

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | JULY 23-29, 2020 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board's decision: start with Plan C for four weeks

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Education unanimously passed a motion at its regular meeting last Thursday for the county's public schools to go to the fully remote learning option — known as "Plan C" — for four weeks starting in the fall.

At the end of the four weeks, the board will re-evaluate whether CCS will transition to Plan B, the state's prescription for a combination of remote and in-person learning, or continue with additional remote learning. Currently, CCS students are scheduled to return

to school Aug. 17 — nearly five months after Cooper first ordered schools closed to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Because of meeting size limitations, the board's meeting was live streamed through YouTube to approximately 240 attendees. Originally scheduled to consider the district's drafted plan for continued remote learning, the meeting primarily focused on responding to Gov. Roy Cooper's announcement last Tuesday that North Carolina Public Schools would open in August with restrictions under Plan B. During that announcement, Cooper said

See **PLAN C**, page A3

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS FOR BOYS ACADEMY

New school to address achievement gap through arts

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

When Valencia Toomer started her education career in 2002 as a fourth grade teacher in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, she was quickly troubled by the frequent moving of one of the students between classrooms. He was Black, 9 years old with behavioral concerns and was known to be in a gang.

When the principal said it was "her turn" to have this boy in her classroom, Toomer was determined to reach him. It was a growth process, but she built a relationship with the student and learned something the other teachers had never found out — he was an artist.

Toomer moved up with him to the fifth grade, but they lost

touch once he went to middle school. A few years later, she found out that this boy killed someone, claiming self-defense. He was 14 years old at the time.

"We lost him, and there were very special things about him, but he needed special people in his life that could see him, that could love him, that could value the contributions that he had," Toomer said. "And not look at the exterior. And his exterior was sagging pants, floppy shoes, hair unkempt — that was his defense mechanism for the life that he was living. And my job at the time was to see through that, see past that."

And so began a long-standing vision for Toomer: to embolden vulnerable boys of color and help close the achievement gap between



them and their white counterparts.

As a 19-year veteran in the education field, Toomer's goal

See **ARTS**, page A3



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

How about a staycation?

After buying this 1970 Serro Scotty travel trailer five years ago, the coronavirus stay-at-home order gave Beth Davis the excuse — and time — she needed to truly make her camper a 'home on wheels.' Read more about this story on B7.

PITTSBORO TOYS

10 years on, store withstands pandemic setbacks, looks to future



Samatha Birchard struck up a partnership with the late wood worker Ralph Evans, who created unique playthings like these for Pittsboro Toys.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

BY LARS DOLDER
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Samantha Birchard's excitement at the 10-year anniversary of her toy store was quickly soured when government-mandated restrictions stifled the shop's operation in March.

But with an inimitable selection and winsome shopping experience in the heart of downtown, she says Pittsboro Toys is here to stay.

Like all small business owners in an area troubled by coronavirus, Birchard has had to adjust her business model to retain customers and to minimize revenue loss. She's requiring face-coverings, and although in-store shopping is allowed, she continues to offer curbside pick-up and shopping by appointment. Early in the pandemic, when restrictions were at their stiffest, she had a small breakthrough upon discovering that COVID-19 regulations permitted her



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

If you're someone who can never have too many stuffed animals, then Pittsboro Toys has a great selection from which to choose.

to keep her doors open, with some qualifications.

"I thought I was going to have to completely close," she said. "But I found out I could do it by appointment as long as I followed some

rules. I had the door open all the time and I was sanitizing everything constantly."

Still, Birchard watched sales drop off as the pandemic

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Chris Kennedy named Pittsboro's town manager



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chris Kennedy (second to left) is sworn in as his wife (left), Emily, held a family Bible. He was joined by his parents Debbie and Dale Kennedy (right), of Asheboro.

Administrator joins staff from Southern Pines

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chris Kennedy, the assistant town manager of Southern Pines in Moore County, was named Pittsboro's town manager last Thursday.

The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to hire Kennedy to oversee the

administration of town government at a meeting at town hall. He comes to the role as a permanent replacement for former Town Manager Bryan Gruesbeck, who resigned in late January at the request of the town board.

Gruesbeck had been in the position since late 2012; Interim Town Manager Robert Morgan has been serving in the post since early February.

Kennedy, 32, was raised in Asheboro and graduated from Southwest Randolph High School and Davidson College,

See **KENNEDY**, page A7

VOICES OF CHATHAM

Chatham County becomes focal point of N.C. State oral history project

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Correspondent

For centuries, verbal storytelling has been an important component in documenting the history of the American South. Now, Chatham County residents have an opportunity to have their stories heard.

In the summer of 2019, a group of researchers at North Carolina State University began interviewing people across Chatham County as

part of a project called Voices of Chatham: The Changing Language of Chatham County, aimed at preserving and studying the history and language of the county. A year later, the project continues, though interviews have been delayed for the foreseeable future.

Voices of Chatham is a project under the umbrella of N.C. State's larger program, The Language and Life Project, started by Dr. Walt

See **VOICES**, page A12

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events are subject to change based on closures due to coronavirus. Verify with organizers prior to events.

ON THE AGENDA

- The **Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees** will meet virtually at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 22. To join the meeting by phone, call 1-571-392-7650 (PIN: 346 400 4380). To join the meeting by video, visit: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/25642d08374f4ff49c-9119da6435e108>.
- The **Chatham County Board of Education** will hold a meeting at noon on Thursday, July 23, in the boardroom of the district's headquarters at 369 West St., Pittsboro.
- The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 27. This will be a virtual meeting. For more information, contact Pittsboro's Interim Town Clerk Cassandra Bullock at CBullock@pittsboronc.gov.

CANCELLATIONS

- **Chatham County Council on Aging:** both centers are closed at this time until further notice. If you need to pickup supplies, call the Siler City or Pittsboro location or check our website: chathamcoa.org.
- **Chatham County Historical Museum:** For the safety of visitors and volunteers, the Chatham County Historical Museum is closed

until further notice. See our website: <https://chathamhistory.org>.

- **Chatham Community Library:** Closed to the public at this time.

- **State Employees Credit Union (SECU)** branches statewide have temporarily transitioned to drive-thru only, Members who need to access safe deposit boxes, drop off tax return information, or inquire about a loan should call the branch to schedule an appointment.

THURSDAY

- The **Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonable items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. It is located at 287 East St., Pittsboro.
- St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church provides a healthy, appetizing **meal at no cost** to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

UPCOMING

- **Chatham Community Library** will offer **free classes** on Microsoft PowerPoint in July. While the library is closed, all classes will be presented virtually via GoToMeeting. A description of each class and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 1 at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 2 at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29.

For more information, call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org. A full list of upcoming programs can be found on the library's events calendar.

- Central Carolina Community College will offer the **Teacher Preparation degrees** this fall. To register for the programs, visit www.cccc.edu/apply-register/ or call **CCCC Student Services** at 919-718-7300. Students can earn an Associate in Science - Teacher Preparation degree or Associate in Arts - Teacher Preparation degree in only two years, and then transfer to a four-year institution and enter as a junior. These degrees allow students to pursue a teaching degree in the K-12 field of education.

ALSO HAPPENING

- Descendants of Horton High School Alumnus or attendee of Horton High School are eligible to apply for the **Horton High School Alumni Association Scholarship** for 2019-2020. High school graduates, college students, and graduate students are encouraged to apply on the HHSA website: hortonhighalumni.com. Deadline for application has been extended to August 1 due to COVID-19.
- The **Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** reopened for shopping. Face coverings will be required. The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. We have a store full of adult summer clothing and accessories! Donations NOT accepted at this time. We are located in Pittsboro, on the Courthouse Circle,

beside the Roadhouse. All proceeds support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

- Girl Scouts offers **Virtual Summer Activities to Girls** in Central and Eastern North Carolina with Virtual Day Camps and other events and activities available for girls to partake in safely, both indoors and outside. Girls and parents can learn more about the GS-NCCP Beyond Summer Program by visiting the Girl Scouting at Home page on nccoastalpin.es.org. In addition to GS-NC-CP offerings, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has launched the Girl Scout Camp Adventures at Home Marketplace with even more opportunities for girls to get outdoors from home, and families are encouraged to explore those as well. These opportunities are available to all girls, not just Girl Scouts, and financial assistance is available to those with a need so that all girls are able to benefit from outdoor experiences this summer.

- With COVID-19 sweeping the country, artists' livelihoods are being challenged like never before. The Chatham Arts Council has put together

a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: **Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort**. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.

