditions have been deemed unsafe.

Jake Muehlbach says he

and his family did everything right. Yet, the home now has more than 30 building code violations and multiple estimates say repairing the home would cost upward of \$450,000, with some estimates saying repairs may be more than \$750,000. Private structural engineers have also said the family would be better off tearing the home down and rebuilding it than repairing it, according to reports sent to the Muehlbachs.

The family blames the build-

er, Lindley Builders Inc., for the continuous issues since construction began three years ago. Fault also lies on former Chatham County Building Inspector Daniel Gunter who was later relieved of his duties by the county and had his certifications blocked by the N.C. Building Inspectors Association. Gunter missed each of these code violations in his reports on the Muehlbach's home.

See INSPECTIONS, page A6

### CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Going against the planning board

**Commissioners approve Everest Park despite recommendations**

By Taylor Heeden  
Chatham News & Record

SILER CITY — Planning Dept. Director Jennifer Baptiste approached the board of commissioners as she usually does for public hearings on

proposed projects.

The first public hearing during the board's May 15 meeting was for a residential and commercial mixed-use development called Everest Park, which would be located between Old U.S. 421 and Glosston Road.

The planning board voted in favor of denying the rezoning request for the over 293 acre parcel, citing the rezoning

request was inconsistent with the surrounding areas. The board of commissioners, however, voted unanimously to approve the rezoning request. However, two board members — At-Large Commissioner Cindy Bray and Dist. 5 Commissioner Lewis Fadely — were absent at the time of the vote.

See PLANNING, page A12

## Inmate dies in Chatham County Detention Center, cause of death still unclear

Chatham News & Record

AN INMATE at the Chatham County Detention Center died early Sunday morning.

Jaimarien Rayshaun Sellers, 19, was found unresponsive by his roommate shortly after midnight. Sellers had earlier been observed sleeping in his cell during a routine periodic check.

After the roommate alerted detention officers that Sellers was unresponsive, officers immediately entered Sellers' cell to administer CPR. Officers

were unable to revive the inmate and contacted Emergency Medical Services.

Sellers had been in custody at the Chatham County Detention Center since April 28 on the following charges: robbery with a dangerous weapon, second-degree kidnapping, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, assault by pointing a gun, injury to personal property, and hit and run leaving the scene. He was being held under a \$500,000 bond and was awaiting pre-trial release.

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office is investigating and

has requested the Medical Examiner conduct an autopsy to determine the cause of Sellers' death. Because the death occurred while he was in the custody of the Chatham County Detention Center and no cause of death was immediately apparent, the Sheriff's Office requested the State Bureau of Investigation also review the matter.

"Our hearts are with Mr. Sellers' family in their time of loss," said Sheriff Mike Robertson, "and we are doing everything we can to determine his cause of death."



\$1.00

THURSDAY

6.8.23

#2



"Join the conversation"

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Neal Robbins, Publisher  
publisher@northstatejournal.com  
336-552-6800

## NEWSROOM

Matt Mercer, Editor in Chief  
matt@northstatejournal.com

Griffin Daughtry, Local News Editor  
griffin@northstatejournal.com

Lauren Rose, Design Editor  
lauren@northstatejournal.com

Taylor Heeden, Reporter/Web Editor  
theeden@chathamnr.com

Cory Lavalette, Statewide Sports Editor  
cory@northstatejournal.com

Jeremy Vernon, Chatham Sports Editor  
jeremy@chathamnr.com

Ben Rappaport, Reporter  
brappaport@chathamnr.com

Valeria Cloës, news intern  
valeriacleos@chathamnr.com

## ADVERTISING

Jason Justice  
jjustice@chathamnr.com

Advertising Inquiries  
advertising@chathamnr.com

## OFFICE

Karen Pyrtle  
karen@chathamnr.com

Doris Beck  
doris@chathamnr.com

Florence Turner  
billing@chathamnr.com

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## CHURCH NEWS

## Edwards Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Edwards Grove Missionary Baptist Church will sponsor a Bike ride Saturday, June 10 beginning at 10 o'clock. All bikers welcome. Fee: Applies. They will also be selling Fish Plates, which will include hot dogs, fish sandwich, slaw, baked beans, dessert, and drink.



PEYTON SICKLES | CHATHAM NEWS &amp; RECORD

## All together now

In a collaboration between Triangle Youth Music and Chatham County Schools, students at two elementary schools learned basic skills to learn the violin. More than 40 students at Virginia Cross Elementary and Siler City Elementary showed off their skills last Thursday for parents, faculty and community members in an "informance." Chatham County Schools was recently named a Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants — one of only two N.C. districts receiving this recognition. Lead CCS Music Educator Sharon Allen said she was proud of the students for their dedication to learning the instruments. She said music education teaches students skills to prepare them for the workforce and helps produce well-educated graduates.

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## CURRENTLY FOR SALE

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448 River Point Rd (Moncure) 3 Bdrm, 1 Bath \$325,000  
4377 N Old US 421 (Siler City) 4 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$485,000  
2035 Long Point Trail (Sanford) 5 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath \$785,000  
1722 Wilkins Dr (Sanford) 6 Bdrm, 5 Bath \$800,000  
94 Sunny Ridge Ln (Pittsboro) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$975,000

## Land

170 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$125,000  
188 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$125,000  
1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000  
108 Spring St (Apex) 3.670 acres \$150,000  
454 Maple Springs Rd (Bear Creek) 13.592 acres \$165,000  
955 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11.566 acres \$185,000  
1277 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12.550 acres \$195,000  
1049 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11.548 acres \$200,000  
1223 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12.737 acres \$225,000

1544 Roberts Chapel Rd (Chapel Hill) 17.632 acres \$225,000  
1710 Roberts Chapel Rd (Goldston) 17.643 acres \$225,000  
37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) 0.996 acres \$300,000  
5663 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 1.771 acres \$325,000  
893 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 24.938 acres \$325,000  
00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36.000 acres \$350,000  
0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000  
Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000  
5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3.584 acres \$625,000  
00 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 87.169 acres \$999,900  
7587 Siler City Snow Cam p Rd (Siler City) 50.000 acres \$1,200,000  
499 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 12.619 acres \$1,500,000  
00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33.662 acres \$3,366,200  
0 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 75.430 acres \$9,051,600  
**Commercial Unimproved**  
58 Buffalo Lake Rd (Sanford) 6.70 acres Auction

## CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

## Residential

466 Old Chestnut Xing (Moncure) 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath \$582,750  
4301 Amberwood Rd (Haw River) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$600,000  
5741 Old Stony Wat (Durham) 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$675,000  
1907 Bobolink Ln (Charlotte) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$750,000

## Land

267 Marshall Rd (Pittsboro) 10.049 acres \$250,000  
0 Hamlets Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 42.804 acres \$1,200,000  
13120 Strickland Rd (Raleigh) 16.250 acres \$1,500,000  
**Commercial Unimproved**  
10681 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 3.97 acres \$1,500,000

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## COMMUNITY GUIDE

## Chatham Community Library to Host, "Sounds of Freedom, From Slavery to Civil Rights"

In recognition of Juneteenth, the Library will host, "The Sounds of Freedom, From Slavery to Civil Rights" with gospel singer and historian Mary D. Williams on Saturday, June 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. This program is free and open to the public, at Holmes Family Meeting Room, Chatham Community Library, 197 NC-87, Pittsboro.

## The Siler City Lion's Club

meetings for June at Dry Dock Seafood Restaurant, will be June 13 and 27 at 6 p.m. Join the Club, and see that you can make a difference in the world and your local community. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Together we serve!

## The Goldston Public Library

announces the Goldston Book Club, every 2nd Monday of each month, from 2 to 3 p.m. Individuals who are interested in joining a book club can stop by the Goldston Public Library.

## The Chatham County Council on Aging

will host a "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" support group the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Western Chatham Senior Center, Siler City. This group is geared toward older adults who are primary caregivers and providers for their grandchildren. For more information, contact William Riggsbee at 919-742-3975 ext. 223 or email [william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov). The Chatham County Council on Aging hosts a Caregiver Support Group each Monday. The group meets the first and third Mondays of the month at 3 p.m. at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center, in Pittsboro, and the second Monday at 3 p.m. at the Western Chatham Senior Center, in Siler City. The fourth Monday of each month is a virtual meeting via the Zoom platform starting at 6 p.m. This group is geared toward family members who are currently providing short or long-term care to loved ones. For more information or to obtain virtual meeting login information, contact William Riggsbee, family caregiver specialist, at 919-742-3975 ext. 223 or email [william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov).

## COMMUNITY MEALS

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

**Second Bloom's hours** are from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday until Saturday. Credit cards are accepted. We are located in the Food Lion shopping center, Pittsboro. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

## FOSTER AND/OR ADOPTIVE INFORMATION

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

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

**North Carolina District 33**, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

## MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION

The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit [www.chathamCBA.com](http://www.chathamCBA.com).

Get in touch!



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**CUNI** from page 1

the last round, so it was exciting finally hearing my name called," Cuni said.

In the first round of competition, Cuni was tasked with making a burger, but she didn't have any ground beef or meat substitutes. No matter. She whipped up a sloppy-joe-style egg burger with cheddar cheese. Through a blend of spices and unique cooking techniques, judges remarked her egg tasted "almost like chorizo." The ingenuity was enough to get her to the next round: tacos.

Here, Cuni hit her luck. She got the perfect taco mix from the supermarket and whipped up a fall-off-the-bone pork rib tostada with chili beans and avocado salsa. She sailed into the finals, needing a delectable dairy treat to win the competition.

Whispers of attendees started to circulate throughout the restaurant as the final round approached. "I think she's going to win," onlookers whispered to their neighbors with nervous delight.

Ultimately, she sealed her fate on a PB&J crumb cake ice cream sandwich stuffed with peanut butter ice cream, and layered with a grape lemon glaze, chocolate caramel, and toasted marshmallow. Cuni cooked up a batch of her award-winning dessert and

surprised guests attending a watch party at the Pittsboro restaurant Tuesday night with the treats.

"The whole experience was a blast," Cuni said. "I really enjoyed getting to know the other chefs and you know me, I'm always up for a good competition."

The win Tuesday night was a reflection of Cuni's hard work in the kitchen, and her general go-with-the-flow approach to cooking at Root Cellar every day. She said the show required thinking on her feet, and not being pigeon-holed in her cooking style. But to Cuni, neither of those things has ever been a problem.

"I'm the type of person that if you give me a random bag of food and I'll make you something out of it," Cuni said.

That flexible style is also how Cuni runs Cafe Root Cellar, and what makes her restaurant so likable to locals. The menu there changes weekly and often features local seasonal ingredients. To Cuni, making food and enjoying it with others is supposed to be relaxed and fun, which is what she tries to reflect in the space she creates in her restaurant.

"Nobody goes out to dinner to be more stressed out," she said. "Well, we should have fun, too. So I kind of live my life, and my style of cooking, in that fun way too."



MATT RAMEY | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

**More than 50 Chathamites cheered with delight at Cafe Root Cellar as Pittsboro Chef Sera Cuni was announced as the winner of Food Network's 'Supermarket Stakeout' last Tuesday.**

The "fun way" hasn't always been Cuni's style. In her early days of culinary school, she thought fine dining and precise techniques were the way to prove herself as a "proper chef." But over time she learned the value of slowing down, appreciating the food and cooking with the seasons. Now in her 27th year as a professional chef, the mohawked, tattooed Pittsboro chef says she cooks her way, for her people.

The fun-loving atmosphere was on display for the Supermarket Showdown watch party last Tuesday. Prior to the viewing, Cuni was playing Mario Kart with attendees while others noshed on spiced popcorn she had prepared for guests.

And when the clock struck 9 p.m., the lights went out and the cheers erupted each time Cuni appeared on screen. Around 50 Chathamites gathered inside Cafe Root Cellar to celebrate

the community Cuni's food, and personality, have brought together over the years. Her triumph in the quirky game show a symbol of the passionate excitement she exudes toward her work each day.

"Maybe some high-end chefs look down on being on a show like this," Cuni told the News + Record. "But if some kid watches me and then tells their parents 'I want to be a chef,' then that's pretty freakin' cool."

*Congratulations Kelsey & Sholl!!*



The Rotary Club of Pittsboro recently presented two additional scholarships to local graduating seniors. We were pleased to recognize Sholl Burkhead with the Service Above Self Award & Scholarship. As the President of the Junior Beta Club, she exemplified Service Above Self by organizing the Chatham Central High School Blood Drive. Sholl's impact reached the community with local businesses donating to cancer awareness. She plans to attend Clemson University in the fall with the goal of pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. Our club also presented the Karen S. Heilman Scholarship to Kelsey Andrews, a senior at Chatham Central High School. Kelsey's passion for the Big Buddy Adventures Club, representing individuals with disabilities, was evident throughout her application. She plans to attend Central Carolina Community College in the fall with the intent to pursue a career supporting people with disabilities.

We know they will both continue to make a positive impact on the lives of others!



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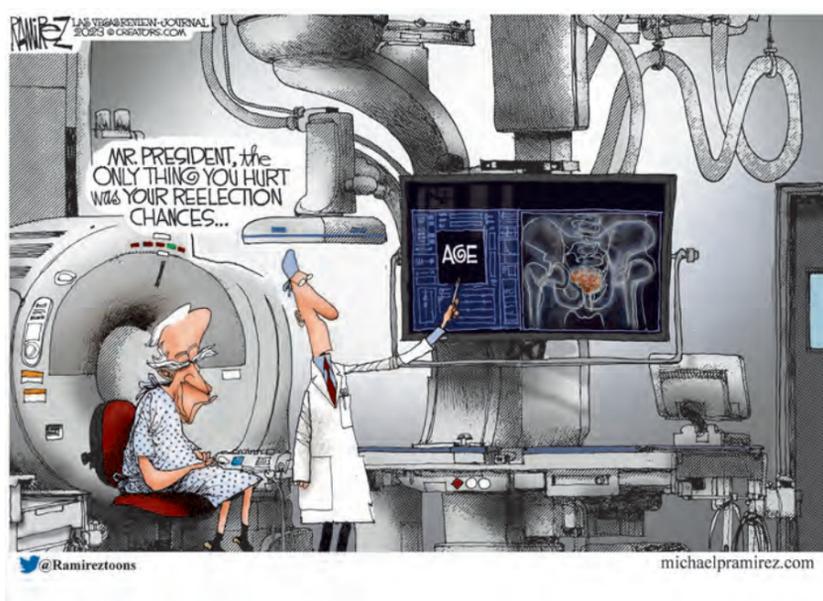


# OPINION



Neal Robbins, publisher | Frank Hill, senior opinion editor

## VISUAL VOICES



## COLUMN | REV. ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

# Jesus Christ, soccer coach

**'He makes the rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.'**

Um, Coach? You got a minute?  
Peace be with you!  
And also with you. Listen, Coach, could we talk about our team, the Wizards? You know, the 5- and 6-year-olds?  
Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them!  
Right. All the parents are really glad you volunteered to coach. Our kids all adore you. It's just, well, about the advice you've been giving our players.  
Go the extra mile.  
That one's good. Encouraging hard work and hustle. But some of your other pointers —  
Turn the other cheek. Consider the lilies.  
Yeah, those are actually dandelions on the field, and, more importantly, shouldn't our players be watching the soccer ball?  
Consider the birds of the air!  
Having their heads in the clouds is not going to win any games either. Some of the other parents and I would actually like for our kids to play a little harder. Fewer lilies and birds and way fewer water breaks.  
Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again.  
Of course, you're right. But the other dads and I —  
He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone.  
Whoa! Take it easy! I'm not trying to be overly critical. It's just, well, here's a specific example. In the last game, our kids were losing, like, 4 to nothing.  
In this world, you will have trouble.  
Lord knows, that's true. But then you pulled all our best players off the field at once.  
For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and

those who humble themselves will be exalted.  
Well, let me tell you, all that stuff about the last being first is not true about the league standings at the end of the season!  
My Kingdom is not of this world.  
I get it. It's only a game. And they're kids. But what about a little competition, huh? Run the race that has been set before you and all that?  
Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and its righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.  
OK, I can see that your mind is made up. And like I said before, the kids all flock to you like you hung the moon and put the stars in their courses.  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Coach, one more thing! There are storms in tomorrow's forecast.  
He makes the rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.  
The parents just want to know if you'll tell us in advance if the game is canceled. An email would be great. Maybe a group text?  
I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for.  
Great! I appreciate your time, and thanks for loving the little children, all the children on the team.  
Go, and do likewise.