- JMArts hosted a **JMA-CoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by Jordan-Matthews students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMA-CoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.

- **Adult Volunteers Needed** at Chatham Hospital in Siler City, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Siler City and part of the UNC Health Care System. All prospective volunteers must complete an on-line application, a criminal background check, an orientation and have documentation of required immunizations. To learn more go to: www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer.

- **Volunteers Needed:** Nonprofit agencies in Chatham seek teen volunteers to help with many projects. Teens can help at food pantries, in gardens, fundraising projects, office work, and care for animals. Chatham

Connecting website lists many volunteer opportunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community: www.chathamconnecting.org.

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

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

- **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.

- **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps! Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings!

- **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.

Pandemic increases need for mail-based voter registration

WASHINGTON, DC – The Voter Participation Center (VPC) and its partner group, the Center for Voter Information (CVI), are mailing 1,375,242 voter registration applications to people in North Carolina this month as part of their campaign to register voters ahead of the 2020 election. More than 2.2 million people who can vote in North Carolina are not yet registered, according to the “Voting

NEWS BRIEFS

and Registration in the Election of November 2018” supplement to the U.S. Census, and 70% of them are members of the Rising American Electorate: young people, people of color and unmarried women. VPC and CVI are significantly increasing their efforts during the coronavirus crisis, to ensure that historically disadvantaged communities can exercise their democracy by registering to vote by mail and requesting vote-by-mail ballots online. The groups mail registration applications to unregistered

individuals, along with pre-addressed envelopes to make it easy to send completed forms directly to local election officials. People who want to register online, have questions about the mailing, or who want to be excluded from future mailings can visit voter-participation.org. VPC and CVI are in touch with election officials months ahead of all mailings. The organizations make sample mailings and in-depth information about their programs available online.

— CN + R staff reports

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The Chatham News + Record (USPS #101-160) is published weekly, 52 weeks a year, by Chatham Media Group LLC, 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, N.C. 27344. Subscription rates: 1 year — \$45 in county, and \$50 out of county; 6 months — \$25 in county and \$30 out of county. Periodicals postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Siler City.

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

ARTS

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culminated this year with the founding of The School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA), a Chatham-based charter school focused on using the arts and culturally responsive teaching to empower Black and brown boys.

As a charter school, SABA will be an independently operated public institution — publically funded and open to all students who wish to attend. There are no fees to attend, Toomer said, but there will be a weighted lottery for admission. Though the school will receive federal and district funds, it will also depend on grants and donations to help provide creative learning and meet accessibility goals such as providing free meals to all students during the school day.

“SABA will help them to be leaders in our community and our kids deserve it,” said Toomer, who was previously the principal at Horton Middle School for the last four years. “They deserve to have a place that will nurture their cultures, nurture their multiple ways of learning, nurture their love of the arts and that’s what we anticipate SABA being about.”

‘Forged during a pandemic’

Pending state board approval, the school is set to open in August 2021. There’s no building for the school yet, but the plan is for it to be in Pittsboro once it does open, Toomer said. The school’s board of directors, made up of eight members who live mostly in Chatham County, is currently distributing an interest survey to families in Chatham.

Offering a culturally responsive, arts-based education, the school will partner with two instructional organizations: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), a nonprofit focused on closing the opportunity gap to prepare all students for college and careers, and A+ Schools of North Carolina, a whole-school model that views the arts as foundational to teaching and learning.

Because of limitations on in-person



Submitted photo

Valencia Toomer, an educator for the last nine years and former principal at Horton Middle School, founded SABA this year, but it’s been a ‘long-standing vision’ for her.

meetings to limit the spread of the coronavirus, SABA’s leadership has faced challenges in promoting the school meeting with potential investors. Being able to talk with families who don’t have access to social media or the internet is also more challenging without the availability of traditional meeting spaces.

“All of our work has been done via technology, so we’ve not had the ability to meet and engage one another as we develop a plan,” board member Robert Logan said. “That’s been a big drawback. It slowed our process and finding a facility because we cannot get out and move around as we’d like to. So it’s had an impact and it’s slowed the work — it hasn’t stopped but it has slowed the process. But we’ve persevered; we’re pushing through it.”

SABA board member Mike Wiley said the pandemic has also helped bring to light the lack of equity in schooling — particularly when it comes to access to technology.

“There are students, many of them, predominantly Black and brown, who don’t have access to the minimal technologies that they need to survive in a virtual world,” said Wiley, a local performer and playwright. “Having a school that is forged during a pandemic will give us experiences that enable us to understand what our students will need, because we’re seeing ourselves what we need to

be able to survive through this.”

Logan, a former superintendent at Chatham County Schools, is the eastern division director for AVID, serving the eastern region of the U.S. With 44 years in education, Logan said the current structure of schools don’t allow for all students to reach their highest potential.

“Chatham County Schools is not just a good school system, it’s an excellent school system,” he said. “And I’m not saying that because I was the superintendent, I’m saying that because now I work for an organization that I’m in 22 states and over 300 school districts. But there’s a need for special services for children who aren’t doing as well as we want them to do because of the structure of school districts.”

‘Hear the stories’

SABA’s doors are open to any boys who wish to attend, but the school will be specifically structured to serve boys of color by cultivating knowledge of self and exposing students to rich and diverse culturally responsive learning opportunities.

This structure and emphasis on the arts is meant to help address the achievement gap — any significant and persistent disparity in education performance — found between Black and white students in Chatham County.

“In Chatham County the achievement gap is with our minority boys, particularly our Black boys,” said Saundra Gardner, a former CCS counselor. “We have tried and tried to figure out how to close that gap, and I’m excited about SABA making the attempts with the arts to see if that’s the thing that can close the gap in Chatham County for these boys.”

In her experience as a counselor, Gardner heard from many students’ cases of being the only Black person in an honors or AP class, or feelings of being disciplined more harshly than their white peers.

“Oftentimes teachers have to teach and they teach so that their test scores are where they need to be, so they’re not going to take the time to hear the stories of their students,” Gardner said. “I want SABA to hear the stories.”

In Chatham, students of color — particularly brown and Black boys — are suspended at higher rates than any other group and their test scores are consistently not reaching those of their white counterparts, Wiley and Toomer said. In recent years, CCS has emphasized a commitment to equity within its schools to address and eventually reverse these gaps.

“We have to ask ourselves why is that? Why is that happening?” Wiley said. “Why does it continue to happen? To be able to combat that, it is important that SABA succeed, it is important to have a SABA that particularly teaches Black and brown boys from a pedagogical standpoint that nurtures the difference in them.”

As a playwright and artist in residence at multiple schools, Wiley has seen the positive impact arts can have for students.

“Here’s an opportunity to really focus on those young men who, perhaps without the kind of focus that SABA could give them, may not get up in the higher echelons of boardrooms or be doctors, lawyers, film directors, artists, visual artists, performing artists,” he said. “They may not see themselves in those roles until someone shows that is a possibility and that’s not always apparent in a traditional public school setting.”

The school will submit its charter application to the state on July 24, Toomer said, and expects to hear back about its status by next spring. SABA expects to have 110 students its first year. The school will start with third, fourth and fifth grade and gradually increase each year until it reaches the 12th grade.

“This is not necessarily a Chatham issue — this is a nationwide issue with the achievement gap and the discipline disparities that exist especially with minority boys,” Toomer said. “For me, it was recognizing that I want to provide Chatham County students and families with another option for learning. SABA is another option for students and families within Chatham — I started in Chatham, I was born and raised in Chatham and I still have work to do in Chatham.”

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.

PLAN C

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individual districts could choose to adopt to move to Plan C.

The board’s motion, proposed by board member David Hamm and seconded by board member Melissa Hlavac, underwent two revisions and remained on the floor for nearly an hour before a formal vote was taken. Originally, Hamm proposed CCS enter Plan C for nine weeks, but he amended his motion after CCS Superintendent Derrick Jordan suggested a shorter period before re-evaluation. The second revision clarified that the board felt the decision to go to Plan C was needed “to ensure the health and safety of students and teachers and to satisfy instructional requirements.”

“Right at this moment in time, it’s not a debate of going to Plan B,” Hamm said a few minutes before making the motion. “Yes, we’ll go to Plan B at some point in time — maybe nine weeks will give us some time to figure that out.”

Plan B the most complex option

Prior to Hamm’s motion, board member Jane Allen Wilson suggested the board delay making a decision that night and call a special meeting for early the next week. Though she expressed a personal preference for Plan C, she said the board “owed it to the public” to have conversations with the public prior to making a firm decision. Board member Del Turner expressed support for a special meeting, and emphasized the importance of hearing from teachers

before deciding on their behalf.

In the public chat adjacent to the live stream of the meeting, many virtual attendees expressed frustration at the indecisiveness of the board, particularly from Wilson.

“You were elected to make a decision,” attendee Kimrey Rhinehardt said in response to Wilson saying she didn’t want her personal opinions to dictate her vote.

Wilson referenced articles she read in the last few days, stating she wanted the board to have a more “thoughtful conversation” about creative ways to allow students — particularly those in elementary school — to interact with their teachers, rather than the “panicked conversation” she felt the board was having.

“I don’t feel like I’m making a panicked decision, thank you,” Hlavac said.

Hamm added: “I really wish we could be in person right now, because I hope people can hear in my voice that this is not panic, it’s passion. There’s a big difference.”

After some back and forth between Hamm and Wilson, Hlavac said making a decision — rather than delaying it to the next Monday or Tuesday — would be helpful to students and parents, even without all the “information at hand.” She pointed out it would likely be a long time before the board would have answers to all their questions.

“There are no good options here,” attendee Michele Jonsson Funk said in the chat, as many parents sent conflicting opinions on which plan should be adopted. “We are looking for the least bad option that is fair and doesn’t disproportionately impact kids and their families who are already

at risk.”

At this point, board Chairman Gary Leonard suggested the amendment of the motion from nine weeks to four weeks. Wilson said she felt four weeks would allow for more flexibility.

Leonard also clarified the language of the motion should specifically include “remote” learning, as “virtual” learning is not possible for students without reliable broadband or internet-connected devices.

The vote was then called by Kristin Guthrie, administrative assistant to the superintendent. Prior to the Thursday BOE meeting, CCS told stakeholders in an email they’d be making an announcement soon regarding a strategy for school reopening.

“While we had no prior knowledge that Plan B is where state officials would land, we recognized that it was the most complex option on the table and last week deployed a survey to gather your input,” said that email message from last week, a copy of which was sent to the News + Record.

Some of the requirements outlined by the governor for Plan B include required face coverings for all students and teachers, limited numbers of people — maximum 50% capacity — in school buildings to allow for social distancing and the provision of masks and thermometers to schools.

More details to come

Prior to the board’s vote for CCS to go to Plan C, Superintendent Jordan gave a brief presentation sharing survey results with the board. The presentation included results from the surveys on reopening school from parents, students and employees, as well as results from a survey specifically regarding remote learning.

While the remote learning survey closed Wednesday at noon, the data from the reopening survey was three weeks old. Hamm questioned the accuracy of these results several times, stating cases in North Carolina had risen drastically since then. Several attendees in the chat feature agreed.

“There wasn’t a person thinking three weeks ago that now wouldn’t be better — and now it’s actually worse,” Hamm said.

The CCS presentation also included a breakdown of the projected costs of over \$276,000 for the district to comply with the state’s health standards for Plan B, an-

nounced by Gov. Cooper Tuesday. Many of the items on this list included recurring purchases, but the district was not clear how often those items (such as hand sanitizer) would need to be replaced. This budget would come from local funds, the CCS presentation said.

Before entering closed session, the board discussed the Seaforth High School Attendance Zone. In the public comment session, citizens overwhelmingly supported scenario two, stating significant concern about the board clustering affluence at Seaforth and taking away resources from Northwood High School. The board removed scenario one from consideration and unanimously pushed the final decision on Seaforth attendance to their next regular session meeting, scheduled for Aug. 10.

“Once again, this should have been a conversation that should have been had three weeks ago,” attendee Randall Armstrong said in the chat.

The board also unanimously approved the district’s draft of its remote learning plan, due by July 20 to the North Carolina State Board of Education under Senate Bill 704 and SBE SPLN-006. Several people in the chat questioned why the remote learning plan was not discussed prior to taking the vote. The 44-page draft details information regarding community survey and consultation sessions, technology training and support, student and staff expectations by grade level range and more.

The Friday after the BOE meeting, CCS suspended summer workouts “until further notice” at Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central. Two days before the cancellation of workouts, the NCHSSA announced it was delaying the start of fall sports until at least Sept. 1. It is not yet clear when other specific details about how Plan C will be implemented or decided and announced to CCS families.

“We recognize this is not a user-friendly format,” the draft currently reads, adding the format was required by the state for submission. “We will develop specific guides for parents, students, and staff. We appreciate your patience as we work on these documents.”

“This will continue to be a work in progress,” Jordan said regarding the plan.

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.



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VIEWPOINTS

Remembering, and reconciling, a pet’s passing



BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

I don’t remember the year Stormy died, but I remember the day. It was summer, and it was hot, and I had some kind of meeting to go to that night. We had an in-ground pool in our backyard and before I left the house, I’d gone down for one reason or another — maybe to turn off the water for the water slide, which the kids often forgot to do? — and saw our cat, on his side, lying motionless on the stamped concrete area around the pool. Stormy was a tabby who’d shown up unannounced at our previous house one night eight or nine years before during a nasty storm. When the rain and thunder abated, we began hearing his meows — they were coming from under the house — and the next morning we easily coaxed him out and

began making a home for him. We learned quickly that he was smart and affectionate, and in short order he endeared himself to us. He loved us as much as we loved him. He wasn’t temperamental or moody or fickle. Kindness and affection were his traits, and his favorite thing in the world — at least it seemed to me — was to jump up in my lap whenever I got into my recliner. Once we added the pool out back, I’d sometimes go down before sundown on hot summer days with some music and a book or a magazine to just read and decompress. On every one of those occasions, Stormy would accompany me, hop up on the lounge and nestle between my feet for some relaxation of his own. In our family, we all adored him, but as the years passed it was unquestionable that Stormy was my cat and I was his human. Whenever and wherever I sat in the house, he would either be tethered to me

or close by. So on that awful early evening when I went down and saw him on the ground, in the direct heat of the sun — his little mouth trying to make a “meow” sound, his eyes frantically imploring me to help — I knew something was terribly wrong. I did something then I’ll always regret: instead of going to him — I was positive he’d suffered some kind of stroke, and I think I just panicked as I foresaw his loss — I ran into the house and called out for Lee Ann. My wife is always calm and measured when I’m frantic, and she hurried down with a towel and carefully wrapped Stormy inside it. He was alive, but couldn’t move. Once I knew he was safe in her arms, I scurried off to my car with tears in my eyes, off to that now-forgotten meeting. I never said a proper goodbye. After my meeting ended, I called Lee Ann from the car. She’d taken Stormy to our vet, who confirmed my diagnosis. Dr. Myers had already put Stormy down. A few days later, Lee Ann went to pick up his ashes, bringing them home inside a purple velvet drawstring bag. When I opened it and pulled out the box and held the urn — it was in the shape of an elegant white ceramic cat — I cried. Just like I’d done each night since his passing, devastated by the loss, but also throttled by the memory of the sight of him at the pool and knowing that he’d suffered, that’d he’d likely been scared and miserable in the heat of that day, wondering where I was and confused about what was happening to him. The next few days were hard, as they are for any pet owner who suffers loss. Over the years Stormy’s ashes stayed sealed inside the urn, inside the box, inside the bag. I’m not sure where Lee Ann kept it — the bag wasn’t in plain sight, which was probably my doing — but it has moved twice with us. Last week, in our new home, as Lee Ann contin-

ued to unpack and put things in their proper places, the purple drawstring bag suddenly showed up again, this time atop the dresser in our bedroom. I did a good job of ignoring it for a day until Lee Ann and I found ourselves together in the bedroom. She pointed it out to me. Of course I knew what it was. There was one thing inside the box, though, I didn’t know about. Lee Ann opened the bag and removed something small, then showed me what was encased inside. Stormy’s paw print, memorialized in clay. “Isn’t it precious,” she said. It wasn’t a question; it was an affirmative declaration. I had no words. Tears? Yes. Then, and now, as I write this. We’ve had other cats and dogs come and go since then, but Stormy remains singular in my mind and in our lives. His urn is now out of the box, on the dresser, where it’ll stay. And his paw print? Close by. Just like Stormy always was.