*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."*

## COLUMN | JAN HUTTON

# You're kidding! You aren't?

**You're probably asking what I do instead of killing bugs.**

The truth is ... I don't like killing bugs, even cockroaches. Yeah, yeah, I know you're shaking your head in disbelief. And, sometimes, I shake my head in disbelief, too. (I mean, roaches?!)  
I'm no fan of welcoming bugs, or mice, into my house — no fan, at all. Yet, I persist in my ethos of not killing the critters. What's the story? Even I'd like to know more ...  
Looking back, I can't remember a time when I wanted to kill bugs during my childhood, even the Texas-sized roaches (well, they were Texas roaches) which bordered on being nightmare-worthy (Isn't that the role mothers play when we scream for help?).  
You're probably asking what I do instead of killing bugs. Over the years, this non-geek who has little or no technological bent (I mean, seriously!), has crafted multiple ways to catch those critters and ferry them outside. And feel good about doing so.  
But why? Why don't I want to kill bugs if I can possibly avoid doing so? Note, however, I said "possibly avoid." Truthiness. Late at night, when I'm tired, if I spy an intruding roach (a word that actually gives me the willies), I make a beeline for the vacuum cleaner. Sigh. And you can guess what transpires next. Flying in the face of my non-killing bug ethos, well, I'll leave the rest to your imagination. Ah, imperfection ...  
Returning to my buggy odyssey, why the heck do I experience reluctance to kill creepy crawlies? Oh wait, oh wait, insight abounds! I've also just realized I feel terrible when accidentally abusing, or killing, a plant by forgetting to water it. There's clearly a trend here...  
Perhaps I shouldn't have let the cat out of the bag

by sharing my protective proclivities with you. Oh, jeez, and now the very mention of cats ... Cats, dogs, wildlife, oooo, turtles especially, even snakes, I'm a fairly protective camper regarding their existence. And, during my many years in North Carolina, if I say so myself, I've gotten pretty good at wrangling those large, 4-legged, armored tanks — AKA snapping turtles — off the middle of the roads they're hogging.  
I'm backtracking. I began this post in search of my underlying reasons for (oh, no!) not wishing, on the whole, to kill bugs. And instead, I've ended up cataloging a cornucopia of all my other non-harming passions. Am I eliciting a veritable laundry list, depending on who's reading this, of your possible responses such as, "Is Jan weird, or what?!" or "Hmmm, I need to think about this?"  
Whatever.  
And to cap off this intriguing odyssey, I'm also throwing in a bit of Walt Whitman for some needed light here. "I am large, I contain multitudes." (Thanks Walt.)  
Yes, that would be me. Me and the multitudes of bugs and other, sometimes, unwelcome critters that inhabit my universe and with whom I choose to actively seek coexistence. (Mostly.) OK, OK, just come out and call me a critter-carer. As that old comic book icon, Popeye the Sailor Man, said "I yam what I yam and that's all what I yam."

*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.*

COLUMN | U.S. REP. RICHARD HUDSON

## One step toward a fiscally responsible future

\$95,000. That's more than the average household income for an entire family in North Carolina. It's also your share of our nation's astonishing \$31 trillion debt. When I think about my seven-year-old son being saddled with a \$95,000 bill before he even enters the 2nd grade, I can't help but be worried about his future and all our children and grandchildren.

While our national debt is nothing new, out-of-control spending from Washington the last two years has accelerated this crisis to a five-alarm fire.

In fact, since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021, he and House Democrats have increased the nation's 10-year spending trajectory by \$10 trillion. This includes their \$2 trillion "American Rescue Plan" that ignited the highest inflation in consumer prices in forty years. It contained \$400 billion for policies that paid Americans to stay home rather than go to work, \$783 million in stimulus checks to federal prisoners, \$2 million for a ski slope, \$140 million for a luxury hotel, and \$1.2 million to buy trash cans. Democrats' so-called "Inflation Reduction Act" followed up with \$80 billion to the IRS to target your family with audits, and over \$400 billion for Green New Deal initiatives. President Biden's Executive Orders have also cost over \$1.5 trillion, including Democrats' student loan giveaway to the wealthy.

The last two years under one-party rule saw astronomical spending, but we didn't get in this mess overnight and we can't fix it overnight—especially in a divided government.

This spending problem is the greatest threat to America and one of the reasons I ran for Congress in the first place. That's why last week, I voted for the Fiscal Responsibility Act. This debt limit bill was not perfect, but it is the largest spending cut that Congress has ever voted for in American history.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the Fiscal Responsibility Act will reduce the deficit by \$2.1 trillion. It will cut spending year-over-year, limit top line federal spending to 1% annual growth for the next 6 years, and end uncontrollable executive spending by enforcing "Pay-Go" rules which should save taxpayers trillions.

It will jumpstart our economy with work requirements for able-bodied childless adults and will help with the

number one problem every business I talk to has—a need for workers. I have been fighting for work requirements for 19 years because we have a moral obligation to stop trapping people in the cycle of poverty. While Democrats prefer dependency, Republicans are focused on self sufficiency and improving your family's quality of life. Cutting red tape and slashing funding for new IRS agents will also help build new infrastructure and unleash the economy.

This bill will save taxpayers \$5 billion per month by restarting student loan debt payments. It rejects all of President Biden's \$5 trillion in proposed new tax increases and claws back \$29 billion of unspent COVID funds. All of this is done while fully funding critical defense programs and preserving both Social Security and Medicare.

For the first time, non-defense spending will be significantly lowered while defense spending will receive a \$28 billion boost from the previous year to ensure our military is ready to respond to any threat.

There was not a single Democratic priority included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Speaker Kevin McCarthy forced President Biden and House Democrats to negotiate in order to avoid defaulting on our debt. This is a historic win for the American people and because of our efforts, the pattern of Washington reckless spending has come to a screeching halt.

President Ronald Reagan once said, "We can leave our children with an unrepayable massive debt and a shattered economy, or we can leave them liberty in a land where every individual has the opportunity to be whatever God intended us to be."

The Fiscal Responsibility Act is a step in the right direction. With every man, woman, and child owing \$95,000 to the government, I believe we can and must do more to build on this success. The largest spending cut in history is an important step to restoring fiscal sanity in our nation's capital and leaving the next generation better than the last—just as Reagan had hoped.

*Richard Hudson is serving his sixth term in the U.S. House and represents North Carolina's 9th Congressional District. He currently serves as the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee and is a member of the House Republican Steering Committee.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## We need kid power to fight SB 406

I THOUGHT OF THE POWER of kids on Tuesday, when a group of Chatham moms met with our Senator Natalie Murdock to talk about the N.C. legislature's consideration of the dangerous Republican plan to vastly expand school vouchers.

The bill (Senate Bill 406, "Choose Your School, Choose Your Future") is a disaster in the making, Senator Murdock confirmed. She says that some rural counties are predicted to lose eight percent of their students in the first year alone, and that much of the money will go to wealthy families who have never had their kids in public schools.

Many private schools receiving these vouchers discriminate against kids for all kinds of reasons — religion, gender, LGBTQ+ identity, and more — and there are hardly any restrictions on what or how they teach, hardly any accountability at all.

What can we do? We all wanted to know. Show up at more events? Call turnout Tricia Cotham on the phone? Yes, sure, she said — but what she really could use is letters. From kids.

Senator Murdock says that this bill (Senate Bill 406) is "not a done deal" and that what has been most impactful and useful is the testimony of kids, which she shares with fellow members of the education committee and with all her colleagues.

She had one letter from a child in her district who said that she thought it wasn't fair that some of her friends couldn't afford school lunches — Why did school lunch cost anything at all? And how would kids who can't pay for school lunch get themselves to private schools that also don't offer lunches?

That's a great question! And also, guess what? With the money in this bill, we could have free school lunch for every child in North Carolina. We could fix our bus crisis. We could buy books and renovate schools and pay teachers 12% more — which is still not enough, but which is far better than the insulting 2% raise the Senate wants to give them.

A group of us wrote letters to Senator Murdock at Great Meadow Park pavilion in Briar Chapel on Monday and later in the week, my daughters and I will deliver the letters to the legislature.

All told, we collected 30 letters and the initiative appears to be spreading.

I'm looking forward to hearing what these kids have to say about why they love their public schools and want to see them fully funded.

Most kids don't want to move schools, and most kids also know what their schools actually need (Air conditioning in the gym! More bus drivers! Respect and fair pay for their teachers!).

I can't wait to see what they write.

**Belle Boggs, Pittsboro**

### BE IN TOUCH

**Letters addressed to the editor** may be sent to [letters@nsjonline.com](mailto:letters@nsjonline.com) or 1201 Edwards Mill Rd., Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27607. Letters must be signed; include the writer's phone number, city and state; and be no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for style, length or clarity when necessary. Ideas for op-eds should be sent to [opinion@nsjonline.com](mailto:opinion@nsjonline.com).

COLUMN | D.G. MARTIN

## Has Lee Smith deserted us for Florida?

HAS LEE SMITH, perhaps North Carolina's most beloved writer, moved to Florida?

No. But it is a fair question because after "On Agate Hill" in 2006, Smith's latest two major works of fiction have been set largely in Florida, mostly in Key West.

First, there was Smith's short novel, "Blue Marlin" published in 2020 and inspired by her real trip to Key West with her parents.

Then there is her latest, "Silver Alert: A Novel," published in April, which is full of quirky characters like those Smith's fans treasure.

The story revolves around Herbert Atlas, a wealthy retired businessman, and Renee (real name Dee Dee), a manicurist who is new on the scene. She quickly becomes essential because she is the only one who can calm Herb's third wife, Susan, from her many violent episodes. Once beautiful, active and glamorous, Susan has slipped into early-onset dementia.

Dee Dee grew up in North Carolina, was abused as a child, and has fallen into trouble everywhere she turned.

Other characters include William, a well-born aspiring poet and graduate student who is living in Key West temporarily trying to find himself. He meets Dee Dee in a laundromat, learns from her how to operate a washing machine, and becomes her love interest.

Tamika, is Dee Dee's best friend and deals with a bag full of trouble every day.

Paula is Tamika's and Dee Dee's counselor from a time when they were in a sex-victim recovery program.

Pat Devine, a partner of one of Herb's daughters, is tough and organized. She takes care of the family's many problems.

Dr. Abe, a psychiatrist, is Herb's son-in-law and not someone Herb likes.

Lee Smith says she hated to finish writing this book because she loved the characters so much.

As the story opens, Herb's devotion to Susan is complete, notwithstanding her disturbing actions. But some family members think it's time for her to get professional care in an institution.

Meanwhile Herb's inattention to his health points to

an early demise. When he finally visits a doctor, a nurse checks him in.

"So, what has finally brought you in to see us?"

"Urine," Herb replies. "Getting up all night. Running behind a potted plant at the mall. I've got a personal knowledge of every damn restroom and potted plant in Key West. Nobody ever told me that this was gonna happen."

When asked if he had other issues such as pain or burning, leaking during urination or blood in the urine?

He says, "I am guilty for all of the above."

Then she asks, "Erectile dysfunction?"

Herb answers, "Are you kidding me, honey? I'm eighty-three years old, I weigh two hundred and thirty-five pounds, of course I've got erectile dysfunction."

When the nurse says he should have come in earlier, he responds, "For my age, I'm doing fine. I've lived for eighty-three years, I'm playing with house money now."

After Dr. Abe leads a family intervention, Susan is sent to "the Arbor, a special unit for advanced Alzheimer's patients," and Herb will be in a luxurious home in the same development.

Before Herb moves to his new home, Dee Dee comes by for a final visit. Herb shows her his beloved Porsche.

"I bought it for Susan, my bride. I used to drive her all around town in it, she'd wear a scarf and I'd wear my Panama hat, she waved at everybody. Everybody. And they waved back."

He persuades Dee Dee to take a short drive in his favorite car, a Porsche which has been locked up for years. The short drive turns into a long drive that takes them all over the Keys and the southern part of Florida.

They drive and drive until the story peaks they look up and see a flashing

"SILVERALERT —

PORSCHE CARRERA 2001 —

CANARY YELLOW VKE — CALL #347."

Now we know where the book's title comes from, and the story, a truly great read, comes to a dramatic end.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Response to columns in the May 25-31 issue

THE RECENT COLUMNS by Mr. Phillip Johnson and Representative Robin Hudson surprised me and caused me to have a few thoughts that I feel need to be shared.

Mr. Johnson's column read a bit like an advertisement for Donald Trump's candidacy and a beat-down of President Biden's performance. While he stated that both candidates are flawed, it leaned to Trump stating, among other things, that he oversaw economic growth.

He did in fact as he was handed a well-fueled economy by former President Obama. It states he "restored the sovereignty and respect as the world's preeminent power." The USA never lost its sovereignty and we were often the laughingstock of the rest of the world because of things he said or did.

Then there's "Biden's age poses a prominent drawback as he publicly stumbles both ambulatory

and vocal." There are many examples available of former President Trump making the same "stumbles." President Biden has a slight speech impediment to blame, former President Trump does not.

Mr. Johnson states "He (Biden) also, like today's Democrats, wanted to stack the Supreme Court to his advantage." Did not former President Trump do exactly that with the complicity of Mitch McConnell? He did.

The "will of the people" was stated as the reason by McConnell as why Merrick Garland's nomination would not come to a vote. His nomination expired after 293 days on Jan. 3. Fast forward, Amy Barrett's nomination went through in 30 days, and she was appointed eight days before the election. Is that not "court stacking?" It's the best example I've seen in my short lifetime.

Regarding Representative Hudson's column, he mentions that former President Reagan "understood

the importance of getting America's economy in order," yet Reagan raised the debt limit 18 times while in office.

Former President Trump oversaw three increases of the debt limit and added roughly 40% of the current debt. This happened while Representative Hudson was serving!

He also mentions President Biden "refused to negotiate for more than 100 days to address our debt. Our country cannot afford to default on our debt due to Washington Democrat's political games."

Are they not also Republican political games? I believe so. The debt already existed, it was money "spent" under the service of Representative Hudson.

Lastly, he states "House Republicans have shown we have solutions to the challenges facing our nation while others ignore them." That is a lopsided statement.

We must work together to solve our issues not hold one another hostage and blame the "others." History is harsh and the lesson affects us all.

**Robert Waldrop, Chapel Hill**

# CCCC announces BLET graduates

Central Carolina  
Community College

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

The graduates — with hometowns listed — are Mario Avilez of Ruskin, Florida; Christopher Campbell of Kinston, N.C.; Haley Conway of Mansfield, Massachusetts;

Devan Gross of Apex, N.C.; Etheridge Grubb of Cameron, N.C.; Jenny Lemus of Santa Ana, California; Maria Lopez of Sanford, N.C.; Tyler Phan of Madison, Connecticut; Jose Pineda of Sanford, N.C.; Jose Ramos of Manassas, Virginia.; Miguel Sanchez of Elkin, N.C.; Logan Snyder of Siler City, N.C.; Halle Talcott of Angier, N.C.; Michael Villatoro of Sanford, N.C.; and Ronald Walker Jr. of Fayetteville, N.C.

A ceremony to honor the

graduates was held May 31 at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center in Sanford.

The guest speaker was Cpl. Keith Barrow of the Apex Police Department. Leading the BLET class entrance and offering welcoming remarks was Tracy Painter Kelly, CCCC BLET program director. The class response was by Haley Conway. Presentation of Colors was by the Chatham County Honor Guard.

Several of the graduates

were recognized for outstanding achievement during their training. They were: Fastest Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT) - Chase/Apprehension - Tyler Phan; Fastest Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT) - Rescue - Ronald Walker Jr.; Jimmy Collins Top Gun Award - Jose Ramos; Highest GPA - Ronald Walker Jr.; and Highest State Exam - Tyler Phan.

Class sponsors were the Harnett County Sheriff's Office, Lee County Sheriff's Office, N.C. State Highway Patrol, N.C. State Parks, and the Siler City Police Department.

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

To learn more about the Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training program, visit [www.cccc.edu/blet](http://www.cccc.edu/blet).

INSPECTIONS from page A1

"We're out of options," Jake said. "There were issues throughout the build, but everything passed inspections. It doesn't add up."

Walking around the home, the issues are hard to miss. Bowed flooring, cracked dry-wall, and gaps in the masonry are evident around every corner. Muehlbach said once he found one problem, others started appearing the closer he looked.

He gave the News + Record a tour of the home pointing out the issues. By now, he said he's given the same spiel dozens of times to other media members, private inspectors, county employees, lawyers and more. His two young daughters, Anna and Taylor, know the drill. They grab a leveler when their dad walks in the kitchen because they know he's about to show off the uneven flooring. They point out a cracked beam their father temporarily forgot to mention.

"This has definitely taken a mental toll on our family," his wife, Anita Muehlbach said. "We spend so much time thinking about the safety of our home, and researching the building codes and trying to find lawyers. It's just exhausting."

Jake said even when the family tries to get away from it all with an outing together, he finds his mind is preoccupied with anxiety over the future of his home and his family. He said several times, he's stayed up into the early morning hours to sift through building codes. At one point, he even made his attorney a 232-slide presentation laying out all the issues he's dealt with in the home.

The constantly creaky floorboards and inadequate structure have also rendered the upstairs bathroom near the girls' bedroom unusable. Parts of the home also have misaligned doors, due to the slanted floor foundation. The front closet door is currently held together with a rope and carabiner because it doesn't latch shut.

"Brand new house and it's literally held together with string," Muehlbach said as he passed the door.

The family has reached out to the county to assist with the issue, but those conversations have also yielded limited results. Earlier this year, the Muehlbachs filed a suit involving Lindley Builders and the county



CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

**Jake Muehlbach explains the structural damage and building code violations to his Siler City home. He said some estimates say repairs would cost more than \$450,000.**

for the damages, but the county was granted governmental immunity in the case.

Governmental immunity applies to local governments across the state in civil suits, meaning they were not held accountable for the case.

In emails between Muehlbach and county officials, he says an email from the County's Director of Permitting and Inspections, David Camp, was accidentally forwarded to him.

"The framing issues appear to be fairly serious and this was done recently," the accidentally forwarded email said. "Obviously be careful of anything you say to the homeowner."

In a screenshot of another email, Camp said "[Muehlbach] keeps asking if his home is safe - what I can do is write him back and state as of the date that Larry investigated his home that he did not feel his home was unsafe - meaning that failure was not considered imminent or extremely likely to occur soon (weeks). I would also add that his home is likely to become unsafe prior to the expected useful age of the structure if the structural repairs are not done."

Muehlbach said he wants a proper investigation into Camp's employment and his role in the inspections process. Camp's role is overseen by the Chatham County Manager's Office.

"While we greatly empathize with the Muehlbach family and what they have endured in

**"We're out of options. There were issues throughout the build, but everything passed inspections. It doesn't add up."**

Jake Muehlbach,  
Siler City resident

this situation, the N.C. Courts found that Chatham County is not legally responsible," said Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne in a statement. "Therefore, dismissed the county from the lawsuit. The Courts ultimately ruled in favor of the Muehlbachs against Lindley Builders, Inc."

LaMontagne said Chatham County Central Permitting and Inspections responds to and investigates any complaint from an occupant/owner within a year of occupancy. He said this was the case for the Muehlbach residence.