Seaforth matters

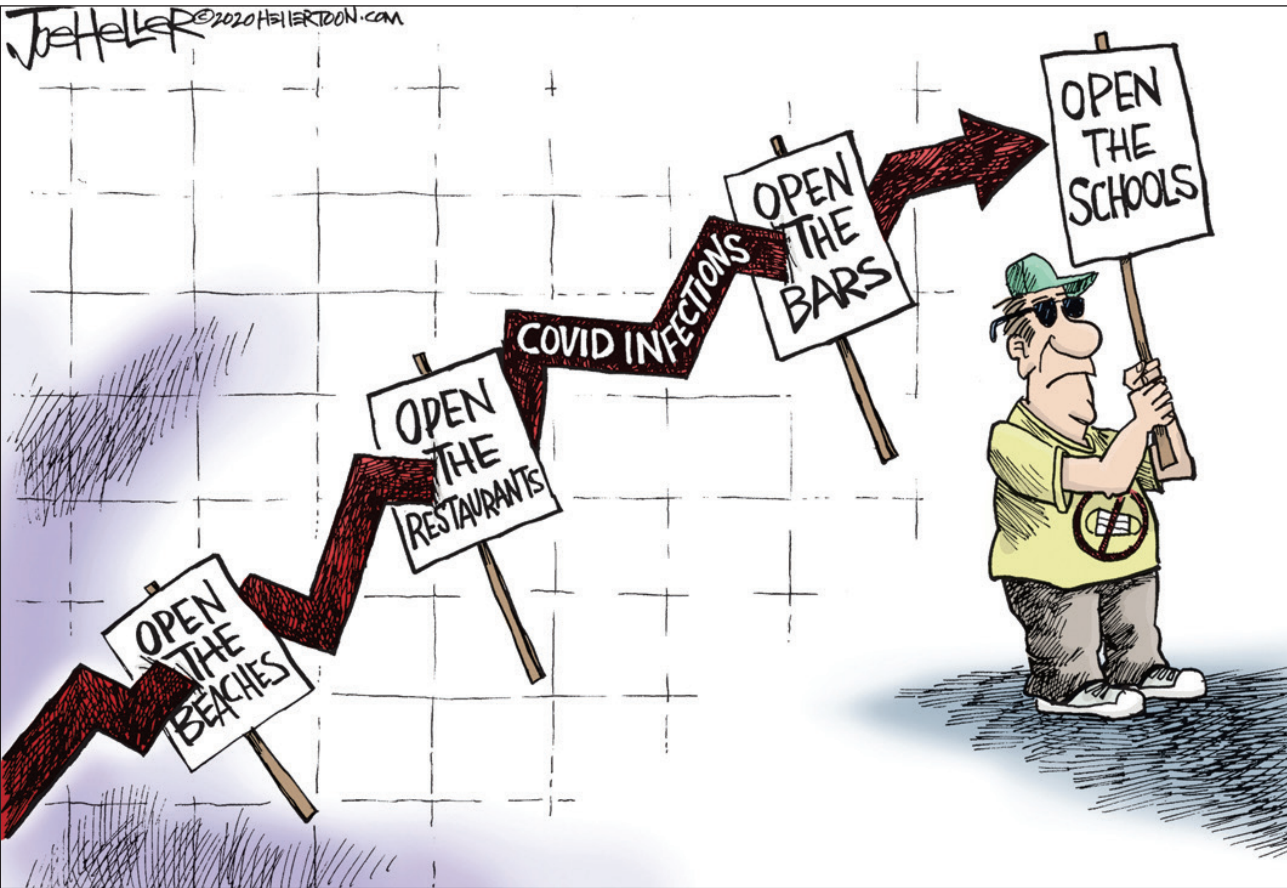


ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

Last week’s Chatham County school board meeting centered on the decision to reopen schools this fall. Yet, there was also discussion regarding the 2021 school district for Seaforth High School. I’m focused on this issue as a white parent living in the neighborhood of Briar Chapel. In my subdivision, 92% of residents are white. In the aftermath of George Floyd’s death, Black Lives Matter signs sprang up in a fair percentage of yards across the neighborhood. When the HOA evoked a previously unenforced rule and threatened to impose fines on residents unless those signs were removed, a hue and cry was raised on social media. Several news outlets (including the News + Record) picked up the story of what looked like a targeted effort against the Black Lives Matter movement. As of this writing, the HOA has backed off its threat and issued a public apology.

White people in Briar Chapel have power. Regarding the new school district of the high schools, we have the opportunity to show what matters to us. Our students had attended Perry Harrison Elementary. This fall, our neighborhood was redistricted to the brand-new Chatham Grove Elementary School. While 27% of the students at Perry Harrison were children of color, the new school will be as white as Briar Chapel. Though Briar Chapel is currently districted for Northwood High School, the school board is weighing a decision to move our students to Seaforth High School next fall. As a consequence of this reassignment, the percentage of Black students at Seaforth would be half of the percentage of Black students at Northwood (7% to 14%). The Chatham Park development is already in the Seaforth district, which means this high school will likely become even whiter in the near future. Why does this matter? Every major academic indicator shows that Black students perform better in schools that are more fully integrated. Yet, public schools in the South are now segregated at levels before the historic 1954 Supreme Court decision Brown vs. Board of Education. Due to residential and school segregation, children of color are often isolated from opportunities and resources that impact their well-being and future. I fully expect parents will make decisions based upon what is best for their children. I do the same for my own. I do ask that white parents reconsider what we mean by “best” for our children. Northwood is an excellent high school. Does “best” always mean the newest, wealthiest, most high-tech? Does “best” mean whitest? It has for a long time in our country. But segregation contradicts the values of unity and equal opportunity that we espouse as a nation. Segregation supports notions of supremacy, whether explicitly stated or not. What gives my wife and I pause is that, especially since the novel coronavirus has limited us to our neighborhood, there are many days when the only people of color our children see are the women cleaning homes and the men cutting grass. The racial diversity in our children’s schools matters deeply. I appreciate those Black Lives Matter lawn signs in my neighborhood. But I believe what’s “best” is to use our social, political and economic power to live in more fully integrated environments. In terms of our children’s racial consciousness, those are the lessons that will matter the most. As Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall predicted in 1974: “Unless our children begin to learn together, there is little hope that our people will ever learn to live together.”

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church and author of *Gently Between the Words: Essays and Poems*. He is currently working from home with his wife and three children.



Losing the battle but winning the war



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

Folks everywhere have a wide range of teachers during their lives. Sometimes we even pay attention to them and the lessons being taught, but sometimes we don’t. One of the tricks to life is trying to figure out which ones we should listen to and which ones we shouldn’t. Usually, when we say “teacher,” we mean the folks we encountered from kindergarten or first grade to those who showed us the door after 12 years. Years ago, in the dark ages when dinosaurs roamed the earth, I had a wide range of them ranging from people I still feel very passionate about to some whose names even are difficult to conjure up. Included in that first group are Lucille Sears (4th grade), Hazel McCollum (6th), Gene Brooks (high school U.S. history), Joyce Cotten (typing) and Annie May and Mary Riggsbee (high school English and creative writing). In the latter group, there is ... uh, well, you get the picture. Some of those folks are precious memories while others are still around. Occasionally, our paths will cross, and I’m always a better person for that. Some of them tell me to call them by their first names, but that just doesn’t roll of my tongue easily so usually it’s still “Mr.” or “Mrs.”

Later, there came college. A significant portion of that time, for me, was spent in pursuits outside the classroom, a procedure I do not recommend to youth today if they want to do something other than flunk out several times. The names of most of those people who stood at the front of classrooms I did enter are lost to eternity but a couple do stand out — Hugh T. Lefler, who wrote THE book on North Carolina history that thousands, yeah, even millions, of our state’s eighth graders used for years and John Adams, the renowned dean of the UNC School of Journalism when journalism was more than a writer’s opinion on an issue. In time, I had the opportunity to spend three years on the campus of old Wake Forest University when it was Wake Forest College and actually was in Wake Forest. There, a couple of dozen individuals helped me stretch both my mind and heart on my way through seminary. Even now, almost 40 years after the fact, I pretty well still remember date, time, place and names. I say all that to say that as I move through life, it strikes me that most of the folks, including and especially school teachers, we listen to are folks helping us deal with stuff we like. Looking back on high school, for instance, English, history and learning to type were the areas I liked the most so it’s those teachers who resonated the most. On the other hand, the good ladies who tried

their hardest to teach me calculus and French III weren’t getting much to work with from me, and my reluctance to kick in all the way is part of the reason a four-year college career was crammed into seven years. But the seminary experience, something I was really interested in, likely couldn’t have been any better. All those good folks aside, however, it’s becoming more and more obvious that the real teacher is life. And the place our school teachers fit into is how they affect our life experiences and how those experiences then go on to teach us. Life is a funny teacher: it gives the test first and then the lesson. Sometimes we get it, but sometimes we don’t. Sometimes I find I’m doing the same thing over and over and life’s lessons just haven’t sunk in yet. But not to worry — life is consistent if nothing else. She’ll just keep giving us the test and the lesson over and over if we need it. Sometimes, she’ll even throw us a curve, like the way we’ve been living for the past six months. What I’m really hoping for here on out is learning to see the big picture. Too many times, I can’t do that because I’m caught up in the immediate, the here and now. I confess to you that right now, life is being a pretty tough teacher, what with the virus and the disorder in society. I’m really looking forward to the end of some lessons. Sometimes, we really do lose a few battles along the way as we try to win the war.

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VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

For the second time in my life, I won't vote Republican

TO THE EDITOR:

The first time I voted in a presidential general election was 1996. The Republican platform that year called for a new president because, in part our “society grows more violent and less decent,” and that the Clinton administration “talk(s) endlessly and confront(s) nothing. They offe not convictions, but alibis. They are paralyzed by indecision, weakened by scandal and guided only by the perpetuation of their own power.” The platform called for “moral clarity in our culture and ethical leadership in the White House.” From that point until 2016, I voted for the Republican candidate for president because I agreed with that platform.

In the 2016 election, it was clear that Donald Trump did not adhere to these principles. Instead of offering a candidate of high moral character and leadership, the Republican Party offered a candidate who openly bullied and mocked those that disagreed with him and promoted policies that were seeped in self-interests. For the first time in my life I did not vote for a candidate from a

major political party.

Four years later, it is time again to cast my vote. I will not vote to re-elect a man who was impeached for withholding aid from foreign governments to gain favors to perpetuate his own power. I will not vote for a person who provides alibis instead of taking responsibility for actions of his administration. I will not vote for a man who provides rhetoric that inflames and makes society less decent instead of using his position as president to pull the nation together.

For these and countless other reasons, I won't be voting for a Republican candidate for president for the second time in my life.

Steven Beckstrand
Morrisville

Joblessness: The consequence of a shutdown

TO THE EDITOR:

Putatively, “based on scientific data,” on March 27, NC Executive Order (EO) No. 121 mandated individuals “stay home” and distance six feet, and closed “non-essential” businesses; on June 26, EO No. 146 mandated face masks.

However on June 5, due to ambiguous data regarding face mask protection, the World Health Organization (WHO) didn't advocate masks for the healthy public or six feet distancing, but recommended only sick people with fever/cough wear masks and three foot distancing.

During NC Emergency Management Briefing (EMB) on July 9, Dr. Mandy Cohen described increasing COVID laboratory cases, followed by a discrepant stable 9% positive test rate. She concluded, “While it is stable, it remains elevated,” omitting mention of potential benefit of herd immunity. Her final platitudes were (paraphrased): “We're in a critical period to maintain health systems capacity, get kids back to school, and reignite the economy.” In another EMB (July 14) focused on School Reopening, she stated the COVID metrics “look similar to last week.” She never mentioned masks/six-foot distancing are not advocated by the WHO or new Stanford University data reporting very low COVID mortality (0.04% for those < 70 years), lower than the seasonal flu. The new Center For Disease Control guidelines advocating masks used flimsy Wuhan China data, models, “plausible” virology;

two case reports of masked Missouri hairdressers; and an observational report from Massachusetts General Hospital showing masks reduced positive COVID laboratory cases from 15% to 12% in high risk health workers. Aforementioned problematic science was used by EMB to mandate healthy NC Citizenry wear masks.

Neither EMB analyzed job disintegration from the self-inflicted economic lock down. The Charlotte Observer reported a \$150 million loss after cancellation of the National Republican Convention; Greenville WITN reported a \$1M loss from cancellation of the NC Republican Convention. On July 9, the Wall Street Journal reported American and United Airlines plan huge job cuts (30,000 and 20,000, respectively) and Hertz Rental Car plus Brooks Brothers are claiming bankruptcy. Neither EMB discussed ripple effect of job losses to three metropolitan airports, (Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro), the 35 Hertz rental locations or Brooks Brothers retail sites. EMB participants mandated job loss with an easy stroke of the pen. Rebuilding jobs is more difficult, and if ignored, there may be nothing to return.

Frank Dunphy
Pittsboro

GUEST COLUMN | CORBIE HILL

The pandemic and schools: Let's protect our kids, our schools — our community

The school year starts in a few weeks, and my stress level is through the ceiling.

Yes, Chatham County Schools decided late last week to operate on Plan C — remote learning only — for four weeks. This should be a source of relief, but it's really not. Like a lot of parents and school employee spouses (I'm in both categories), I'm terrified that sooner or later schools will be reopened in some capacity, putting my wife and children — and all school and school employee families — in immediate danger.

In the greater scheme of the COVID-19 pandemic, four weeks is the blink of an eye. Four weeks, too, brings us one month closer to a fall and winter that CDC Director Robert Redfield warns “are going to be probably one of the most difficult times that we've experienced in American public health,” thanks to the combination of flu season with the United States' runaway COVID-19 numbers.

Much of the conversation surrounding school reopenings nationwide is predicated upon an incomplete understanding of how COVID-19 affects children. Contrary to the body of folk wisdom that has coalesced during this pandemic, children are not immune. In Nueces County, Texas, 85 infants have tested positive for COVID-19 since mid-March, per CNN; closer to home, an 8-year-old Durham girl died of COVID-19 in June, as Victoria Bouloubasis reported for Enlace Latino NC.

“While we've seen an explosion of COVID-19 research, and we're learning something new every day, a relatively small proportion of that research has been on children,” Duke primary care pediatrician Charlene Wong said during a virtual media briefing. The erroneous conclusion that children are immune likely stems from early studies which, thanks to small sample sizes and other flaws, gave an incomplete picture of how coronavirus affects children, per the July 18 New York Times story “Older Children Spread the Coronavirus Just as Much as Adults, Large Study Finds.” The South Korean study mentioned by the NYT, with its more substantive sample size of 65,000, found that those aged 10 to 19 are just as likely to spread COVID-19 as adults. Children under the age of 10 were about half as likely to spread the virus.

That's hardly immunity.

“I fear that there has been this sense that kids just won't get infected or don't get infected in the same way as adults and that, therefore, they're almost like a bubbled population,” observed University of Minnesota infectious diseases expert Michael Osterholm.

And even if through some form of magical thinking it were somehow safe to send children into school buildings, what of teachers? What of school staff? True, face coverings and social distancing remain some of our best defenses when we must go out, but neither guarantees safety. In a recent open letter, N.C. State cosmologist Katie Mack wrote that thanks to differences in construction and use, face coverings' effectiveness in filtering airborne particles can range from 28 to 90 percent. “The range of efficacies makes it clear that masks should not be considered protective over extended periods of time when people are in close quarters,” she writes. Beyond that, as she continues, airborne droplets can travel much farther in enclosed spaces.

I have a chronic form of leukemia. My wife is also a cancer survivor. And we know that we aren't the only family in the district with underlying conditions — not by a long stretch. For teachers and school staff in their 60s; for those of us with underlying conditions; even for healthy adults, the threat is too great to expect school staff to return for in-person education. Even with masks and cleaning protocols, people will get sick. People will die. As of Monday — the day North Carolina topped 100,000 cases — Chatham County's rate was 147.7 per 10,000 population, or the 11th-highest rate of North Carolina's 100 counties.