"We have not received any additional complaints about the inspections by the employee involved, who has not been employed by Chatham County since September 2021," LaMontagne told the News + Record. "The Central Permitting and Inspections Department strives to ensure that qualified, State certified, staff are inspecting

buildings in Chatham County."

In the case, a judge ruled in favor of the Muehlbachs and awarded them \$225,000. The judge determined the builder breached its contract and warranty. That money, however, has still not been paid to the family by Lindley Builders and is now delinquent. Lindley Builders did not respond to requests for comment via email by publication.

Since the ruling, Lindley Builders has closed its business operations, and The Chatham County Sheriff's Office is seeking property to seize to satisfy the judgment.

Jake Muehlbach said even if they were given the money awarded by the judge, it still covers less than half of the damages his family has incurred in the process. With a combination of the previous estimates for rebuilding the home, legal fees, hiring private inspectors and contractors, Muehlbach estimates he's easily spent upward of \$500,000 on attempting to get justice.

"Why weren't we protected by the county?" Jake said. "There were so many opportunities, but they approved every inspection, waited until after we were living here, and now it's too late to do anything."

The Muehlbachs have also filed a complaint with the North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors. The board will hold a hearing about this incident later this

year.

Several people have suggested the family file through the N.C. Homeowners Recovery Fund, which provides compensation "which resulted from the dishonest or incompetent conduct of a licensed general contractor, or an unlicensed contractor who fraudulently represented himself or herself as being licensed."

Claims can be made for up to 10% of the total Recovery Fund balance. The current balance, however, is only about \$600,000. This means the Muehlbachs would only be eligible for up to \$60,000, which would not even cover the legal fees the family paid through this process.

"I went through the whole system, all these steps, all these safeguards in place, and now I'm at the end of my chain," Jake said.

The family said they are unsure of what they will do next, which is why they've turned to sharing their story as widely as possible in hopes of finding options. Jake Muehlbach said the lack of support and assistance from the legal system caused him to take his story to the court of public opinion.

"It shouldn't be on us to pack up and move," Muehlbach said. "The county and everyone else needs to be held accountable for the destruction they've caused me and my family."

In May, Muehlbach uploaded a 16-minute video detailing the injustices his family has faced. To date, the video has more than 20,000 views on YouTube. He's also uploaded snippets to other social media platforms, leading to hundreds of comments. Those messages have expressed shock and sympathy for the family.

"Absolutely insane. And still has to pay property taxes. THAT is a slap in the face," one commenter wrote. "This is absolutely insane," wrote another.

Since his story has gone public, Muehlbach said he still has not heard directly from the county or Lindley Builders.

The positive public response caused Anita and a family friend to start a GoFundMe to recoup some of the costs of repairs.

Jake Muehlbach said he hopes spreading his story can prevent similar issues from happening elsewhere in the county in the future.

## 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](http://NCBrightIdeas.com) for more information or to apply!



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Pittsboro NC 27312**

**\*\*RSVPs include light fare and non-alcoholic beverages\*\***



# Exemplary Sheriff's Office employees selected for May recognition

*Chatham County Sheriff's Office*

EVERY MONTH, Sheriff Mike Roberson acknowledges a Sworn and a Detention/Non-sworn employee of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office as "exemplary employees of the month."

The commendation is bestowed upon individuals who demonstrate exceptional performance, extraordinary dedication and service, team spirit, positive attitude, problem-solving skills and/or outstanding leadership.

In recognition of their achievement, Sheriff Roberson presents each honoree with a Gold Exemplary badge to be worn throughout the entire month.

Wesley Summers has been chosen as the Detention/Non-sworn exemplary employee for

May.

Summers is consistently positive and encouraging in all his interactions at the Chatham County Detention Center. He readily makes himself available to assist wherever he is needed, always without complaint, and takes pride in his ability to mentor and train other officers.

Even in high-stress situations, Summers remains composed, demonstrates excellent leadership skills, and sets an excellent example for his colleagues to emulate.

Investigator Tyler Bridges has been recognized as the agency's Sworn Exemplary Employee for May.

Throughout the month, Bridges demonstrated exceptional proficiency in collaborating with various agencies and successfully tracking down stolen property. He exhibited his expertise by drafting two search



COURTESY OF CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Left, Investigator Tyler Bridges is recognized as the CCSO's May Sworn Exemplary Employee. Right, Sheriff Mike Roberson presents Detention Officer Wesley Summers with the Gold Exemplary Employee badge.**

warrants for properties located in neighboring counties, and through effective communication with investigators from the

Harnett and Lee County Sheriff's Offices, Bridges coordinated the execution of those search warrants. Bridges' ability to de-

velop leads and valuable information in the case was a direct result of his painstaking review of numerous hours' worth of jail phone calls.

During those operations, Bridges was able to recover more than \$11,000 worth of stolen items. The victim involved in the case expressed great appreciation and gratitude for Bridges' diligent efforts in pursuing the investigation.

Bridges' contributions make him a valuable member of the investigations team. His commitment and thoroughness in handling each case he undertakes, regardless of the outcome, helps foster stronger connections within the community.

Bridges' dedication is evident in each case he works on, and victims greatly appreciate the tremendous effort he invests in each investigation.

# Local company Voith awards Panda Packs program at Pittsboro Elementary school \$1,000 #VoithCares donation

**Donation will provide food for "Panda Packs," take-home packages of food for students in need**

*Chatham News & Record*

PITTSBORO — Voith, a global technology company with a presence in Raleigh, N.C., is proud to award the Panda Packs program at Pittsboro Elementary School in Pittsboro, N.C. with a \$1,000 #VoithCares donation.

Through the help of volun-

teers, the Panda Packs program creates and distributes take-home bags of breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks for the week for students in need. The Voith-Cares donation will support this program for the next year.

"We are so thankful for this generous donation from Voith. Since the upheaval of the pandemic, the number of students in need of food support at Pittsboro Elementary School has significantly increased, and this donation will help us continue to meet that need," said Ashley Patterson, president of

Pittsboro Elementary School PTA and head of Panda Packs program. "Thank you to Voith for helping us fight food insecurity in our Pittsboro community."

The Panda Packs program at Pittsboro Elementary School was nominated for the Voith-Cares donation by Chase Gibson, who works as a Technical Sales Expert for Voith Paper. In his personal time, Gibson serves as a volunteer for the Panda Packs program.

"As a volunteer for this great program myself, it is special to

have a 7-year-old child come up to say thank you for providing them food for the week," Gibson said. "We prep the bags in a hallway where students come by and give hugs of thanks for the food. This donation sends a message that we work for a company that support families, not just employees, but also those in their community."

The VoithCares program was launched by Voith in 2022 as a way for the global technology company, which has three Group Divisions including Voith Hydro, Voith Turbo and

Voith Paper, to give back to the local communities where the businesses are located.

To be eligible, nonprofits must be nominated by Voith employees and must be an organization that the employee has personally volunteered with. Voith has selected 50 nonprofits around the world to receive VoithCares funding in the 2022/2023 fiscal year as a part of this annual program.

"VoithCares is our way of giving back to the nonprofits that our employees are most passionate about," said Sheryl Zapic, director of group communications at Voith North America. "We're a big company with global reach but, we're also a local company that really cares about our employees and communities."



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# OBITUARIES



## Barbara Jean Holder Williams

January 5, 1934 ~  
June 3, 2023

Barbara Jean Holder Williams, 89, of Siler City passed away on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at Randolph Hospice House.

Ms. Williams was born in Surry County on January 5, 1934, daughter of the late Carl C. and Rushia Bobbitt Holder. Barbara was the owner and operator of Barbara's Suburban Fashions in Siler City. She was a member of Oakley Baptist Church where she was involved with the Pauline Powers Sunday School Class, the church choir, and the Dig N' Hoe Garden Club. Barbara was active with the Women's Missionary Union and served as a Cub Scout leader. She also served on the board with Chatham Group Home and helped with the special Olympics. In her free time, Barbara enjoyed painting, arranging flowers, playing cards, singing, cooking, and crocheting. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde T. Williams; and siblings, Annie Ruth Holder Worth, Earl Wayne Holder, Mary Georgia Holder, Davis W. Holder, Otis W. Holder, Rufus C. Holder, Hobert E. Holder, Ray H. Holder, and Roy W. Holder.

Ms. Williams is survived by her sons, Mike C. Williams and wife Jacquie of Johnson City, Tenn., Clay Williams and wife Pam of Shackelfords, Va., and Eric A. Williams of Siler City; daughters, Debbie Wilkie and husband Ronnie of Goldston and Karen Payne and husband Kevin of Oakridge; nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

The family received friends on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, from 11 to 12 p.m. at Oakley Baptist Church of Siler City. Funeral services began at 12 p.m. with Dr. Jeff Johnson officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Oakley Baptist Church Cemetery Fund or to Hospice of Randolph County, 446 Vision Drive, Asheboro, N.C. 27203.



## Janet Mae Stuck King

June 1, 1943 ~ June 1, 2023

Janet Mae Stuck King, 80, of Pittsboro, died Thursday, June 1, 2023, at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice House.

Jan was born in Allegany County, Maryland on June 1, 1943, to the late James A. Stuck and Juanita Wigfield Stuck. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Albert King and one sister, Barbara Farrell.

Surviving relatives include two daughters, Donna L. Robosson and husband Clinton of Cumberland, Maryland, Bonnie Strowd of Pittsboro; four grandchildren, Amy Peck and husband Bob, Chris Collins and wife Danielle, Faith Dennis and husband Patrick, Olivia Strowd, and five great-grandchildren, Nick Davies, Madelyn Dennis, Charlotte Dennis, Miller Dennis, and Grayson Martz.

A memorial service was held Sunday, June 4, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Pittsboro Presbyterian Church with Rev. Evan Harrison presiding. Inurnment followed in the church columbarium.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Jan's memory to Pittsboro Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 713, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

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

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



## Terry Lynn Pell Thomas

April 10, 1948 ~ June 1, 2023

Terry Lynn Pell Thomas, 75, of Siler City, passed away Thursday, June 1, 2023, at her home.

She was born in Randolph County on April 10, 1948, to the late Clyde Durant and Betty Blanche Andrews Pell. Mrs. Thomas was a member of Emmaus Baptist Church. She was a graduate of Asheboro High School class of 1966. Terry worked as the front-end manager and scan analyst at Food Lion in Siler City for 30 years. During her free time, she liked to go shopping with her daughters and spend time with her grandchildren.

Terry is survived by her husband of 56 years, William "Buddy" Thomas; daughter, Ginger Teague and husband Jeffrey and their children, Peyton, Parker and Cooper Teague of Siler City; and daughter Julie Kiertekles and husband, Joe and their daughter Hailey Kiertekles of Apex; and one brother, Jeff Pell of Asheboro.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, June 4, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Emmaus Baptist Church, 2430 Silk Hope Gum Springs Road, Pittsboro; with Rev. Steve Moore officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Emmaus Baptist Church, Hospice of Randolph, or a Charity of your choice.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is serving the Thomas family.

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

## IRENE PAYNE

Ms. Irene Payne, 87, passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2023. Memorial services were held on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Tramway Baptist Church, with Rev. Jacob Peterson presiding. Visitation will follow afterwards in the fellowship hall.

The daughter of Coy Whitt and Beulah McMillian, she worked at M & M Novelty Co., and J.C. Penney, retiring after 29 years of service. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Henry Payne, her parents, and brothers, Bobby and Billy Whitt.

She is survived by sons, John, Jerry, and Jeff; six grandsons, four great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Opal Barton, Bonnie Payne, and Savannah Payne.

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

## WILLIAM (BILL) KENNETH WORK, JR.

April 2, 1956 ~ May 29, 2023

William (Bill) Kenneth Work, Jr., 67, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, May 29, 2023 at UNC Hospital.

The family received friends on Friday, June 2, 2023 from 5 until 7 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The funeral service was held on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Turner's Chapel Church with Pastor Patrick Neal officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was the son of the late William Kenneth Work, Sr., and Juanita Daines Work. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Mevelyn Bays. Bill was a retired skilled electrician.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Karin; daughters, Susan Castle of Maryland, Stephanie Whichard of Grimesland and Shelia Deese of Sanford; brother, Frank Work; sisters, Loraine Mullins and Cheryl Ballou, all of Idaho; half-brothers, Matthew Shope and Wesley Shope; and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Shriners Hospitals for Children, P.O. Box 947765, Atlanta, Ga. 30395.

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

## DIAROUS LEE GRIFFIN

September 22, 1950 ~ May 24, 2023

Diarous Lee Griffin, 72, of Fayetteville, passed away Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at his home.

Lee was born in Lee County, the son of the late Diarous Griffin "D.D." and Rachel Buchanan Griffin. He retired from Nationwide Insurance Company as an adjuster.

He is survived by his loving wife, Delores Griffin; brothers Darren Griffin of Charlotte, and Danny Griffin of Sanford.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 1 p.m. at Cool Springs Baptist Church Cemetery with Pastor Matt Martin officiating. The family received friends following the service.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to Cool Springs Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 1313 Cool Springs Road, Sanford, N.C. 27330. Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com).

## WADE "BUDDY" ALSON HOLT, JR.

July 5, 1933 ~ May 24, 2023

Wade "Buddy" Alson Holt, Jr., 89, of Siler City, passed away Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice House in Pittsboro.

Buddy was the son of Wade A. Holt, Sr. and Dorothy Willett Holt. In addition to his parents, Buddy was preceded in death by his wife, Annie Irene Cooper Holt. He was a custodian for the Chatham County School System.

Buddy is survived by his son, two daughters, three grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and four sisters.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at Bynum Methodist Church Cemetery, at 2 p.m., with Willie Pickard officiating. Online condolences may be made at [www.smithbucknerfh.com](http://www.smithbucknerfh.com).

## CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" WAYNE DEAL

May 27, 1981 ~ May 28, 2023

Christopher "Chris" Wayne Deal, 42, passed away Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Chris was the son of John Wayne Deal and Peggy Ann Richardson Deal. He was a machinist, having worked for Barnes Machine, Wilson Machine & Tool and Wind Solutions. He was preceded in death by his father,

He is survived by his mother, Peggy Richardson Deal; a sister, Tracy Deal Denkins; and brother, Joseph "Joe" Deal.

A memorial service was held Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Pastor Charlie Hickman officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the funeral home to assist with funeral expenses, Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, 600 West Main Street, Sanford, N.C. 27332. Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com).

## CAROL JEAN TAYLOR ALBRIGHT

December 13, 1950 ~ May 21, 2023

Carol Jean Taylor Albright, 72, of Mt. Gilead, passed away on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at her home.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 4, 2023 at High Falls Christian Church with Rev. Chris Wilson and Rev. Colton Moore presiding.

Carol was the daughter of William Taylor and Patricia Taylor Upchurch. She worked in banking for many years and was a previous Girl Scout leader. She retired from the Crisis Council of Troy as the executive director. She was preceded in death by her parents; step-father, Jimmy Upchurch; and brother, Parker Taylor.

She is survived by her husband, Don Albright, of the home; daughters, Shelly Parker of Biscoe and Lisa Phillips of Asheboro; sisters, Lynne Etta Saunders of Wilmington, Selena McDonald and Susan Wenda, both of Asheboro; brother, Dean Upchurch of Asheboro; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Carol to Highfalls Christian Church, 1159 NC Hwy 22, High Falls, N.C. 27259. Condolences may be offered online at [www.joycebradychapel.com](http://www.joycebradychapel.com).



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## SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

## Siler City Commissioners Board debates stormwater utility program

**The two-cent increase looks to increase services, county salaries**

By Taylor Heeden  
Chatham News & Record

SILER CITY — The board of commissioners met for its first meeting of the month, where they spent more than an hour and a half debating a proposed stormwater utility fee program. Engineering firm Freese & Nichols presented a study it completed on a proposed stormwater utility fee program the town of Siler City is hoping to establish in the next fiscal year.

The town utilizes the Public Works and Public Utilities Departments to manage stormwater issues including flooding, damaged roads and clogged drainage systems.

Flooding risks are especially prominent in Districts 1 and 2, both districts with higher populations of lower income and marginalized residents.

To address those issues, Town Manager Hank Raper and his staff looked to generate revenue without raising the tax rate on residents. Freese & Nichols were contract-

ed to examine best practices from surrounding communities to Siler City for addressing stormwater concerns.

The solution: a stormwater utility fee.

A stormwater utility fee is usually added to residents' utility bills and typically range from \$2 to \$8 per 3,100 square feet.

The study cited municipalities with stormwater utility programs qualified for more state and federal grants, which could quadruple the amount of money the town can use to address stormwater infrastructure.

However, some elected officials were concerned about implementing a stormwater utility program.

Mayor Chip Price voiced his opposition to including the proposed fee in the upcoming fiscal year's budget, citing what he believed was a "lack of transparency" in the process.

"Some of these questions we just got the answers to tonight," he said. "I don't feel comfortable passing a budget with something on it that the public hasn't had the chance to ask about."

**The stormwater fee program would generate enough revenue to pay for a leaf collecting truck, which Raper said would make a four-man job turn into a one-man job.**

Price also raised concerns for the amount of money he claimed was set aside in the budget for the program. He said there was \$500,000 set aside for stormwater, but in the proposed budget, the stormwater budget is \$188,380. There is a separate fund in the non-departmental budget, which would pay for a leaf collection truck.

Commissioner Curtis Brown said he wanted to wait for a more in-depth study on the stormwater program before allocating funds in the budget for a stormwater fee program.

In an interview with the News + Record on Tuesday, Raper said a study into the program could take years.

"This is like saying 'Until we pay for an asphalt condition survey, we can't pave the street,'" Raper said. "We've never paid for one of those, but we still pave streets."

Price said the presentation on Monday was the first time the board received some answers from Freese & Nichols.

Throughout the budget process, however, the town had four public workshop meetings where they discussed issues, including stormwater. Freese & Nichols gave a similar presentation to the board at the second workshop session. The town also held three community engagement meetings where residents could bring any concerns to the board and town administration.

Price and the commissioners didn't voice opposition to the fees at any point during those meetings. No members of the public, in-town residents or otherwise, approached the board in those meetings about stormwater or proposed stormwater fees.

The board took the allocation for the fee program out of the budget. Raper said he believes the decision could result in delays for fixing issues residents have voiced.

One of the biggest complaints brought to town staff, according to Raper, is the lack of leaf collection in town. The stormwater fee program would generate enough revenue to pay for a leaf collecting

truck, which Raper said would make a four-person job turn into a one-person job.

Raper said he has talked to several residents about the proposed stormwater fees, and people were receptive, and even supported implementing a stormwater utility fee.

"When they come in with an open mind and want to be educated about it, when they hear about it, they think it's a good thing," Raper said. "I have not had anybody who is coming in with an open mind come away saying this is a bad idea."

The stormwater utility fee, however, isn't just about buying a new leaf collecting truck; it's about moving Siler City in a direction toward progress and growth, Raper said.

With a new generation of residents coming to Siler City from Wolfsped and other economic opportunities, Raper said the stormwater utility program is a need.

"The problem is Siler City is stuck 30 years in the past, and we're trying to move 30 years forward," Raper said. "At the same time we're trying to figure out all the things that we need to accommodate the next generation of people coming here for Wolfsped, and you got people who show up to board meetings that are saying, 'No, we want it to stay like it was 30 years ago.' ... It makes it difficult."

## CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Amended budget could see property tax increases

**The two-cent increase looks to increase services, county salaries**

By Ben Rappaport  
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — Two cents may not sound like a groundbreaking amount of money. But, according to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, it's enough to increase the salaries of county employees, add new services and assist with staffing challenges.

At the board's meeting Monday night at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro, Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson presented an amended proposed budget.

The amendments to the budget included a two-cent ad valorem tax increase from 66.5 cents to 68.5 cents per \$100 of property evaluation.

"This is a difficult decision in complicated times — but absolutely essential," said Chatham Board of Commissioners Chairperson Karen Howard. "Taking this step is something that the Board felt it could directly impact to ensure that the County can keep these individuals and

continue to provide exceptional services to our flourishing community."

Under the proposed increase to 68.5 cents, a Chatham County resident with a home value of \$300,000 would see an annual increase of \$60 in their property tax bill. For a resident with a home value of \$600,000, the proposed increase would lead to a \$120 increase in their property tax bill.

According to a statement from the county, the tax increase will allow the County to keep the allotted 7% pay increase for employee pay raises, while also providing an additional \$4,400 pay increase for each employee. Like the proposed 7% increase, the additional \$4,400 pay increase is available to all permanent employees who meet or exceed expectations according to their annual review. The \$4,400 amount will be prorated based on full-time equivalency.

The amended budget also adds a full-time Elections Systems Technician position to the Chatham County Board of Elections, which was a request of the elections board during budget public hearings in May.

The new budget proposes a total budget of \$180.3 million,

**The new budget proposes a total budget of \$180.3 million, an increase from the initial proposal of \$177.4 million.**

an increase from the initial proposal of \$177.4 million.

The amendments were agreed upon by four of five commissioners. David Delaney, however, disagreed with the amendments because the new budget did not fund the full request of the Chatham County Board of Elections.

In a budget public hearing in May, members of the elections board sought a pay increase and funding for the new elections technician position. The proposed amended budget only funds the new position, not the salary increase. Delaney said he would not approve a budget without the salary increase for the elections staff.

Elections board members said a salary increase is needed to keep elections fair and efficient in the county. They said without adequate pay for elections staff, the BOE will struggle

to recruit and retain hires.

Other commissioners, however, disagreed with Delaney's assessment of the funding. They argued that if the elections office saw a salary increase, departments across the county on a similar employment structure would also have to see an increased salary.

"It's not our place to decide the budgets of individual departments," Howard said.

Delaney argued, however, that there is statewide statutory authority for the board of elections to oversee hiring, which is unique to this department. If Delaney and the BOE's request was fulfilled, it would cost the county just more than \$20,000 for the single department request. If the pay scale were adjusted for all departments at the same rate, however, it would cost the county an estimated \$1.95 million.

Commissioners also sought additional amendments to the new proposal including an exploration of how an increase to the salaries of the County Manager, Register of Deeds, Sheriff's Office, and the Board of Commissioners would impact the county.

These amendments will be taken into consideration, and

a new proposed budget will be presented before the expected final vote on the budget at the June 20 meeting. State law requires the Board to approve the budget no later than June 30.

SUBHED: OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioners heard an update from White & Smith LLC, the consultants on the Plan Moncure small area plan. The team shared data from community surveys and meetings and explained their processes for scenario planning.

"Our role is to empower others to make more informed decisions about their future," said Matt Noonkester, a consultant who led the scenario planning research for Moncure. "Every scenario we laid out is a series of tradeoffs and none of them are the golden ticket."

No action was taken on this item. The Plan Moncure team expects to plan further community meetings in August, with preliminary approvals of various aspects of the plan occurring throughout the summer. For more information visit <https://www.recodechathamnc.org/planmoncure>.

The next scheduled Chatham Board of Commissioners meeting is at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. The regular session will begin at 6 p.m.

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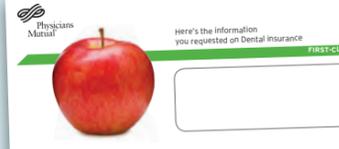
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# TAKE NOTICE

## CHATHAM

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
The undersigned, having qualified on the 2nd day of May, 2023, as Executor of the Estate of Charlie Casper, 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 18th day of August, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
This 11th day of May, 2023.  
Paul A. Gasparides, Executor of the Estate of Charlie Casper.  
Post Office Box 57579  
Durham, North Carolina 27717  
Jason E. Spain  
Kennon Craver, PLLC  
4011 University Drive, Suite 300  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23 E 33  
Any persons having claims against the estate of CARL BRYANT, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to present them on or before the 18th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 11th day of May, 2023.  
Juanita T. Washington, Executrix  
164 American Ave  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of ROBERT R. RUSSELL, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said decedent or his estate to present them to her at 324 Graham Moore Road, Staley, NC 27355 on or before the 18th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.  
All of those indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.  
This the 11th day of May, 2023.  
Bonita D. Russell, Executrix of the Estate of ROBERT R. RUSSELL  
324 Graham Moore Road  
Staley, NC 27355  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23 E 244  
Any persons having claims against the estate of FRANCES W. MENDENHALL, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to present them on or before the 18th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 18th day of May, 2023.  
LARRY I. MENDENHALL, Executor  
4791 Forest Oaks Dr.  
Greensboro, NC 27406  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23 E 276  
Any persons having claims against the estate of DORIS HASTY BARRON, of Chatham County, N.C. are notified to present them on or before the 18th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 18th day of May, 2023.  
VANCE BARRON, JR., Executor  
2204 Pinecrest Rd.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
2023 E 000277  
Any persons having claims against the estate of VICKIE DALE CLINE, of Chatham County, N.C. are notified to present them on or before the 18th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 18th day of May, 2023.  
TERRY CLINE HARRINGTON, Executor  
147 Doggone Road  
Siler City, NC 27344  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Cynthia Wagner Kahler, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before August 18th, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 18th day of May, 2023.  
David T. Kahler, Executor  
Estate of Cynthia Wagner Kahler  
c/o Roberson Law Firm  
1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Ancillary Estate of DIXIE SUGG, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned card of Kimberly A. Herrick, Mills Law, PA., Post Office Box 528, Concord, N.C. 28026-0528, on or before the 16th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations owing said Estate are hereby notified that they must make prompt payment or suite will be brought.  
This the 18th day of May, 2023.  
Kimberly A. Herrick, Administrator CTA  
of the Ancillary Estate of Dixie Sugg  
P.O. Box 528  
Concord, NC 28026  
Mills Law, PA.  
49 Means Avenue SE  
Concord, North Carolina 28026-0528  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Ancillary Estate of DIXIE SUGG, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned card of Kimberly A. Herrick, Mills Law, PA., Post Office Box 528, Concord, N.C. 28026-0528, on or before the 16th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations owing said Estate are hereby notified that they must make prompt payment or suite will be brought.  
This the 18th day of May, 2023.  
Kimberly A. Herrick, Administrator CTA  
of the Ancillary Estate of Dixie Sugg  
P.O. Box 528  
Concord, NC 28026  
Mills Law, PA.  
49 Means Avenue SE  
Concord, North Carolina 28026-0528  
My18, My25, Jn1, Jn8, 4tc

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The tentative budget meeting for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 for The Goldston Gulf Sanitary District was presented to the Goldston Gulf District Sanitary District Board on May 2, 2023 and is available for public inspection at the Goldston Gulf Sanitary District, J R Moore and Son Store located in Gulf and/or the Goldston Public Library.  
A public hearing will be held on June 20, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Goldston Town Hall Building in Goldston, NC at which time any persons who wish to be heard on the budget may appear.  
Danny Scott, Treasurer  
Board of Directors  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
All persons having claims against William R. Sadler (aka William Rutherford Sadler, hereinafter "William R. Sadler") of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 12th day of April, 2023, are notified to present them to David R. Frankstone, Executor of the Estate of William R. Sadler in c/o Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A., Attorneys for the Estate, 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before August 30, 2023. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of William R. Sadler. Those indebted to William R. Sadler are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.  
David R. Frankstone  
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, PA.  
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203  
Exchange West at Meadowmont  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
All persons having claims against Geraldine Snider Laport of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 7th day of March, 2023, are notified to present them to Elicia Laport, Executrix of the Estate of Geraldine Snider Laport in c/o Dean Broz, 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before September 1, 2023. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executrix, and the devisees of Geraldine Snider Laport. Those indebted to Geraldine Snider Laport are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.  
Dean Broz  
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, PA.  
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203  
Exchange West at Meadowmont  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

LEGAL NOTICE  
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of DONALD R. SIMPSON, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the attorneys for the estate as set forth below, on or before the 29th day of August, 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 25th day of May, 2023.  
Perry S. Simpson, Personal Representative of the Estate of DONALD R. SIMPSON  
Mark D. Vaughn and Spenser McNeill Combs, Attorneys for the Estate  
CLARKE, PIFFER, VAUGHN, BRENNER & McNEILL, PLLC  
135 Applecross Road  
Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
All persons having claims against Doris Theodore Poole of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 23rd day of March, 2023, are notified to present them to David R. Frankstone, Executor of the Estate of Doris Theodore Poole in c/o Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A., Attorneys for the Estate, 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before September 1, 2023. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Doris Theodore Poole. Those indebted to Doris Theodore Poole are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.  
David R. Frankstone  
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, PA.  
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203  
Exchange West at Meadowmont  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23 E 165  
Any persons having claims against the estate of JEAN FULCHER FESPERMAN of Chatham County, N.C. are notified to present them on or before the 25th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 25th day of May, 2023.  
John E. Fesperman, Administrator CTA  
589 Ebenezer Church Road  
State Road, NC 28676  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MICHAEL STEVEN THUMA  
CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO. 2023 E 290  
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against Michael Steven Thuma deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before August 27, 2023 or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 25th day of May, 2023.  
Lisa McCleary, Administrator  
1410 Bishop Point  
Athens, GA 30606  
Attorney, Daniel B. Finch  
Envisage Law  
2601 Oberlin Road, Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27608  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Elizabeth Seymour Zimmerman late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on December 18, 2022, are hereby notified to present them to Larry Gordon Powell, III, who qualified as Administratrix on March 2nd, 2023 in care of the undersigned attorney at her address on or before August 25, 2023 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the deceased, please make immediate payment.  
This 23rd day of May, 2023  
Larry Gordon Powell, III, Administratrix  
C/o Janet H. McLamb, Attorney  
The Howell Building  
1526 E Franklin St Suite 202  
Chapel Hill NC 27514  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Elizabeth Seymour Zimmerman late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on December 18, 2022, are hereby notified to present them to Larry Gordon Powell, III, who qualified as Administratrix on March 2nd, 2023 in care of the undersigned attorney at her address on or before August 25, 2023 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the deceased, please make immediate payment.  
This 23rd day of May, 2023  
Larry Gordon Powell, III, Administratrix  
C/o Janet H. McLamb, Attorney  
The Howell Building  
1526 E Franklin St Suite 202  
Chapel Hill NC 27514  
My25, Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 4tc

### Moncure Fire Dept Annual Meeting

The Moncure Fire Department will be holding its annual meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023 at Moncure Fire Dept Station #8, 2389 Old US 1, Moncure NC 27559. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm and cover the state of the Fire Department, financial report, and Board of Directors elections. If you reside in the Moncure Fire District and are a taxpayer, you are a member and invited to attend.  
Jn1, Jn8, 2tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23E226  
Any persons having claims against the estate of THERESA CRUMP JACKSON of Chatham County, N.C. are notified to present them on or before the 30th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 1st day of June, 2023.  
Shuranda Smith, Administrator  
P O Box 385  
367 Wimberly Rd  
Moncure, NC 27559  
Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23 E 275  
Any persons having claims against the estate of ZINA B. QUINN of Chatham County, N.C. are notified to present them on or before the 30th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 1st day of June, 2023.  
Nancy Quinn, Executrix  
550 Tall Oaks Rd  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
22 E 393  
Any persons having claims against the estate of FLEETA PRICE of Chatham County, N.C. are notified to present them on or before the 30th day of August, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This the 1st day of June, 2023.  
Norma E. Boone, Administrator  
701 Siler Street  
Siler City, NC 27344  
Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, 4tp

### Notice of Hearings, Town of Siler City

The following item will be considered by the Siler City Planning Commission on Monday, June 12, 2023. The hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Siler City Court Room of the Siler City Town Hall at 311 N. 2nd Ave. The items will also be heard by the Town Council for Siler City on June 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Siler City Court Room of the Siler City Town Hall located at 311 N. 2nd Ave.  
Legislative Hearings  
R23-0601 – Rezoning of three tracts from Heavy-Industrial (H – I) and Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Highway Commercial (H-C), parcels totaling 43.023 acres ±, addressed as 415 Stockyard Road (parcel number 13042), 18737 US 64 W (parcel number 79705), 163 Stockyard Road (parcel number 13043) and unaddressed Ellington Road (parcel number 79441), and being the properties of Mid-State Development Center, LLC, represented by Mark Ashness.  
R23-0602 – Rezoning of five tracts from Office-Institutional/Conditional O-C to Neighborhood Business (B-I-C), parcels totaling 10.812 acres ±, addressed as unaddressed Village Lake Road (parcel number 80718), 1100 Village Lake Road (parcel number 80719), unaddressed Siler Business Drive (parcel number 80720), unaddressed Village Lake Road (parcel number 80721), and unaddressed Siler Business Drive (parcel number 80724), and being the properties of Rudra Siler City, LLC, represented by Courtney McQueen of Qunity Engineering, Inc.  
The proposed item is available for review by contacting Jennifer C. Baptiste at jcbaptiste@silercity.org or 919-726-8626. All persons interested in the outcome of the item are invited to attend the legislative hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item.  
These are separate hearings: Interested parties may submit evidence and written comments. Written comments or evidence on these applications can be submitted by email to jcbaptiste@silercity.org. Individuals desiring to speak must sign up by calling 919-726-8626 before 12:00 p.m. on or before the scheduled public hearing date.  
The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings.  
This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Tammy Thomas at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or thomas@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Tammy Thomas at thomas@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de algamiento para esta solicitud.  
Jn1, Jn8, Jn15, 3tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against MARION FONSECA, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before September 12, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 1st day of June, 2023.  
Arita Fonseca-Fiks, Exec.  
c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of Dorothy C. Harris, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of September, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.  
This the 30th day of May, 2023.  
Michael Lynn Harris, Executor of the Estate of Dorothy C. Harris  
862 Moon Lindley Road  
Snow Camp, North Carolina 27349  
Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23 E 292  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against RALPH WAYNE KENNEDY, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before September 12, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 8th day of June, 2023.  
Karen H. Byrd, Executrix

101 Salem Towne Court

Apex, NC 27502  
Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tp

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, 1192 US 64W Business, Pittsboro NC 27312. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://www.chathamcountync.gov) by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:  
1. A legislative public hearing requested by Sean McCall representing Manns Chapel II LLC to amend the Watershed Protection Map for property located at 11399 US 15-501 (parcels 2641 and 2642) to revise the boundary between the WS-IV Protected Area and WS-II Balance of Watershed districts.  
Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.  
Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided.  
If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.  
Jn8, Jn15, 2tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator of the Estate of John Elliott Dawson late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of September, 2023.  
This the 31st day of May, 2023.  
Mary Holland, Administrator of the Estate of John Elliott Dawson  
400 Short Road  
Outchogue, NY 11935  
Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee  
Attorneys at Law  
Box 629  
Siler City, North Carolina 27344  
(919) 663-2850  
Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against STEPHANIE HALL SCHOPPE, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before September 12, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 8th day of June, 2023.  
Marc Andre Schoppe, Executor

5 Fallen Oak Court

Durham, NC 27713

Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against CHARLIE HERBERT OLDHAM, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before September 10, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 8th day of June, 2023.  
Jeffrey Todd Oldham, Administrator CTA

5777 Hwy 42

Bear Creek, NC 27207

Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23 E 318  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against GALE C. PAIRE deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before September 10, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 8th day of June, 2023.  
Leslie C. Hunt, Executrix

320 E. Dameron Ave.

Liberty, NC 27298

Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
23 E 312  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against CLIFFORD ARLENDO HINSHAW, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before September 10, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 8th day of June, 2023.  
Brian Hinshaw, Administrator

123 Wright Hill Drive

Durham, NC 27712

Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of JAMES H. BOWEN, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 8th day of September, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.  
This 8th day of June, 2023.  
JUDITH L. BOWEN, EXECUTRIX  
ESTATE OF JAMES H. BOWEN  
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC  
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Jn8, Jn15, Jn22, Jn29, 4tc