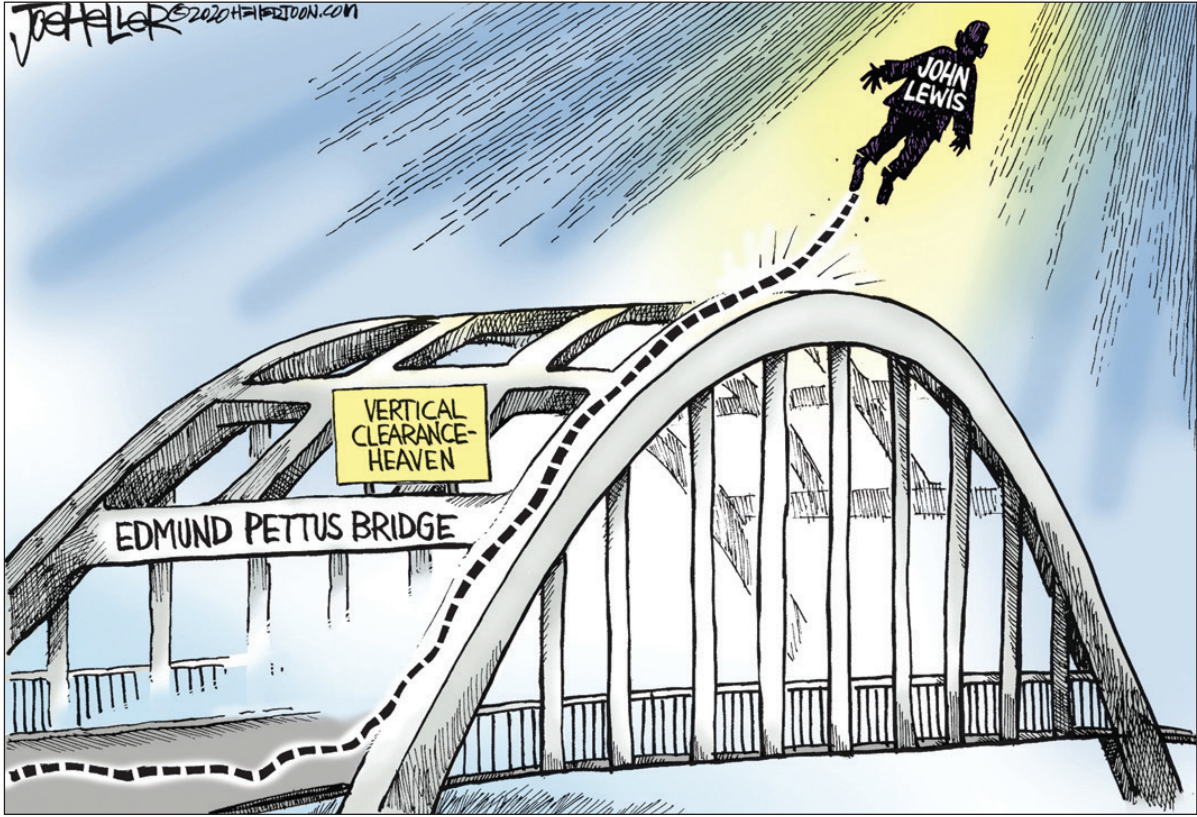
In terms of deaths per capita, we are fourth in the state, per the New York Times.

Fourth.

None of this was inevitable, by the way, and there's only the muddiest of logic behind talk about reopening or returning to normal; whatever normal was, it's gone. Decisions need to be made based upon the world as it is now. Indeed and for the sake of getting this monster under control, now is the time to shut everything down we can, wear our masks and stay apart.

Four weeks of virtual school is a strong start and a move in the most responsible direction, but it's exactly that: a start. As a county, let's not just hit the snooze button on this critical issue. Rather, let's act to protect our kids, our teachers, our school staff and — ultimately — our entire community.

Corbie Hill is a staff writer with Duke Magazine and a journalist whose work has appeared in News & Observer, INDY Week, Our State, and The Chicago Tribune, as well as the News + Record. He lives in Pittsboro with his family.



Challenges in higher education



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

tem, but larger problems loom on the horizon.

There are many, especially faculty, who don't believe it safe to return to in-class instruction. It is hard to calculate just how many will show up for class, but serious questions are being asked how students can achieve social distancing (4 feet is being suggested) and wear required masks in classrooms, dorms and cafeterias. Even greater concerns surround gatherings of students on and off campus. Then there's football games, both a moneymaking proposition on most campuses and a great crowd pleaser. Fall football might well be shifted to the spring.

In addition to the health concerns, many students face family financial hardships due to COVID-19. The UNC Board of Governors froze tuition rates for the coming year. Tuition only accounts for 23% of university funding (41% comes from the state), but this is another strain on already tenuous budgets. Additionally, students are questioning why they should pay the same tuition for online classes they pay for in-class instruction.

The school year will have started before the legislature determines a final budget for the next two years, but with a reported \$4 billion revenue shortfall, count on budget cuts. It's unlikely the UNC system will escape them. And, even though President Trump just reversed his position

New UNC System President Peter Hans starts his job soon and will have his hands full. Not only will he face reopening our 16-campus university system, but larger problems loom on the horizon.

The more long-term threat is the need to reform higher education. Between 2008 and 2018, system-wide tuition and fees increased 48% even as state funding decreased by an inflation-adjusted 13%. Costs must be reduced. Tough decisions lie ahead regarding student amenities, athletics (a money-loser at most schools), administrative costs, building maintenance and other expenses. Further, while our system has enjoyed record enrollment the past two years, the national picture is bleaker because of declining birth rates. And no one denies the increased competition from online and for-profit colleges.

for issuing visas for international students, their numbers will be diminished, losing additional revenue.

After several years of turmoil and administrative interference from the UNC Board of Governors, all recognize the need for President Hans to restore confidence with the respective campuses, legislators, donors and the public. New BOG chairman Randall Ramsey, along with some new faces, are providing a steadying influence, but there's still work to be done.

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Having served as chairman of the UNC Board of Gover-

nors, Hans understands our universities, and coupled with his two years as president of our state's 58 community colleges, he has a unique perspective. Our universities and community colleges need to be less competitive and more cooperative. Perhaps the two should be combined under a new governance model, with one person overseeing both — a conversation for another day.

It makes good economic and education sense for many high school graduates to gain an associate degree or spend the first two years of college at a community college close to home. They can save money, make the adjustment to college and better discern career choices then transfer to university for a bachelor's degree and graduate courses.

If the most important function for state government is education, we need the very best leadership possible. Hans is uniquely qualified to lead. We expect big things ahead.

Tom Campbell is former assistant North Carolina State Treasurer and is creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of NC issues that airs on UNC-TV.

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VIEWPOINTS

COVID infections far exceed cases



JOHN HOOD
John Locke
Foundation

You may recall that back in early April, a panel of health analysts presented Gov. Roy Cooper with two forecasts: 250,000 COVID infections by June 1, if Cooper's initial lockdown orders were kept in place, or 750,000 infections by June 1 if the orders were lifted. As of July 19, however, there were just 99,778 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina. Does that mean the governor's advisors were wildly inaccurate in their modeling? Should we ignore what they're saying now?

No and no.

As longtime readers know, I've criticized the governor's regulatory response to the coronavirus. I think it's been overly rigid, unfair, and in some respects an exercise of power

Cooper does not legally possess. I think his unwillingness to allow local districts to reopen schools for full-time instruction was particularly indefensible, ignoring scientific evidence and sacrificing the interests of students and their families to appease special-interest groups.

However, neither the Cooper administration nor its advisors deserve the bum rap that they vastly overestimated the number of infections North Carolina would experience. Indeed, it could be that their high-end estimate of 750,000 infections was an underestimation.

Cases and infections are two different things. The former is a subset of the latter. The original projection wasn't that 250,000 to 750,000 North Carolinians would test positive and thus become confirmed cases. It was that many hundreds of thousands would become infected with the virus — and that the vast majority would either show no symptoms or experience such mild symptoms

that they would never feel sick and get tested.

In the initial forecast, the scholars assumed that for every confirmed COVID case, there would be 24 additional people infected with the virus but not tested and thus never confirmed as cases. In a later forecast, they estimated total infections by multiplying by 10 rather than 25.

These were hardly unreasonable assumptions to make. They reflect well-known patterns for modeling diseases. Moreover, the parameters proved to be consistent with two subsequent developments: 1) huge increases in confirmed cases as North Carolina hugely expanded its testing capacity and 2) results from a serology study being conducted by the Wake Forest Baptist Health system, with partial funding from the legislature.

On testing for the disease itself, confirmed cases were averaging a few hundred a day in April. That shot up in May and June, into the thousands per day, but

interestingly the share of state-tracked tests producing a positive result stayed in a narrow range of 8% to 10%. In other words, the more we tested, the more cases we found. That's consistent with the existence of a background set of many unknown infections awaiting discovery.

As for testing blood for COVID-19 antibodies, the Wake Forest Baptist Health study is tracking a sample of just under 20,000 North Carolinians, disproportionately but not entirely in the Triad area. As of early July, about 14% have tested positive for antibodies, suggesting they were likely infected at some point in the past. If that were true for the population as a whole, nearly 1.5 million North Carolinians have already been infected.