### Town of Siler City Notice of Lis Pendens

To: All Heirs, Known and Unknown of Mary Ann Alston, Paul O. Alston, Lovelia Edwards, Catherine Debose, Elaine Knight, Christopher Knight, Thalia M. Jackson, Bernard P. Samuels, Gwendolyn P. Samuels, Gwendolyn P. Williams, Robert E. Samuels, Charles R. Samuels, Michael L. Samuels, William Bernard Samuels. The Town has filed a Notice of Lis Pendens with the Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court pursuant to N.C.G.S. 1-120.2. The ordinance enforcement proceeding pending before the Town Code Enforcement Officer is for violations of the Town Code of Ordinances under Chapter Buildings, Article IV, Minimum Housing Standards. The real property affected by this ordinance enforcement proceeding is described as 911 12th St. and Tax Parcel Number 16620. The subject finding of fact order in said ordinance enforcement proceeding shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the owners of (including heirs) and the parties in interest in the subject dwelling. The Notice of Lis Pendens shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. A copy of the Notice of Lis Pendens can be obtained by contacting the Town's Code Enforcement Officer at 919-726-8665 or [cgallimore@silercity.org](mailto:cgallimore@silercity.org).  
Jn8, 1tc

### Town of Siler City Notice of Lis Pendens

To: All Heirs, Known and Unknown of Mary Ann Alston, Paul O. Alston, Lovelia Edwards, Catherine Debose, Elaine Knight, Christopher Knight, Thalia M. Jackson, Bernard P. Samuels, Gwendolyn P. Samuels, Gwendolyn P. Williams, Robert E. Samuels, Charles R. Samuels, Michael L. Samuels, William Bernard Samuels. The Town has filed a Notice of Lis Pendens with the Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court pursuant to N.C.G.S. 1-120.2. The ordinance enforcement proceeding pending before the Town Code Enforcement Officer is for violations of the Town Code of Ordinances under Chapter 8 Buildings, Article IV, Minimum Housing Standards. The real property affected by this ordinance enforcement proceeding is described as 1113 12th St. and Tax Parcel Number 16726. The subject finding of fact order in said ordinance enforcement proceeding shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the owners of (including heirs) and the parties in interest in the subject dwelling. The Notice of Lis Pendens shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. A copy of the Notice of Lis Pendens can be obtained by contacting the Town's Code Enforcement Officer at 919-726-8665 or [cgallimore@silercity.org](mailto:cgallimore@silercity.org).  
Jn8, 1tc

### Town of Siler City Findings of Fact And Order Notice

To: All Heirs, Known and Unknown of Mary Ann Alston, Paul O. Alston, Lovelia Edwards, Catherine Debose, Elaine Knight, Christopher Knight, Thalia M. Jackson, Bernard P. Samuels, Gwendolyn P. Samuels, Gwendolyn P. Williams, Robert E. Samuels, Charles R. Samuels, Michael L. Samuels, William Bernard Samuels. Take notice that an administrative hearing took place on May 16, 2023 at City Hall in Siler City, NC regarding the dwelling located at 911 12th St., also identified as Chatham County Tax Parcel Number 16620. The dwelling located at the property described above is found to be in violation of the Town's Minimum Housing Standards. A public necessity exists to order the demolition and removal of the subject dwelling. A copy of the Finding of Fact and Order can be obtained by contacting the Town's Code Enforcement Officer at 919-726-8665 or [cgallimore@silercity.org](mailto:cgallimore@silercity.org).  
June 8, 1tc

### Town of Siler City Administrative Hearing Notice

To: All Heirs, Known and Unknown of Mary Ann Alston, Paul O. Alston, Lovelia Edwards, Catherine Debose, Elaine Knight, Christopher Knight, Thalia M. Jackson, Bernard P. Samuels, Gwendolyn P. Samuels, Gwendolyn P. Williams, Robert E. Samuels, Charles R. Samuels, Michael L. Samuels. Take notice that an administrative hearing will take place in meeting room 225A/225B of City Hall at 311 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City, NC at 10:00 am on May 16, 2023 regarding enforcing the Town's Minimum Housing Code against the dwelling located at 911 12th St., also identified as Chatham County Tax Parcel Number 16620. The dwelling located at the property described above has been deemed unsafe and unfit for human habitation due to abandonment, dilapidation, conditions creating a fire hazard or accident, attraction of insects or rodents, and conditions rendering the dwelling detrimental to health, safety, morals and welfare of the residents of the Town. A public necessity exists for the demolition of the subject dwelling. Any person or party wishing to submit a plan for corrective actions of the structure is invited to the hearing to provide the details of said plan, or to explain why the Town should not enforce its Code against the subject dwelling. If you have any questions, please contact the Town's Code Enforcement Officer at 919-726-8665 or [cgallimore@silercity.org](mailto:cgallimore@silercity.org).  
Jn8, 1tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

# Bonlee Spring Fling celebrates well-earned end of school year

From Chatham County Schools

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 2, Bonlee School hosted a Spring Fling to celebrate the 2022-23 academic year. There was an inflatable obstacle course, an inflatable slide and an inflatable jousting rink, in addition to a life-size connect four game. All K-8 students enjoyed the activities during the school day and were invited back to have fun with their families from 5-7 pm. For the evening, Inflate-A-Party out of Apex add-

ed a foam thrower that was the biggest hit of all. Students and their families were able to cool off in a mountain of foam. Pete Da Heat and Dog to Bun food trucks provided delicious meals and refreshing drinks. Principal Nikki Murchison stated, "Bonlee is blessed to have a PTA that is very supportive of our students and staff. Bonlee's PTA funded all of the activities, staff and parents provided supervision and the students had a blast. It was a joy to see our students having so much fun after a week of end-of-grade testing."

**"Bonlee is blessed to have a PTA that is very supportive of our students and staff."**

Nikki Murchison



COURTESY OF CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

Children laugh as they play a game of Tug-of-War at Bonlee Elementary School's Spring Fling.

# Chatham County Board of Education recognizes community members, agrees on new Northwood High School sign

By Valeria Cloës  
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Education met at 5:30 p.m. on June 5 at the new Chatham County Schools Central Services Office in the Board Room to recognize student-athletes and parents, give out awards, and discuss other pertinent matters.

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to recognizing student-athletes who excelled at their sport, including, golf, track and field, and lacrosse. The board took time to read out the names of the parents of the Parent Advisory Committee who have given suggestions and ideas to improve the district.

Transitioning to their next topic, Michelle Burton, executive director for Secondary Education & CTE, and Delisha Hinton, Wolfsped relationship manager for K-12 & Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, conducted a joint presentation explaining the efforts both companies have made in their collaboration.

Wolfsped and CCS's partnership aims to inform Chatham County students on the educational and career tracks available to them thanks to



COURTESY OF CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

**Delisha Hinton, Wolfsped relationship manager (left) and Michelle Burton, executive director of secondary education and CTE (right) presented updates to the Chatham County Board of Education in Pittsboro on Monday night.**

Wolfspeds growing job market, especially with its new John Palmour Manufacturing Center for Silicon Carbide.

Following two public comments, the latter portion of the meeting focused on the BOE's Action Items. These brought about the most discussion and questions from the board.

The first resolution was to approve policy updates regarding Professional and Staff De-

velopment, Dual Enrollment and Teleworking, among other policies. This resolution was unanimously approved.

The second resolution, presented by Assistant Superintendent Chris Blice, introduced the design for the new Northwood High School sign, which its right side would include a digital display visible on both sides, and its left side will include a more modernized logo of the

school name.

Vice Board Chair Del Turner raised concerns regarding maintaining components of the original sign, built by brick masons who had attended the school. She said it was important to keep and honor Chathamites' work with the surging changes to Chatham County population.

Blice said that while part of the original sign will be demolished (the current lettering, top circle Chargers sign and left insert were bought by a third company, not built by the masons), the original masonry of the planter on the bottom right will be kept.

To remedy this further, Wilson proposed adding a plaque commemorating the significance and work of the masons to the original masonry on the new sign.

"Thank you, sister," Turner said. With this resolution discussed, the board agreed unanimously to accept the resolution pending final attorney approval with an additional commemorative plaque to construction plans.

Finally, the board discussed the resolution to pledge to prioritize public school funding to the 2023-2025 biennium bud-

**"The resolution before you tonight speaks to, again, advocating for a respectable wage for teachers."**

Superintendent  
Anthony Jackson

get in light of the recent Senate bill.

"The resolution before you tonight speaks to, again, advocating for a respectable wage for teachers," Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said. "As well as a pathway for continuing to ensure that public resources are used on public schools to support and to continue to support the needs of public schools, and specifically stating some concern about the new opportunity scholarships that are being promoted at the state level to go to non-public schools for the students."

Again, this resolution was agreed upon unanimously by the board.

The next BOE meeting will be at noon on Thursday, June 29.

# NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature makes the case for older adults

By Jimmy Lewis  
From Chatham County Council on Aging

SILER CITY — In North Carolina, the percentage of adults over the age of 65 will soon surpass the percentage of minor children.

This inflection point has already arrived in Chatham County.

For Robin Leto and David Marty, their mission is direct but detailed: Advocate on behalf of a growing population that still battles to have its voice heard in the General Assembly.

Such has been the 30-year mission of the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature (NCSTHL), which is a state-wide congress of older adults that convenes three times a year to study issues facing the older adult population and draft legislative recommendations to present to the General Assembly.

Leto, Chatham County's delegate to the NCSTHL, and Marty, Chatham's alternate delegate, presented a brief historical overview of the body along with

the group's top five legislative priorities for the 2023-24 session at a 30th-anniversary celebration for the NCSTHL last week at the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City.

Developed in 1993 with the passage of Senate Bill 479, the NCSTHL allows for each of North Carolina's 100 counties to appoint one volunteer delegate to the body and designate an alternate, if they so choose, for a two-year term. Participants in the NCSTHL must be 60 years of age or over and residents of their represented county. The selection of delegates is facilitated by North Carolina's Area Agencies on Aging, including the Triangle J Council of Governments.

Since the launch of NCSTHL in 1993, the nonpartisan body has supported the passage of 11 bills into law. While it is a unicameral setup and not empowered with actual legislative abilities, the composition of NCSTHL was designed to mimic the General Assembly.

"When you join this group, you realize the organization

**"I think it really came to our attention during COVID just how crucial socialization is for everybody, especially for older people maybe living alone."**

Robin Leto

and the way things are done are not unlike what you'd see in the North Carolina House," Marty reviewed.

In October 2022, the NCSTHL finalized its top five legislative priorities to present to the General Assembly for the 2023-24 session. Among these are the allocation of an additional \$8 million in recurring funds for Adult Protective Services to address staff shortages, the increase of Senior Center General Purpose Appropriation by \$1,265,316, the additional allocation of \$8 million in recurring funds for the Home and

Community Care Block Grant, an additional \$1.5 million in recurring funds for 11 additional long-term care ombudsmen to serve as advocates for residents of long-term care facilities and the strengthening of long-term care staffing standards to include certified nursing assistants, or CNAs.

Leto stressed that the current amount designated for senior centers was not reflective of the growing older adult population across North Carolina as NCSTHL called for the appropriation to be doubled. She pushed back on the misconception that senior centers exist merely as "clubs" for the 60-and-over population.

"We all know what senior centers add to our lives," Leto said. "Some people just think they are clubs for older people, but they are much, much more than that. Senior centers provide so many things, including meals, activities, wellness programs and socialization. I think it really came to our attention during COVID just how crucial socialization is for everybody, especially for old-

er people maybe living alone."

Leto, who served as a nursing home inspector during her professional career, emphasized the need for the strengthening of staffing standards in long-term care facilities. While there are a minimum number of hours that registered nurses and licensed practical nurses must staff nursing homes in North Carolina, no such requirements are in place for certified nursing assistants.

"They really do most of the hands-on care for residents in nursing homes," Leto said of CNAs. "There is no minimum number of hours that they need for taking care of the residents. I've seen nursing assistants frequently who have 13 people to take care of who need total care."

Currently, North Carolina ranks eighth nationally in the amount of its population 65 years of age and over. In 2022, the North Carolina State Demographer's Office observed that Chatham County ranked 10th in the percentage of its 65-and-over population, with 28.2% of its residents classified as such.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts, www.learnaboutland.com - 919-362-6999 Jy2,tfn

### RENTALS, APARTMENTS

POWELL SPRINGS APTS. Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older. 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being 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,tfn

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,tfn

### AUTO FOR SALE

2007 IMPALA. Good condition. Call 919-542-2072. My25,tfn

RV FOR SALE

RV for sale. Damen Daybreak 2000. 75,000 miles, runs great, good tires, good air conditioner, good generator. \$10,000. Financing available. 919-828-2427. Jn8,tfn

### 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,tfn

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.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, J6,tfn

### SERVICES

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

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

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

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,tfn

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

### HELP WANTED

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,tfn

# CCCC holds Health and Professional Services Programs graduation

Central Carolina  
Community College

SANFORD – Approximately 170 people are the most recent graduates of the Central Carolina Community College's Division of Workforce Development Continuing Education Health and Professional Services Programs, which held its graduation on June 1 at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center.

The certificate areas include Cardiovascular Monitor Technician, Introduction to Sonography, Medical Math, Nurse Aide I, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, and Rehabilitation Technician.

Amerie Ussery, a College and Career Promise (CCP) Nurse Aide I Lee County student, was one of the student speakers. "I certainly can say that taking CCP courses really paved the way for my future. Starting off, I knew I wanted to do something in the medical field but I wasn't quite sure. After taking a couple of classes online through CCP, I knew my heart was set on helping people in the medical field," said Ussery. "All in all, this class was an amazing experience especially because you got to do hands-on learning and go to real world clinical settings. Meeting new people and lifelong friends is another



COURTESY PHOTO

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

great thing that I found myself having after this class."

Nurse Aide I Chatham County student Jeily Espinal also was a student speaker. "My one thing I hope you will remember is to never give

up, and though you have obstacles in your path, with your resilience and dedication you can get through anything," she said. "I want to thank my classmates from the bottom of my heart for encouraging each

other to get things done, and always show compassion to everyone you come across, to my instructor for not giving up on me, the coordinator for truly caring about her students and colleagues, and my fam-

**"I certainly can say that taking CCP courses really paved the way for my future."**

Amerie Ussery

ily for supporting me enough to where I know I can do anything I put my heart and mind to. And believe me -- everything happens for a reason, and you get to choose to stay down or get up and let it make you stronger."

Dr. Jon Matthews, CCCC Harnett Provost, had the welcoming remarks.

Introduction of Faculty was by Jason Haskins, CCCC Director of Health and Professional Services Programs. He also led the Health Occupations' Pledge.

Margaret Roberton, CCCC Vice President for Workforce Development, introduced the student speakers.

The presentation of students was by Dr. Kristi Short, CCCC Vice President/Chief Academic Officer.

CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman presented certificates to the graduates.

Greg Singleton, CCCC Dean of Workforce & Continuing Education programs, had closing remarks.

PLANNING from page A1

"When the planning board deliberated this, they did not really elaborate on their decision," Baptiste told the board. "They just stated that they found it [Everest Park] was inconsistent with the area."

There would be several districts within Everest Park, with some dedicated to housing and others dedicated to commercial and retail space.

Almost 18 acres are going to be set aside for the commercial district, with some retail spaces having apartments on the upper floors. The commercial district would also have a gas station or a convenience store, according to the rezoning application.

Another 77 acres are slated to house almost 430 single-family homes and would include buffers and park space. The other 194 acres will be used to create a senior living community for people who are 55 years old and over. The proposed gated community would house 295 townhomes and a senior living center, as well as two community centers, open spaces and stormwater control ponds.

However, the land Everest Park is set to be on is designated to be Rural Residential, which according to the rezoning application is "areas of very low-density development that are either environmentally-sensitive or are located beyond the anticipated utility service area of the town."

The goals for rural residential land are:

- Limit the impacts of development on the environment
- Promote sustainability
- Improve the appearance of properties

- Permit residential development at a density in keeping with the rural characteristics in the town
- Limit town provision of public infrastructure in rural areas
- Encourage agricultural use of land
- Encourage efficient use of transportation

Siler City's planning board voted six to two in favor of denying the rezoning request for Everest Park, citing the plans for the mixed-use development didn't match the Land Use Plan's designation for the parcels.

"Normally, I want to mirror what the planning board recommends," Mayor Pro Tem Bill Haiges said at the May 15 meeting. "But in this case, I'm interested to know why the board recommended denying the applicant."

Baptiste said the planning board didn't cite a specific reason for the recommendation, other than the proposed rezoning request wouldn't adhere to the land use plan. She did say, however, if the board of commissioners felt the new development would help fulfill the newly established strategic plan, they could amend the land use plan to accommodate Everest Park.

## VinFast to go public under new merger, rescinds IPO

By Ben Rappaport  
Chatham News & Record

MONCURE — VinFast will make its public market debut faster after withdrawing its initial public offering. The company will now enter a Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) agreement, which is when a company is "without commercial operations and is formed strictly to raise capital through an initial public offering (IPO) for the purpose of acquiring or merging with an existing company," according to Investopedia.

The SPAC agreement includes a merger with Black Spade Acquisition Co. VinFast's U.S. stock shares will be traded publicly through Black Spade from this agreement.

The company anticipates raising more than \$20 billion through the SPAC. That funding is expected to pay for the construction of its new Moncure facility.

The now-withdrawn IPO, which was originally announced in December 2022, included a proposed nine-bank syndication behind the deal, according to company filings.

The SPAC agreement is not yet effective, according to the let-



COURTESY OF CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

**Executives of VinFast and Black Spade Acquisition Co. after agreeing to a new merger of the two companies. Photo courtesy of VinFast**

ter from VinFast to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

"The Company is seeking withdrawal of the Registration Statement because it has entered into a business combination agreement with Black Spade Acquisition Co and intends to file a new registration statement on Form F-4 in connection with the proposed business combination," the VinFast letter said. "The Registration Statement has not been declared effective by the Commission and no securities have been issued

or sold under the Registration Statement."