We can't say that with confidence, however, because the Wake Forest Baptist study is not a truly random sample. It could be that those volunteering for the study are more likely to be symptomatic, or differ

from the general population in some other important ways.

Still, it is reasonable to conclude that current case count significantly understates the true number of infections. That means the virus is far less deadly than originally feared. But it also means that the virus is ubiquitous and easy to spread. Indeed, multiplying an infection fatality rate of even 0.1% by a large population will still yield many deaths.

So, while case-count reports can be misleading, we should be closely watching hospitalizations and deaths. We should be taking COVID-19 seriously. We should mask up and take other precautions. And we should avoid making spurious allegations even as we debate these critically important matters.

John Hood (@JohnHoodNC) is chairman of the John Locke Foundation and appears on "N.C. SPIN," broadcast statewide at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and at 12:30 p.m. Sundays on UNC-TV.

Reparations: North Carolina leads



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

The old monuments have been taken down. The old battle flag has been lowered, folded and put away even at NASCAR events. Black Lives Matter is everywhere. Uncle Ben and Aunt Jemima have been put to rest. Washington's football team is replacing its Redskins nickname. And John Lewis has joined Martin Luther King Jr. in heaven.

All this happening at once.

What is next? Reparations!

Who would have thought North Carolina would be, at least for a few minutes, the focal point of the debate about whether our country has a duty to compensate Black citizens for injuries past and present suffered by them and their ancestors as result of racism?

But it was, as this headline from the June 16 issue of USA Today attests: "In historic move, North Carolina city approves reparations for black residents."

The newspaper's report continued: "In an extraordinary move, the Asheville City Council has apologized for the North Carolina city's historic role in slavery, discrimination and denial of basic liberties to black residents and voted to provide reparations to them and their descendants. The 7-0 vote came the night of July 14."

Councilman Keith Young, a proponent of the measure, explained: "It is simply not enough to remove statues. Black people in this country are dealing with issues that are systemic in nature."

The Asheville action is local in nature and does not provide for direct payments to individuals. Instead, it anticipates investments in areas where African American residents experience disparities.

As the council's resolution provides, "the resulting budgetary and programmatic priorities may include but not be limited to increasing minority home ownership and access to other affordable housing, increasing minority business ownership and career opportunities, strategies to grow equity and generational wealth, closing the gaps in health care, education,

employment and pay, neighborhood safety and fairness within criminal justice."

Asheville's action may lead the way, but it does not answer the big questions that form the national debate about reparations for slavery and systemic racism.

Many questions remain: Why? How? How much? To whom? When?

North Carolina steps up to respond to such questions in a new book, "From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century," written by two Durham residents, William Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen. Darity is an economics professor at Duke University and Mullen, his wife, is a writer, folklorist, and museum consultant.

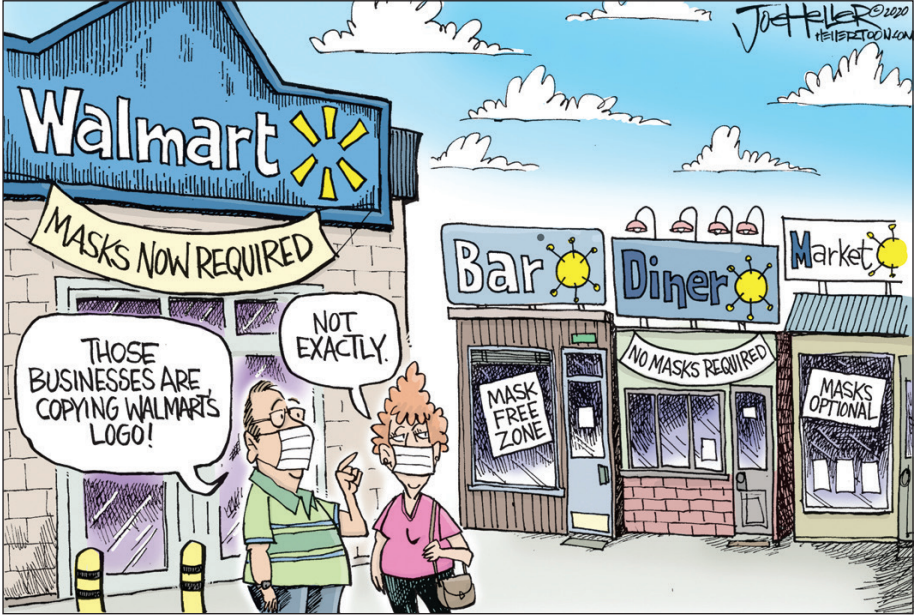
The authors present a detailed history of slavery: brutal, disturbing and necessary reading for both reparations advocates and skeptics. The horror endured by the enslaved is not the only grounds for payment. The authors show in detail how the system of slavery built enormous wealth for shipping companies, banks, insurance companies, colleges and many individuals, but left the exploited enslaved with nothing.

Darity and Mullen argue that the post-Civil War injustices and Jim Crowism as well as ongoing discrimination and racism in the United States are important grounds for restitution.

To be eligible to receive a reparation payment, they recommend that U.S. citizens would "need to establish that they had at least one ancestor who was enslaved." In addition, "they would have to prove that they self-identified as 'black,' 'Negro,' 'Afro-American' or 'African American' for at least 12 years before" the institution of a reparations program.

For any such program to be effective, they say it must include three components: acknowledgment (recognizing the benefits other Americans gained from slavery and exploitation), redress (effective restitution), and closure (when victims and beneficiaries are reconciled).

Darity and Mullen have not given us all the answers to the reparations questions, but they have organized the challenges and many options in such great and helpful detail that anyone who seeks to speak with authority on the question should not fail to read this book.



Can good things come from bad times?



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

She knew he would be back to work when the weather warmed. In order to get her family through the tight times, she would find temporary work. She would say, "It will all work out."

Collectively, our country and state are still dealing with the economic challenges created by the coronavirus. Hopefully, eventually "it will all work out," but right now many aren't convinced. We still see unemployed workers, struggling businesses and scared people.

We'd all like some good news. Maybe I can give it to you. Maybe there is some good news that comes from a struggling economy. Maybe there are some good things that result from bad times.

One idea is that bad times can motivate our survival instincts. A business on the edge of closing will look for ways to revive its sales by offering new products, services or experiences. Some businesses will totally remake themselves. Sometimes these changes work; other times they don't. The important point is that many businesses will attempt to innovate and adapt to the new circumstances.

The same often happens for workers. Workers losing their jobs or having their hours curtailed will often rethink their jobs and skillset and decide to also remake themselves.

Indeed, economic challenges prompted both my grandfathers to change occupations. Originally, they were farmers. The Great Depression of the 1930s hit farmers — especially small farmers like my grandfathers — extremely hard, and my grandfathers decided they couldn't continue. One of them sold his farm and retrained as an electrician. My other grandfather kept his farm as a hobby and studied to be an embalmer as his main source of income.

Economic history confirms that hard-times are periods of great innovation. More than half of today's Fortune 500 companies were founded during a recession or a period of economic decline. Microsoft started during a recession, and Apple reinvented itself with the iPod — the forerunner to the iPhone — in the "dot-com" bust of the early 2000s. Airbnb began in the middle of the 2008-2009 recession when travelers were looking for an alternative to pricey hotels.

The data also confirm economic bad-times are periods when more people — both young and old — choose to retrain

themselves just like my grandfathers did. During the last recession, some community colleges and four-year colleges saw their enrollments surge by 20%.

The retooling and retraining typically seen during recessions have three long-run benefits for the economy. First, the efforts reduce the number of businesses that are lost and make it easier for unemployed workers to find new jobs. Second, with economic circumstances now different, the remaking of firms and workers help them reshape the economy to what is now possible and desired. And third, innovations often make the economy more efficient — meaning more can be produced with less — thereby improving our standard of living.

Will we see these same kinds of business revivals and worker retrainings as a result of the current coronavirus recession? Many futurists say yes, and argue the new economy is already occurring.

For example, restaurants are putting more resources into pickup and delivery. Retailers are expanding their cyber presence at the same time physical outlets are closing. Remote working has surged and — some forecast — could approach one-third of the workforce in a few years. These are big changes that, if realized, would change how and where we live, work and shop. Collectively they have the potential to alter our spending and reconfigure our economic world.