VinFast's move to list via a SPAC follows several other EV companies such as Microvast, Faraday Future, Nikola and Lucid, according to a CNBC report about the company's plans.

SPACs are seen as a quick route to the stock market, particularly for auto technology firms, and have proven popular with investors seeking Tesla-like stock valuations — although the valuation of merged firms often falls in the months after listing, the report stated.

### Community Forum Town of Siler City Commissioner District 3

The Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners recently adopted a Strategic Plan.

One of the strategic priorities is to enhance community engagement.

The Town of Siler City is inviting the public to attend an informal community forum to share community projects, questions, comments, and concerns.

Forum Date:  
Thursday, June 8, 2023

Forum Time:  
6:00pm

Forum Location:  
Siler City Presbyterian Church  
(Fellowship Hall)  
720 West Third Street

Since this is a public meeting, a quorum of the Board of Commissioners may be present, but no town business will be conducted.

If you have any questions, please contact Jack Meadows  
Community Development Director @  
919-726-8627 or  
jmeadows@silercity.org

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## GIRLS SOCCER



JAMES KIEFER | CHATHAM NEWS &amp; RECORD

Two Woods Charter girls soccer players embrace after the Wolves lost, 1-0, to Christ the King in the 1A state finals Sunday in Greensboro.

## Wolves hang tough but come up short again in 1A championship game

**Woods Charter lost to Christ the King in the finals for the second straight season**

By **Jeremy Vernon**  
Chatham News & Record

GREENSBORO — The Woods Charter girls soccer

team waited exactly 365 days for its rematch with Christ the King in the 1A state final, but the threat of rain Saturday in Greensboro caused the game to be postponed until Sunday at 1 p.m.

The extra 19 hours did nothing but strengthen the resolve of the defending champion.

Spurred on by an early sec-

ond-half goal, Christ the King defeated Woods Charter, 1-0, to claim the 1A crown once again. It was the first time the Wolves (20-2-3) — who averaged 7.8 goals per game in their first four games of the playoffs — were shut out in a game since falling to Franklin Academy, 1-0, back on April 11.

The loss came one year to the

day after Woods Charter fell to Christ the King in last season's state final. In that game, the Wolves were held shotless and eventually lost, 3-0. After the defeat, head coach Graeme Stewart immediately started using the loss as motivation for another deep playoff run, and his players responded in turn by putting together a 20-win

season this spring while facing an uber-tough non-conference schedule.

Stewart said after Sunday's game he was proud of his team's effort, but he was equally frustrated by the lack of respect he thought Christ the King showed his team. Stewart also argued that the Crusaders' ability to bring in talented players from across their district — as opposed to Woods Charter, which admits students based on a lottery system — gives their program more resources than the typical 1A school.

See **PREP SOCCER**, page B2

## BOYS BASKETBALL



SIMON BARBRE | CHATHAM NEWS &amp; RECORD

Northwood junior Drake Powell was selected to participate in the 2023 USA U19 men's national team training camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

## Northwood star junior Drake Powell earns invite to Team USA U19 camp

**The UNC commit is ranked as a top-25 prospect in the Class of 2024**

By **Jeremy Vernon**  
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — It's hard to imagine how Northwood junior Drake Powell's stock could go any higher after these past few months, but the 6-foot-6 forward recently earned an accolade even he hadn't received before.

Last week, Powell was one of 35 players invited by USA Basketball to compete at the 2023 U19 men's national team training camp in Colorado Springs, Colo., beginning Monday, June 11. Powell is one of 15 players invited from the Class of 2024, along with fellow UNC commit Ian Jackson.

After the camp, USA Bas-

ketball will announce its final 12-player roster before leaving for the 2023 FIBA U19 Men's World Cup, which takes place June 24-July 2 in Debrecen, Hungary.

"I'm very excited to be selected for the training camp," Powell told the News + Record. "It's something I've been working toward — a goal in the back of my mind — for a long time now, and I'm just excited that the people on the committee who have seen my play are giving me an opportunity to show what I can do."

Since leading the Northwood boys basketball team to the 3A state finals this winter, Powell has seen his recruiting ranking skyrocket as he continues to put in work in the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League (EYBL) circuit.

Powell has averaged 11.8

See **POWELL**, page B3

## Seaforth's Jarin Stevenson talks recruitment, potential reclassification

**UNC, Alabama and Virginia are all gunning for 5-star forward**

By **Jeremy Vernon**  
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — The recruitment of Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson is coming to a head.

The Hawks' 6-foot-10 forward — who is ranked No. 11 nationally in the Class of 2024 by 247Sports — has had a busy offseason competing for Team United in the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League (EYBL), but he's also visited several schools over the past few months as he nears his college decision.

Speaking with the News + Record earlier this week, Stevenson said he plans to make a decision ideally by the end of June. He's also considering reclassifying and joining a team early for the 2023-24 season. According to Stevenson, making the jump to college early would help set him up well for an eventual career as a pro player.

"The benefits of reclassifying are, first, getting used to a college system quicker," Stevenson said. "Also, the NBA likes younger prospects. Getting into college quicker would make me younger for the NBA Draft, which would be helpful. But staying another year would get me more looks, because as a senior, I'd be playing a little bit lesser competition and I could show off more of my skills. I'd probably be more free in a high school setting. Those would be the advantages of coming back."

Stevenson — who has averaged 21.1 points, 11.5 rebounds and 3.6 blocks per game across



JAMES KIEFER | CHATHAM NEWS &amp; RECORD

Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson is considering reclassifying and joining a college team for the 2023-24 season. He's expected to make a decision on the matter at the end of the month.

his first two seasons with the Hawks — said he's still 50-50 on whether or not he wants to leave Seaforth early and join the college ranks. He added he'll make that decision when he announces his commitment.

So, what teams are in the running for Stevenson? Perhaps the most obvious candidate is UNC, which is just down the road from Seaforth in Chapel Hill.

The Tar Heels already have the top-ranked recruiting class in 2024, with Ian Jackson, James Brown and Drake Powell — who plays for Northwood — already committing to head coach Hubert Davis and his staff. Word on the street is Stevenson is North Carolina's final priority in the Class of 2024, and bringing him in would be another huge get for the Tar

Heels.

Stevenson visited Chapel Hill last week, his latest of several trips to the school where his mom, Nicole (Walker) Stevenson, played on three ACC title-winning teams from 1995-98. He told the N+R that UNC's stature as one of the top programs in college basketball is one of the main reasons why he's considering committing to the school.

"I love the prestige at Carolina," Stevenson said. They're very well known, a blue blood. They have a lot of respect. The fans are passionate, too. And I do love that they're close to home. It's only 15 minutes away from my house."

If Stevenson commits to UNC and decides to join the

See **STEVENSON**, page B5

**GIRLS SOCCER**



PHOTOS BY JAMES KIEFER | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

**Top left, Woods Charter senior Lucy Miller (left) consoles junior Leyla Noronha (right) after the Wolves' loss to Christ the King in the state finals Sunday in Greensboro.**



**Top right, Woods Charter junior Leyla Noronha (right) finished the 2023 season with 28 goals and 25 assists.**

**Bottom left, Woods Charter head coach Graeme Stewart has an overall record of 134-50-8 since starting with the team in 2014.**

**Bottom right, Woods Charter junior Sienna Gray (22) scored 38 goals and tied for the team lead with 25 assists in 25 games for the Chargers this season.**

**GIRLS SOCCER** from page 1

"I'm tired of hearing about what (Christ the King) can do," Stewart said. "They're not a normal 1A team. They have players at every position. They're a 3A team in 1A. The reason we struggle sometimes is because we have some holes. We know that, because we're a normal-looking 1A team ... They thought they won it (coming into the game). They thought they were going to stroll, and it didn't work out that way."

The game between the Wolves and Crusaders was originally scheduled for Saturday at 6 p.m., but an ongoing threat of inclement weather caused the NCHSAA to postpone the event after less than five minutes was played.

When the contest picked back up Sunday afternoon, Woods Charter had possession via a corner kick, but the Wolves were unable to create a solid chance with the set piece. For the majority of the first half, the two teams took turns punting the ball to each other, with neither side able to string together more than one or two passes together at a time.

The deadlock lasted a few

minutes into the second half before Christ the King finally found the back of the net. After the Crusaders won a free kick in the attacking third, senior Elle Gorman whipped in a cross toward the back post, which found the head of junior Brianna Pacholshi before careening into the goal.

With their backs pressed against the wall, the Wolves needed to throw numbers forward to try and tie the game, but they struggled to keep possession in the midfield after earning back the ball. Christ the King's forwards, namely senior Katie Reyes, were also adept at holding the ball up and playing physically to keep control.

Woods Charter's best player Sunday was junior Leyla Noronha, who has been the linchpin for the Wolves' offensive attack all season. After scoring 50 goals as a sophomore in 2022, Noronha took on a new role this season as her team's center attacking mid and was equally responsible for creating chances as she was finishing them. She finished the year with 28 goals and a team-high 25 assists.

While she was overpowered

sometimes in the midfield Sunday, Noronha was always part of the conversation when Woods Charter put together some solid moments of possession. She was also tenacious on the defensive end, tracking from box to box to make sure her team didn't concede a second goal in the game's final half-hour.

"Leyla has turned into a playmaker," Stewart said. She's an influential player, and I love to watch her play. Sometimes, when you watch kids move and run, they make it look easy. She's one of them. She's an athlete, and she's a player."

Woods Charter's best chance of the game came with just a few minutes remaining. The Wolves won a free kick from about 30 yards out, and Chloe Richard took a shot at goal to see if she could catch junior Christ the King keeper Elizabeth Navola napping. The shot had a solid pace and trajectory, but Navola was able to tip the ball over the crossbar to thwart the chance.

After the game, a visibly upset Noronha made it clear how she feels about losing to the same team twice in the state finals.

"We're so hungry," Noronha said. "I'm actually very mad right now. I'm just looking forward to next season."

Noronha will be one of several starters back for Woods Charter next spring as they look to get over the hump and secure the program's first state championship. The Wolves will also welcome back a number of key attackers, such as rising sophomore Amelia Cherry (45 goals, five assists) and rising senior Sienna Gray (38 goals, 25 assists).

Among those graduating this offseason are midfielders Richard (15 goals, 11 assists) and Lucy Miller (13 goals, 14 assists) as well as defenders Megan Nowack and Maddie Sparrow.

In net, rising sophomore Wesley Oliver figures to start in net when the Wolves return to action next season. Oliver was a huge bright spot for Woods Charter in the 1A title game and improved throughout the season while making her first foray into goalkeeping.

"I'm so proud of Wesley," Stewart said. "We didn't have a goalkeeper coming into the season. She and Paige both stepped up. Neither of them had played in goal before, and they both worked hard. They

both played basketball, so we relied on that."

The Wolves figure to be a contender at the 1A level for the foreseeable future as long as Stewart remains in charge of the program. Since starting with the team in 2014, the head coach has racked up an overall record 134-50-8 and has led the team to two straight 1A championship game appearances.

It seems Woods Charter's rivalry with Christ the King will also last for the rest of Stewart's tenure. The Wolves' coach is determined more than ever to upend the program he believes shows his team little respect, and he passed that message directly to his players after Sunday's loss.

"We made (Christ the King) compete," Stewart said. "They thought they won it coming into the game. I read what they said about us. We may as well not have turned up based on what they said. They now know we're a proper team. And we're going to fight them. We'll be back next year. We're losing some big players, but we have some good players coming up. We're going to coach them. We're going to work together. We're going to fight them."



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# Council on Aging Weekly Activities Calendar

Monday, June 12

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Aquatic Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie at Pittsboro Swim Association (BY RSVP ONLY)**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Living a Healthy Life w/Chronic Conditions (RSVP Liz)**
- 11 a.m. - **Activity w/Alan; Golf at Siler City Country Club**
- 2 p.m. - **Table Tennis**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia; Aqua Aerobics at Siler City Pool**
- 10 a.m. - **Cornhole; Birthday Party for June Birthdays; Diabetes Management Education & Support w/Ann Clark**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Voices of Chatham w/Brody McCurdy**
- 2 p.m. - **Strength & Tone**

Tuesday, June 13

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **3G's Men's Group**
- 10 a.m. - **Woodcarvers; Cardio Drumming; Fathers' Day & June Birthday Party**

- 10:30 a.m. - **Gym Orientation**
- 1 p.m. - **Rummikub**
- 2 p.m. - **Zumba Gold Intro**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Cardio Drumming**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Bingocize (in-person and Zoom)**
- 10 a.m. - **Table Tennis**
- 1 p.m. - **Rook/Phase 10/Rummikub; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering**
- 2 p.m. - **Fitness Room Orientation**

Wednesday, June 14

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person & Zoom), Coffee & Games w/Pittsboro Police Department**
- 11 a.m. - **Activity w/Alan**
- 11:15 a.m. - **Summer Fitness w/Jackie**
- 1 p.m. - **Open Art Studio (Bind Your Own Book)**
- 2 p.m. - **Intro to Photoshop Class for Seniors (RSVP Alan Russo)**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia; Aqua Aerobics at Siler City Pool**
- 10 a.m. - **Bible Study**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Diabetes Discussion w/Siler City Pharmacy**
- 12:30 p.m. - **Red Cross Blood Drive at Community Baptist Church**
- 2 p.m. - **Crafting w/Kathryn**

Thursday, June 15

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Men's Coffee & Conversations**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Bingocize (in-person and Zoom)**
- 10 a.m. - **Music Jam Session**
- 1 p.m. - **Book Club**
- 2 p.m. - **Strength & Tone**
- 3 p.m. - **Thursday Social: Mocktails and Trivia**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Men's Coffee & Conversations**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Bingocize (in-person and Zoom)**
- 10 a.m. - **Bocce & Horseshoes; Music Jam Session**
- 2 p.m. - **Strength & Tone**
- 3 p.m. - **Thursday Social**

Friday, June 16

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Aquatic Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie at Pittsboro Swim Association (BY RSVP ONLY)**
- 11:15 a.m. - **Stories w/Neriaiah**
- 1 p.m. - **Games/Euchre**
- 3 p.m. - **Jukebox Live! (Grateful Hearts)**

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

POWELL from page 1

points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game in the EYBL for Team CP3. After winning their first five games of the 2023 season, Team CP3 has put together an overall record of 4-8. Over Memorial Day Weekend, they were 1-4, with their lone win coming against Indy Heat, 79-76, on May 28.

"With the (EYBL) team aspect, overall, I'd say we're in an O.K. spot right now, but I think we can get to a better spot with more practice and we'll be able to build chemistry," Powell said. "Maybe we can take a shot at Peach Jam."

The Peach Jam — which started in 1996 but became part of EYBL in 2010 — will take place this year on July 3-9 in North Augusta, S.C. Last year's winners, MOKAN Elite, consisted of players mainly from the state of Missouri. This year's MOKAN team features a fellow UNC commit from the Class of 2024 in 6-foot-10 center James Brown.

Powell, Brown and Jackson make up UNC's top-ranked Class of 2024. The Tar Heels maintained the No. 1 class even after the reclassification of point guard Elliot Cadeau, who recently announced his decision to join the team one year early this offseason.

Powell said Cadeau is a talented player who should be able to impress in his first season in Chapel Hill.

"He's a great lead guard," Powell said. "He's pass-first,

but he can score whenever he's needed to. I think he can make an impact and help the Tar Heels get some wins this year."

Another target for UNC in the Class of 2024 is Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson, who plays just down the road from Powell in Pittsboro. The two were former teammates at Northwood in 2021, and Powell said he has tried to actively recruit Stevenson to join the Tar Heels.

Stevenson — who is also mulling the option of reclassifying — averaged 21.5 points, 11.6 rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game while shooting 60.1% from the field for Seaforth this past season. The Hawks (18-9) finished the year with a 61-60 loss to East Carteret in the second round of the 2A state playoffs.

"When we played at the Josh Level Classic (in May), I was in his ear about (committing), but we both laughed it off really," Powell said. "I think Jarin's a good person, and obviously a very talented player. It would be great to have him at UNC."

Powell will be returning to Northwood for his senior season in 2023-24, and he should be in store for another stellar season as the leader of the Chargers. Through three seasons, Powell has scored 1,213 points over 75 games (16.2 points per game) and made 50.3% of his field goals. Northwood is 66-10 with two state finals appearances since Powell joined the team in 2021.

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

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COLUMN | JEREMY VERNON, CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD SPORTS EDITOR

# The 2022-23 school year was one to remember

THE FINAL SPORTING EVENT of the 2022-23 school year took place Sunday afternoon, with the Woods Charter girls soccer team falling to Christ the King, 1-0. The final whistle marked the end of what has been a stellar sporting school year for Chatham County's six high schools.

With that in mind, I'd like to highlight some of the top performances we've seen from Chatham athletes since the beginning of the fall season in August. While I'll try and highlight as many achievements as I can here, I'm sure to miss a few. But that's O.K. For a full retrospective on the year, you can always check out our website at [chathamnewsrecord.com](http://chathamnewsrecord.com).

## Fall

While the Chatham County high school football teams struggled, the 2022 fall season saw multiple local athletes claim state championships in their specific sports.

At the 2A cross country state championships, Seaforth sophomore Jack Anstrom took home the gold medal with a time of 16:15.43, besting several talented runners over a 5,000-meter course at Ivey Redmon Park in Kernersville. The win came one year after Anstrom finished second in the same race at the 2021 state meet.

The week before, Chatham Central seniors Olivia Brooks and Ellie Phillips claimed the 1A tennis doubles state championship, rallying from a first-set deficit to take down Bishop McGuinness' Isabella Ross and Nina Holton.

Brooks and Phillips also led the Bears to the state finals of the 2A dual team state tournament. Chatham Central was beaten, 5-0, by Mount Airy in the title match, but the team still considered the year a success after advancing farther in the state playoffs than they did the previous season.

Among the top regular-season teams

during the fall of 2022 in Chatham County was the seaforth girls tennis team. The Hawks entered the 2A state tournament as the No. 1 seed in the east region after compiling an 11-2 regular season record and sweeping the Mid-Carolina Conference championships, but they lost in the first round of the playoffs to Triangle Science & Math, 7-2.

## Winter

The 2022-23 winter season was highlighted by the stellar play of several Chatham County basketball teams. In total, four teams — the Chatham Charter boys, the Chatham Charter girls, the Seaforth girls and the Northwood boys — all made at least the state semis, with the latter three advancing to their respective state title games.

The Chargers, Hawks and Knights all played in the state finals on the same day, March 11, and all three teams lost their games. The Northwood boys lost to Central Cabarrus, while the Seaforth girls fell to Salisbury and the Chatham Charter girls were dominated by Bishop McGuinness.

Three Chatham County individual athletes won state championships during the winter, and two did so on the same day: Feb. 11. First, at the 3A swimming state championships in Cary, Northwood sophomore Abby Emrich took first place in the 200-yard freestyle. Then, at the 1A/2A indoor track state championships in Winston-Salem, Seaforth sophomore Will Cuicchi won the 1,000-meter race in a personal-best time of 2:37.83.

One week prior, Northwood senior Dream Walker made history as the first Chatham County athlete to win a women's wrestling state championship. She took home first place in the heavyweight division at the state meet, besting Lumberton junior Wyntergale Oxendine in the final match in her division.

In boys wrestling, Seaforth freshman

Gabe Rogers (106 pounds) and junior Josh Miller (113 pounds) won second place in their respective weight classes and came away with silver medals at the NCHSAA individual championships in late February. Their performance helped Seaforth finish 11th overall out of 70 teams competing in the event.

## Spring

The final season of the school year saw plenty of top-tier performances from Chatham County athletes, but only one individual was able to take home a state championship in their respective sport.

That athlete was Northwood junior Noah Nielson, who took home first place in the 800-meter race at the 2A outdoor track championships in Greensboro back in May. Nielsen finished with a time of 1:53.73, almost a second faster than second-place finisher Matthew Quispe of Croatan.

Two other Chatham athletes — Anstrom and Seaforth freshman Cali O'Neil — picked up second-place finishes in the boys 1,600-meter race and the girls 800-meter race, respectively.

Two Chatham County teams made deep playoff runs that ended in the state championship game. After pulling off several road upsets during the postseason, the Northwood boys lacrosse team lost to Lake Norman Charter, 19-8, in the finals of the 1A/2A/3A state tournament. The Chargers' girls team also had a solid season and eventually lost in the state semifinals to Croatan.

The second team to make a state title game in the spring was Woods Charter, which lost to Christ the King in the 1A state finals for the second year in a row. The Wolves had only lost one game — a 1-0 defeat at Franklin Academy on April 11 — before dropping Sunday's final.

## Kaleidoscope Play & Learn

FREE WEEKLY FACILITATED PLAY GROUPS Kaleidoscope is for parents and other caregivers with children birth to five years old who do not attend preschool or child care. Playgroups offer caregivers a space to connect with one another and build community.

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📧 [Play@chathamkids.org](mailto:Play@chathamkids.org) 📞 919-542-7449 EXT. 127

## Kaleidoscope Jugar y Aprender

GRUPOS DE JUEGO FACILITADOS SEMANALES GRATUITOS Kaleidoscope es para padres y otros cuidadores con niños desde el nacimiento hasta los cinco años de edad que no asisten a preescolar ni a una guardería. Los grupos de juego ofrecen a los cuidadores un espacio para conectarse entre sí y construir una comunidad.

- 📍 Parque Kiwanis en Pittsboro - Miércoles, 10am-11:30am
- 📍 Gimnasio Paul Braxton en Siler City - Jueves, 10am-11:30am

📧 [Play@chathamkids.org](mailto:Play@chathamkids.org) 📞 919-542-7449 EXT. 127

## Special Needs Trust Could Ease Families' Stress

If you have a family member with special needs, you might face emotional and physical issues, but you also may be concerned about maximizing the financial support your loved one requires. Consequently, you may want to consider establishing a *special needs trust*.

This type of trust can help maintain the financial security and lifestyle of an individual with special needs. Furthermore, a special needs trust can allow the trust's beneficiary to receive financial support for supplemental needs without losing public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

Here's how it works: You, as the trust's grantor, establish the trust and name a trustee who is responsible for managing the trust. You can fund the trust with gifts throughout your lifetime or from other sources, such as inheritances or court settlements. But another popular funding mechanism is life insurance, which the trust can purchase on the life of one or both parents of a special-needs child. And as long as the trust is also named the beneficiary of the policy, government benefits will be protected.

In a special needs trust, the role of trustee is important. A trustee must manage the funds within the trust and ensure those funds are used only to supplement SSI and Medicaid, the government programs that typically pay for food, housing and medicine. Instead, a special needs trust can be used for most other expenses, including transportation and travel, education, entertainment, professional services and personal items.

You could serve as trustee yourself or choose a relative or a trusted friend. Ideally, you want someone who's familiar with your wishes and the needs of your family member with disabilities and who is also competent at managing finances and staying current on SSI and Medicaid regulations.

As an alternative, you could hire a professional trust company to manage your special needs trust. This type of company has expertise in asset management and government regulations and can provide you with strict recordkeeping of all the financial transactions associated with your trust. If you go this route, you'll want to compare different trust companies' costs and services. For such a personal matter as administering a trust for your special-needs family member, you'll want to be sure you're comfortable with whatever company you select.

Also, you'll want to be familiar with some of the possible areas of concern regarding special needs trusts. For one thing, because the trustee totally controls when and how funds are distributed, beneficiaries can get frustrated if their requests for money are denied. Additionally, while third-party special needs trusts are funded by someone other than the beneficiary, first-party special needs trusts are funded by the beneficiary's own assets — and for these first-party special needs trusts, the trust must typically pay back Medicaid for money it has spent on the beneficiary's behalf after the death of the beneficiary. This repayment could deplete the trust, depriving secondary beneficiaries of any assets they might otherwise receive. Third-party special needs trusts do not require Medicaid repayment.

Consult with a legal professional before establishing a special needs trust to ensure this arrangement is appropriate for your family's situation. But if it is, and if it's managed properly, it can relieve you of some of the stress you may feel over the future of your loved one with special needs.

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

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**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

# Former Northwood standout Porter transfers to Charlotte

**The 5-foot-8 guard played her freshman season at Michigan State**

By **Jeremy Vernon**  
Chatham News & Record

LAST WEEK, former Northwood star Olivia Porter — who helped the Chargers' girls basketball team win the school's first-ever state championship in 2022 — announced her commitment to Charlotte for the 2023-24 season.

Porter entered the transfer portal after her freshman year at Michigan State, where she played in six games and scored two total points over the course of the season. She will have three years of eligibility remaining with the 49ers, who put together a 12-19 campaign during the 2022-23 season.

"Olivia is an exciting addition to our program and we are thrilled to welcome her to our family," Charlotte head coach Cara Consuegra said in a statement. "The first thing that stands out about Olivia is she is a winner. She won a North Carolina state championship and has played at the highest level. She is also very competitive and motivated to keep growing as a player and a student. On the court, Olivia will impact our guard position by being another great ball-handler and playmaker. She has the ability to score at all three levels and her composure and confidence will be contagious amongst our team."

During her senior season in 2021-22, Porter averaged 18.0 points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 4.3 steals per game. She helped lead the Chargers to a 30-1 overall record, which was capped off by a 70-42 win over Enka in the 3A state finals.

In the championship game, Porter totaled 18 points, five rebounds, four assists and three steals. She was named the 2022 NCHSAA 3A Kay Yow State Championship Most Valuable Player for her efforts.

The 2021-22 season was Porter's first with the North-



SIMON BARBRE | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

**Former Northwood girls basketball star Olivia Porter has transferred from Michigan State to Charlotte. She has three years of eligibility remaining.**

wood girls basketball team. Before that, she attended Auburn High in Alabama, where she was a second-team all-state selection twice as a sophomore and junior.

"She really fit in well. She just has that I-won't-give-up mentality and is really determined. She never settles," Northwood head coach Kerri Snipes told the News + Record last offseason. "She was always a competitor in practice and certainly in games, as everyone else could

see, but she was also a great leader in the sense of bringing her teammates up. She always tried to push them and build confidence in them, cheering them on in practice when nobody's watching. ... She just has that grit and tenacity that a lot of athletes don't have, but is just so humble and so caring and loving of everyone else."

Porter comes from a family of athletes. Her father, Larry Porter, is the current special teams coordinator/running

backs coach for the UNC football team, and he has twice won the accolade of national recruiter of the year. He also played college football at Memphis from 1990-93.

Her older brother, Omari, is a rising senior safety on the Stanford football team. He played in six games last season primarily as a special teams player, though he earned his first career interception in a 27-20 loss to California on Nov. 19. Charlotte's current roster

lists five guards, Aylesha Wade, Tamia Davis, Nia Young, Dazia Lawrence and Jacee Busick. Lawrence led the team last season with 16.9 points per game while shooting 43.9% from the field and 36% from the 3-point line.

The 49ers have seven winning seasons since Consuegra took over in 2011-12. They last appeared in the NCAA Tournament in 2022, when they lost to Indiana in the first round as a No. 14 seed.

**STEVENSON** from page 1

Tar Heels early, he would likely be the team's third power forward behind 6-foot-10 sophomore Jalen Washington and 6-foot-9 junior Jae'Lyn Withers. Washington played just 5.6 minutes per game in 20 games for UNC in 2022-23, averaging 2.2 points and 1.4 rebounds per game. Withers, meanwhile, joins the Tar Heels after averaging 8.1 points and 5.6 rebounds per game over the past three

seasons with Louisville.

One of the other programs Stevenson is considering, along with Virginia, Georgetown and Missouri, is Alabama — which has become a program on the rise over the past several years under head coach Nate Oats. Last season, the Crimson Tide went 31-6 overall and lost in the Elite Eight to San Diego State.

Alabama only has one power forward on their current roster in senior Nick Pringle,

who averaged 3.5 points and 3.1 rebounds in 8.0 minutes per game this past season. Stevenson said he has enjoyed his time chatting with the Crimson Tide coaches and sees them as a team that will help him prepare for the pro level.

"Coach Oats has been really successful these last few years," Stevenson said. "I like his system. It's an NBA offense. Spread the floor. Be able to shoot threes. They have a good

defense, and they play hard."

If Stevenson does decide to stay for his senior season at Seaford, he will be among the top returning seniors in the entire country. This past season, Stevenson was named the North Carolina Gatorade boys basketball player of the year. Taking one more year to prepare for college would guarantee him consistent playing time, as well as give other schools the opportunity to send him scholarship

offers.

Whatever choice he makes, Stevenson figures to be a name to watch at the next level and beyond. At 6-foot-10 with a solid handle and good athleticism, Stevenson represents the type of player NBA scouts are becoming increasingly infatuated with. If he continues to work on his skills and adds some weight to his frame, he'll only increase his draft stock if and when the time comes to make the jump.

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If you would like to help seniors and people with disabilities in your community who need accurate information about Medicare and other insurance issues – ***the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program needs you!***

The North Carolina Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, or SHIIP, is a flagship program for the Department of Insurance. Recognized as a national model for seniors' information programs, and known to citizens across the state as a reliable resource for clear and unbiased information about Medicare and other issues, SHIIP has grown to serve all 100 counties of North Carolina with hundreds of volunteers since it began in 1986.

In order to offer this excellent service to Medicare beneficiaries and their families in North Carolina, SHIIP needs dedicated and caring volunteers. Can you help us? Do you have what it takes to join SHIIP's volunteer force?

### **WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A SHIIP VOLUNTEER?**

**Volunteer Counselors must meet several requirements before being accepted into SHIIP training. You must:**

- Have the ability to get along with others;
- Have a sensitive and caring attitude
- Have good written oral and communication skills;
- Have computer skills for counseling;
- Not be an active insurance agent and not have an immediate family member who is an insurance agent;
- Have the willingness to learn and the ability to retain information relevant to health insurance provisions and claims filing procedures;
- Not have a criminal background.

### **WHAT WOULD I BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AS A VOLUNTEER COUNSELOR?**

**Volunteer Counselors are typically asked to:**

- Complete the SHIIP online Volunteer Basic Training course and become a "Certified" SHIIP Volunteer Counselor;
- Attend quarterly follow-up meetings throughout the year, in locations that do not require much travel from your area;
- Provide 40 hours of volunteer service per calendar year. Volunteer service includes training, counseling, enrollment assistance and outreach activities;
- Counsel clients and beneficiaries in your community. Counseling may include telephone calls, meeting with the clients face to face, researching a topic or issue, contacting outside parties such as providers and insurance companies with the client's permission and assisting with claims filings;
- Work with the County and/or Volunteer Coordinator in performing SHIIP outreach activities, such as health fairs and speaking engagements
- Complete SHIIP activity report forms each time you participate in a counseling session or an outreach event

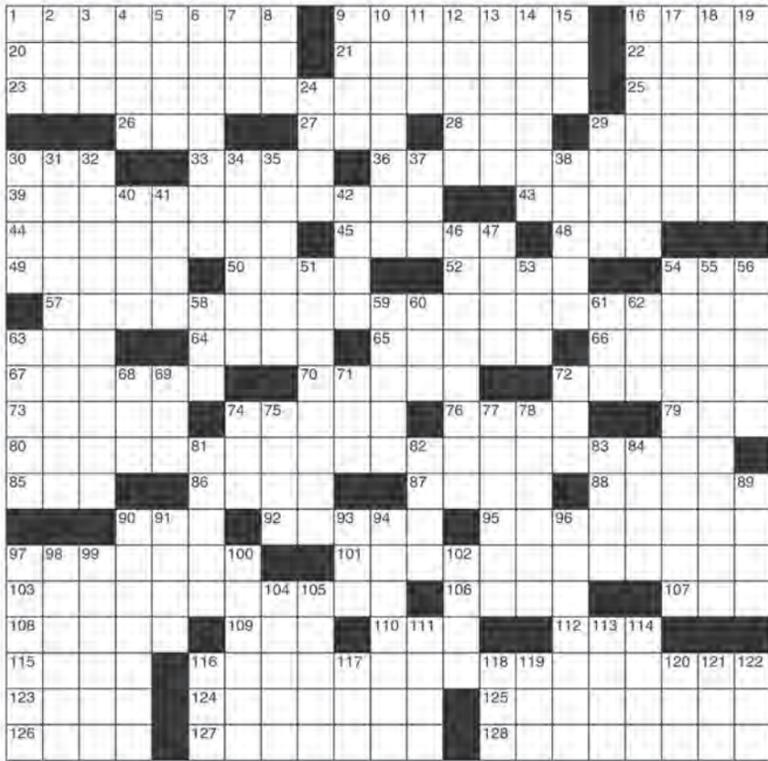
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**PEN AND PAPER PURSUITS**

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo** **FROM ALABAMA TO LOUISIANA**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Complaints to otologists  
 9 Foreboding  
 16 ESPN datum  
 20 Feelings  
 21 Alternative to chocolate  
 22 Rev gauge  
 23 Ailment suffered from being given too much leeway?  
 25 Bicolor whale  
 26 Poet Hughes  
 27 Tooth doctors' org.  
 28 Scarf down  
 29 Cantata's kin  
 30 "The Chi" aier, in brief  
 33 Alpo alternative  
 36 Things people run on racetracks in Switzerland's capital?  
 39 Coke and Pepsi's business?  
 43 Collide with  
 44 Robots in human form  
 45 "Fer cryin' out loud!"  
 48 Barkeeper on "The Simpsons"
- DOWN**  
 1 Conger, e.g.  
 2 Docs' org.  
 3 Decompose  
 4 Working hard  
 5 Quote  
 6 Magician Harry  
 7 Call a halt to  
 8 Atlanta-to-Miami dir.  
 9 Exiled Roman poet  
 10 Gruesome  
 11 Ballpoint fluid  
 12 S.F. NFLer  
 13 City in southwest New York  
 14 Long, loose overcoat  
 15 Airline to Sweden  
 16 Snitching sort  
 17 Kilt pattern  
 18 Say "yes" to  
 19 "No kiddin'?"  
 24 Lip off to  
 25 Interoffice note  
 30 Wound cover  
 31 Academic A-lists  
 32 Ancient cuneiform language  
 34 Attaches  
 35 Deep thinkers  
 37 Retina locale  
 38 Home of Pago Pago  
 40 Seed case  
 41 Wee amount  
 42 TV host Banks  
 46 Arctic boot attachment  
 47 Pawn  
 51 Approximate  
 53 U.S. soldiers  
 54 One of the Leeward Islands  
 55 Contained as a part of  
 56 Very pale  
 58 "— a pity!"  
 59 Pottery piece  
 60 Downcast  
 61 Uno + due  
 62 Spy novelist Fleming  
 63 Smart — (wise guys)  
 68 Actor Elliott  
 69 PC key abbr.  
 71 "Pick up the Czech," e.g.  
 72 "Well, I'll be!"  
 74 Antagonist  
 75 Grades K-6: Abbr.  
 77 Longtime bud  
 78 Like cut bread  
 81 Many times  
 82 Gator's kin  
 83 Karate blow  
 84 Blue-green  
 89 Has no life  
 90 False appearances  
 91 Maker of Skin So Soft  
 93 Apt. units  
 94 True-to-fact  
 96 Finger-pointing people  
 97 Recently  
 98 Four-leaf —  
 99 One of the Windward Islands  
 100 "Dr." of insoles  
 102 Diner grub  
 104 Sine, for one  
 105 Actor Cary  
 111 Eensy  
 113 "Right away!"  
 114 "Game of Thrones" actress Bianco  
 116 Packers' and Panthers' gp.  
 117 Sugar suffix  
 118 Co- — (some apartments)  
 119 Sch. in Manhattan  
 120 "Hamilton" composer — Manuel Miranda  
 121 TV plugs  
 122 Mao —lung



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

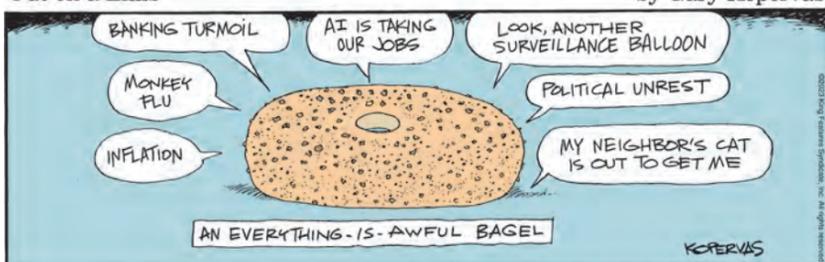
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
 Unlisted clue hint: GARMENTS FOR THE FEET

- |         |           |          |           |
|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Allison | Goldsboro | McFerrin | Unser     |
| Bowden  | Hull      | Orr      | Valentine |
| Darin   | Jindal    | Pin      | Vinton    |
| Fischer | Jones     | Riggs    |           |

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by Gary Kopervas



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		2		8				9

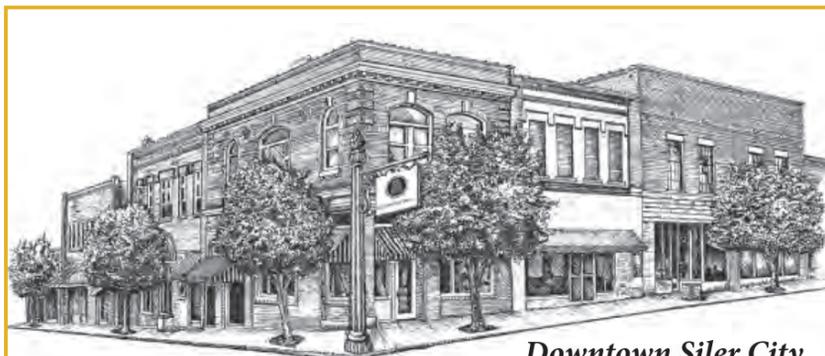
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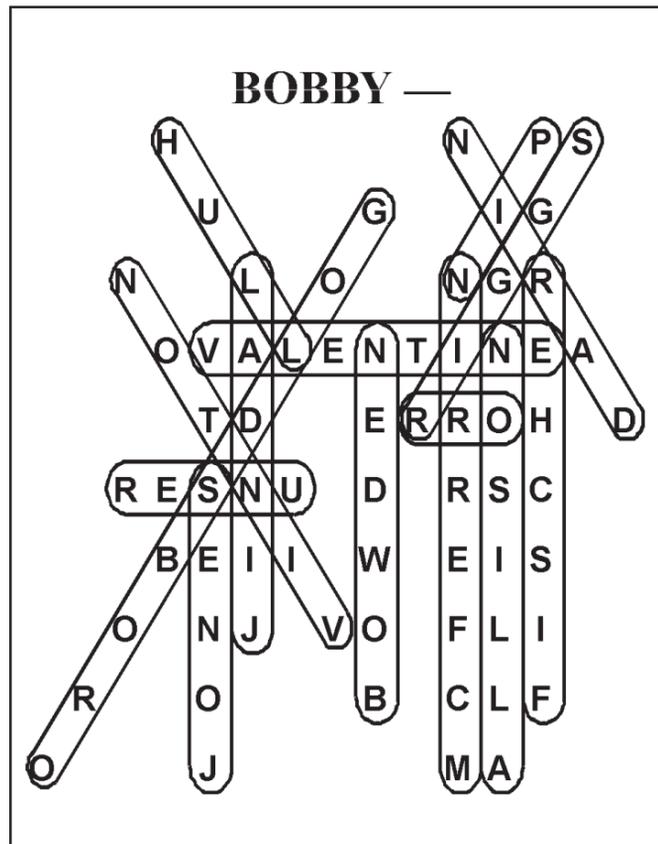
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# Bake like a boss ... a French boss



By **Debbie Matthews**  
*Curious Cook*

MY APARTMENT BUILDING is only a few hundred yards from the very center of downtown Durham.

Within a short walk, here are but a few of the remarkable places I can reach:

- The Durham County Main Library
- A bookstore
- TWO ice cream parlors
- Two local burger joints
- A vintage store
- Way more bars than is probably prudent
- And two amazing bakeries

One of the bakeries is the famous Ninth Street Bakery — You've probably seen their bread at your local grocer.

The other is an actual French bakery, named Loaf.

My next-door neighbors invited me to dinner last week, so I walked to Loaf and bought a selection of desserts.

My absolute favorite was a cream puff filled with vanilla custard and blueberry whipped cream.

Below are the recipes to recreate this delicate, delicious confection. But every single recipe can be used to make other treats. The pâte à choux dough can also make crullers, churros, and that addictive Brazilian bread.

And, Gentle Reader, if you feel this challenge is too much, remember this: Growing up, my mom would whip up a pâte à choux in minutes without a recipe.

Just something she learned how to do as a little kid.

No biggy ...

Just have fun with it, that's all.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

## PÂTE À CHOUX

Recipe from King Arthur Flour

**1 cup water**  
**8 tablespoons unsalted butter**

**3/8 teaspoon salt**  
**1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**  
**4 large eggs**

To make the choux pastry: Combine the water, butter and salt in a large saucepan. Place the saucepan over medium-high heat to melt the butter and bring the mixture to a boil.

Remove the pan from the heat and add the flour all at once, stirring vigorously with a sturdy spoon or stiff spatula.

Return the pan to medium heat briefly, stirring until the mixture smooths out and starts to steam; this should take less than a minute. The batter will be very thick and shiny at this stage.

Remove the pan from the heat and let the thick batter cool, stirring occasionally, for five to 10 minutes. It'll still feel hot, but you should be able to hold a finger in it for a few seconds; if you have a digital thermometer the temperature should be below 125°F.

To finish the choux pastry with an electric mixer: Alternatively, transfer the warm butter-water-flour mixture to a large bowl or the bowl of your stand mixer. Beat in the eggs one at a time on medium speed, waiting until each egg is fully incorporated before adding the next. Beat for about a minute after adding the last egg.

To bake with choux pastry: At this point, your pastry is ready to scoop, pipe or spread, and then bake. Follow the instructions for doing so in the recipe you've chosen to make.

## CRAQUELIN

Recipe from Chef Dave Lebovitz

**3 ounces unsalted butter, cubed, at room temperature**  
**1/2 cup packed light brown sugar**

**sugar**  
**3/4 cup all-purpose flour**  
**Pinch of salt**

In a bowl, cream together the butter and sugar with a sturdy spatula or wooden spoon, then add the flour and salt, and continue to mix the dough until it's smooth. (You can also use a stand mixer with the paddle attachment.)

Put the dough between two sheets of parchment paper and roll the dough until it's about 13 inches round. Slide the dough on a baking sheet and freeze the dough.

Make your cream puffs, and after they are piped onto a baking sheet, remove the dough from the freezer and let it stand a minute or so, until it's defrosted just enough to cut. Using a round cookie cutter about the same diameter of the puffs, cut out circles of the dough and set them on top of the puffs. Bake the cream puffs as indicated by the recipe, until the tops are nicely browned.

## VANILLA PUDDING

**3 cups whole milk, divided**  
**3 tablespoons cornstarch**  
**Pinch of salt**  
**3/4 cup sugar**

**3 egg yolks**  
**1 tablespoon butter**  
**1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract**

In a small bowl, whisk together 1/4 cup of the milk with the cornstarch. Set aside.

In a medium saucepan, whisk together the remaining milk, salt and sugar. Allow the mixture to heat over medium heat until it is steaming; do not let it boil.

While the milk heats, whisk the egg yolks in a separate small bowl. Once the milk is steaming, slowly stream 1/2 cup of the hot milk mixture into the egg yolks, whisking constantly. Slowly add the egg yolk mixture back to the pot, followed by the cornstarch mixture. Continue to cook over medium heat, whisking constantly, until the mixture starts to simmer and has thickened.

Remove from the heat and whisk in the butter and vanilla.

Pour into individual serving dishes. Top each with a layer of plastic wrap touching the top of the pudding to prevent a skin from forming, and serve warm or allow to chill for several hours before serving.

## BLUEBERRY BLACK PEPPER WHIPPED CREAM

**1 cup cold heavy whipping cream**  
**1-2 tablespoons powdered sugar**  
**1 tablespoon free-dried blueberries, crushed dust — A coffee grinder is great for this job**  
**Pinch of salt**  
**Pinch of freshly, finely ground black pepper**

Place cream in a large bowl and begin to mix with an immersion blender or hand mixer. When it starts to hold bubbles, add blueberries, salt, pepper, and half the sugar. Taste and add more sugar as needed (more pepper can be added to taste, as well). Blend until it just holds stiff peaks.

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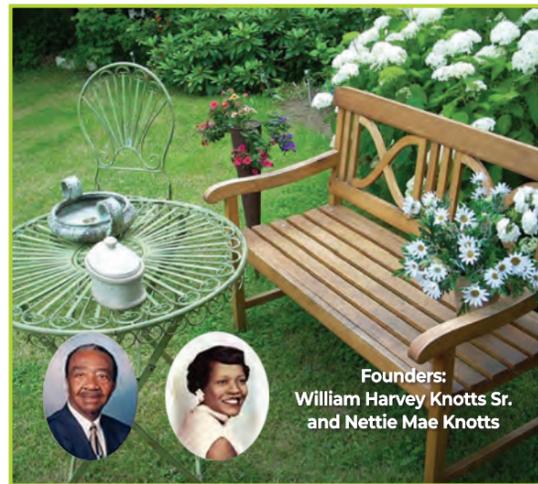
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# 2023 GMC Canyon AT4X and Denali



PHOTOS COURTESY GMC

## The midsize truck of my dreams

By **Jordan Golson**  
North State Journal

ASHEVILLE — When it comes to trucks, it turns out that you can find that perfect balance between city-friendly sizing and heavy-duty capability. With the new 2023 GMC Canyon AT4X, Goldilocks has finally found her just-right bowl of off-road adventure.

Full-size pickup trucks are terrific if you have a big garage and driveway and never head into the city. I've driven and towed with many of them, and if you need the size and capability, they're great.

Pint-size trucks like the Ford Maverick (we're still waiting on some competition to come for that one) are also terrific, as they're more or less cars with a bed, offering value for money and a nice ride.

Midsize trucks have been extremely truck-like for years — fine if you don't mind being jostled about — but I haven't loved them for everyday use because of an overly firm, truck-like ride. They've also fallen far short of their full-size brethren in the luxury-and-comfort department. No longer.

The new GMC Canyon is more comfortable, more luxurious, more capable, and more more. Automakers love telling us that their vehicles are more



[whatever] than before. Sure enough, in the press release announcing the new Canyon, GMC head Duncan Aldred called it “the most advanced off-road midsize truck.”

They might be right, though. A few weeks back, I tested the new Canyon AT4X — GMC's ultimate off-road trim that represents a significant upgrade in off-road prowess from the Canyon AT4 — in the mountains of eastern Tennessee (weirdly, the North Carolina governmental authorities wouldn't give GMC permission to have journalists drive on its off-road trails, so we had to nip over the border), and fell in love.

The AT4X is GMC's answer to the Toyota Tacoma's most capable off-road variants like the TRD Offroad. It adds a factory

lift, Multimatic DSSV dampers (a really advanced suspension), skid plates, bigger tires, and a whole bunch of other goodies like a head-up display and a terrific Bose audio system.

It's wildly comfortable and wildly capable, able to handle whatever the vast majority of owners will throw at it — and if you need more, you probably have the know-how and where-withal to take care of the upgrades yourself.

The AT4X is off-roading on easy mode. Different drive modes set even novice off-roaders up for success, and a litany of cameras — including a pair showing what's going on underneath the truck — help keep things on the right path. Cliches aside, the amount of tech in this truck is impressive.

The one-pedal drive function in Terrain Mode isn't new, it's been available in a few different off-roaders for a couple of years, but it's worth calling out again. Some of the trickier off-road obstacles can require drivers to operate the brake and throttle pedals simultaneously, which can be challenging for someone new to the unbeaten path. The one-pedal drive combines the brakes and gas into a single pedal so that releasing the throttle brings the car to a halt, whilst pressing it slowly gets things going again.

For the inexperienced off-roader or shoot, even for the experienced, the feature makes exploring a lot easier. And if you're a purist and/or you want to make life more difficult for yourself, you can, of course, leave the function turned off. But if you shake your head at one-pedal drive, you should get a load of the low-speed cruise control function that allows you to set a speed as low as one mph for the truck to maintain — do that, and you can ignore the pedals entirely, only concerning yourself with the steering wheel.

This isn't meant to be a comprehensive off-road review, but know that the Canyon AT4X is quite capable. It's also incredibly comfortable on-road as well, as the suspension, designed as it is for off-piste adventures, handles potholes and uneven road surfaces with aplomb.

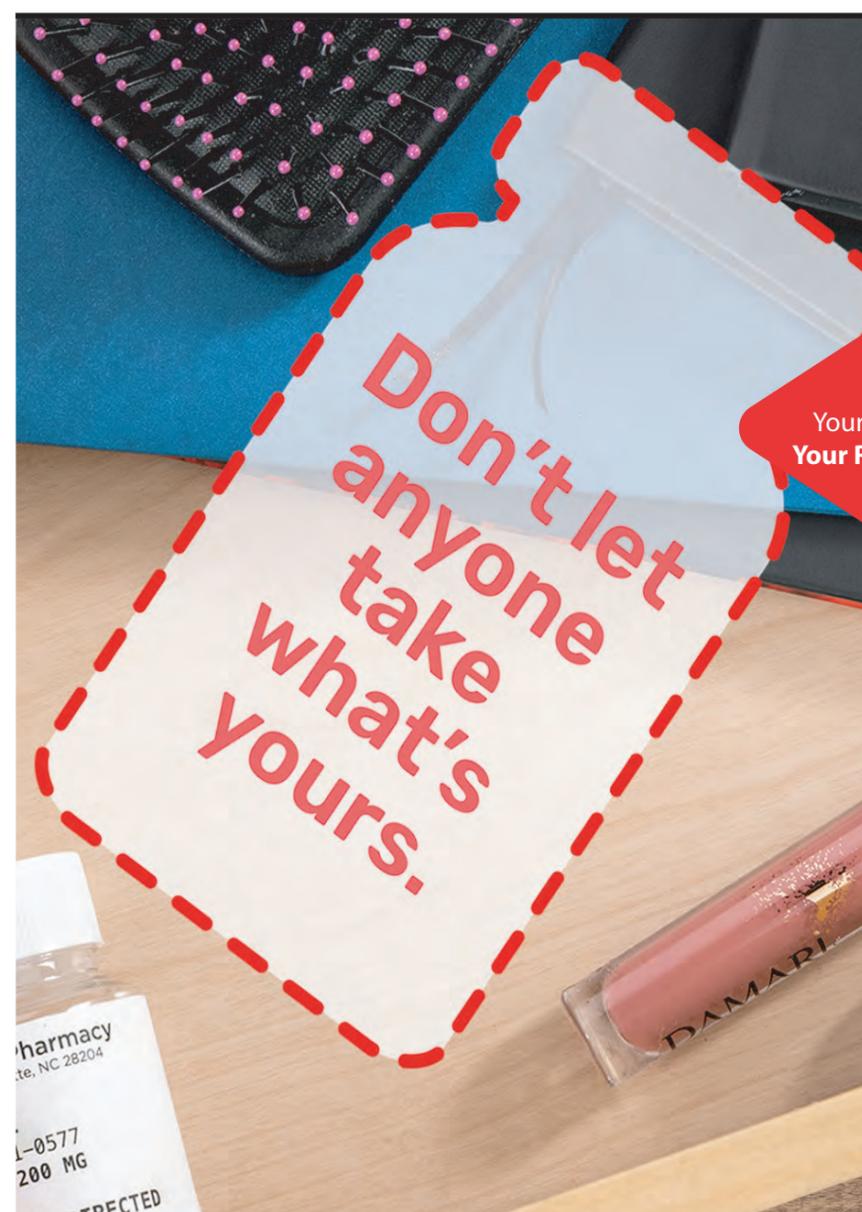
In fact, my ideal Canyon combines the luxury Denali trim — something wildly pop-

ular with the GMC Yukon SUV and Sierra pickup — with the suspension from the AT4X. See, the Denali includes nicer leather and real wood in the cabin, along with lots of chrome and fancy details outside and in. It's the cheapest Denali pickup you can get, starting just over \$55,000 (which is, admittedly, a lot for a midsize truck but a bargain compared to what you'll pay for a full-size Denali).

GMC doesn't sell the Denali with the AT4X chassis, unfortunately, but company engineers did begrudgingly admit that it would be technically possible to create such a beast. Perhaps in a couple of years, when GMC needs to come up with yet another trim line to goose Canyon sales, we'll get a Denali Ultimate that fulfills my midsize truck fantasies. For now, there is an offroad truck and a luxury truck, but no offroad luxury truck.

But for now, the Canyon is perhaps my favorite truck on the market. With two huge digital screens, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, a terrific head-up display, and, finally, standard safety features like automatic emergency braking (and available adaptive cruise control, which Toyota offers standard, ahem), this really is the most advanced GMC Canyon, and perhaps the most advanced midsize pickup ever released.

At least until the new Ford Ranger and Toyota Tacoma arrive later this year.



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