Moreover, some see broader positives from these moves. With more remote working and cyber-buying, energy use could be saved from less commuting and traveling, work-life balances could be better managed and environmental damage could be curtailed.

Yet we shouldn't forget that every innovation and remixing of our economy has both benefits and costs. While the benefits described above could be a more sustainable and less stressful economy, the costs will be those businesses and workers who made the old economy work and the consumers who liked the "old way" of doing things.

A famous economist — Joseph Schumpeter — prophetically described what we are coping with today. He said economies move forward using a process he described as "creative destructionism." To create something new often means to destroy what's old.

Schumpeter's insight leaves us with numerous questions. Will our response to the coronavirus restructure our economy? If so, will it be an improved economy? And even if both answers are "yes," can we make sure no one is left behind? For each question, you decide!

Mike Walden is a Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

A note on Zoomers



RACHEL HOROWITZ
Millennial
Musings

One week into the stay-at-home order, I caved and downloaded TikTok. I witnessed my teenage sister and my father try to recreate the popular "Blinding Lights" dance. And somehow, the algorithm decided I only wanted to see funny videos of dogs (which is completely accurate).

I remember cheering gleefully when society moved from claiming "millennials are ruining the industry" to acknowledging that millennials are now in their mid-20s to late 30s and are doing perfectly fine, even if we don't use paper napkins or fabric softeners. But through TikTok, I realized that millennials — and older generations — still have the chance to ruin something.

You see, after showing impossibly fluffy Fidos, the algorithm started offering more serious videos, ones that exposed the toxicity those born from 1997 to 2012 (known as "Gen Z") experience. These ranged from calling out racist and sexist remarks to mobilizing viewers to hold others accountable for unjust killings or long-buried crimes. They are asking our generations to listen. And if we don't, we're ruining their future.

If we don't listen to Gen Z and discredit them as naïve, phone-addicted kids, then we're hindering them from reaching their full potential. Parents know this

when their teen asks them about systemic racism. Teachers know this when high school students rally in response to kids their age getting shot in their classrooms. And now with COVID-19, many Gen Z-ers are the ones convincing their family members to take the virus seriously.

If we don't listen to Gen Z and refuse to help them on a path to success, then we are preventing them from getting entry-level jobs. Those who graduated high school and college this year are looking at canceled internships and age barriers. We are telling graduates they need years of experience to get hired, but don't trust them enough to give them that experience.

If we don't listen to Gen Z and instead tell them to not get involved, stand up for their beliefs or speak out against hatred, then we hinder the most powerful group of future activists and leaders. I drove through the Pittsboro traffic circle when a group of Northwood students were peacefully advocating for Black lives, and then saw through many other generations angrily posting about it online. We are telling Gen Z to stop being offended by the news when the news affects them every single day.

So frankly, let's cut the ageist crap. Let's start actively listening to Zoomers and maybe even join them in a TikTok dance once in a while. Our future selves will thank us for it even if posterity won't.

Rachel Horowitz resides in Chatham County and works in Pittsboro. She is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill's Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

TOYS

Continued from page A1

ic dragged on. “It made me nervous,” she said, “but all I could do was take it one step at a time.” To combat major losses, Birchard took advantage of her extra downtime to bolster the store’s web and social media presence.

She regularly posted to her Facebook and Instagram pages, promoting her latest products for entertaining housebound children. Moving forward, Birchard plans to expand her store’s website to make it easier for customers to evaluate her selection and to decide what they want in advance.

“I want people who are nervous about coming in to have options, to feel safe,” she said. “And I want to make it easier for people to see what I have.”

While a bolstered online presence will help Birchard to keep pace with the way business functions in an internet-driven era, the charm of her toy store — located in The Blair Building across from the Chatham historic courthouse on Hillsboro Street — will always be in the uniqueness of her merchandise.

Among aisles of puzzles, puppets, robots and other toys — many of which are not available in the big franchise toy stores that dominate the industry — lie the real treasures of Pittsboro Toys: local, handcrafted playthings for children up to about age 12.

What makes them all the more exclusive is that most of the toys’ makers have passed away.

Ralph Evans was Birchard’s first and most prolific supplier of locally made toys. The World War II and Korean

War veteran pilot had a penchant for identifying trucks, animals, and more in the leftover bits of wood strewn about his shop. His talent and passion for handmade toys eventually developed into a business of its own.

“From test pilot to toy builder may seem a strange transition,” Evans once wrote, “but now, in retirement, I think I’ve found my purpose in life. There is great satisfaction in using scrap wood to make things that give pleasure to others.”

Birchard first met Evans at a local craft fair shortly after opening her store, and the two struck up a partnership. Though he died in 2018, Evans lives on in his work.

“He was such a hard worker,” Birchard recalled, “I still have so many toys from him.”

An entire shelf in Pittsboro Toys, spanning the length of the building, is dedicated to Evans’ wares. Birchard has boxes more out of view.

After working with Evans for a time, Birchard said, she “developed a reputation as the store that sold locally made toys.” Other craftsmen and local toymakers soon started approaching her to strike up business relationships.

One such company was HQ Kites & Designs USA out of Powells Point, located in Currituck County in extreme northeastern North Carolina. The biplane kites on display in Birchard’s shop resemble the one Wilbur and Orville Wright built in 1899 on which their first-flight airplane was later based.

Other popular items include robotics kits that teach kids the basics of mechatronic engineering; chemistry sets, the products of which can be eaten; and puzzles of 1,000 pieces or more. The puzzle-lovers she sees most often these



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Pittsboro Toys is located on Hillsboro Street in the heart of historic Pittsboro.

days are not children, though, but housebound adults eager for intellectual stimulation.

Despite having tentatively overcome the crisis, Birchard is realistic about the ongoing difficulties of small business ownership in a COVID-19 world. She is keenly interested not only in the welfare of her own store, but in helping all local business to thrive. It’s a sense of community responsibility that stems from her family’s rich history in the area; they’ve lived in North Carolina for 250 years.

“I’ve been involved for a long time,” Birchard said. “I try to help whenever I’m asked.”

These days, she says, she helps mostly with organizing Small Business Saturday and Mainstreet Pittsboro, events designed to connect Chatham County consumers with their local vendors.

Birchard’s community engagement and her work with Pittsboro’s many small businesses began when she joined the Pittsboro Business Association. Eventually she served as president of the organization (which comprises 58 local retailers and service businesses) until stepping down a few years ago to concentrate

her efforts elsewhere. Her continued zeal for Chatham County businesses is evident, though, in the time she dedicates toward helping her peers navigate coronavirus woes.

As many states and communities around the country roll back their plans to reopen businesses and to resume normal activity, Birchard can’t help but wonder how local circumstances will affect small business operation in Chatham County. She admits she’s worried about the future, but confident her store will survive. That confidence, she said, is derived from what she knows of her community and its business owners.

“There are lots of people who want to shop locally in Pittsboro, instead of with the big stores,” she said. “I’ve been really impressed with people’s resilience and creativity. Small businesses can’t get away with what big business can, so we’re really trying hard. There’s no margin for error. But again, it’s just about taking it one step at a time.”

For more information, go to www.pittsborotoys.com, facebook.com/PittsboroToys or @PittsboroToys on Instagram.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Ravensburger puzzles provide hours of fun for children (and adults) stuck at home during the pandemic.



When it rains, this unique umbrella changes color. It’s one of many fanciful items at Pittsboro Toys.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

KENNEDY

Continued from page A1

where he earned a bachelor’s degree in fine art.



Kennedy

He later attended Auburn University in Alabama, earning master’s degrees in both community planning and public administration.

He began his career in planning, eventually running the planning department before assuming the assistant town manager post in Southern Pines, which has a population of about 10,000.

Commissioner Michael Fiocco described Kennedy as an “engaging individual” with a “very good skillset.” Fiocco also noted that his experience in planning will make him a “nice asset” for the town as it continues to grow with



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The special meeting of the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners, during which Chris Kennedy was named as new town manager, was held virtually. Several commissioners, though, were at the town hall for the event. Shown from left are Commissioner Jay Farrell, Commissioner Kyle Shipp, Kennedy and Commissioner Michael Fiocco.

Chatham Park, the 7,000-acre planned community under development in Pittsboro.

Kennedy is looking forward to the “big move” to Pittsboro.

“I’m a big believer in that I have to fully invest in the community,” Kennedy said. “This is

particular of jobs I have looked into. This isn’t a profession transaction. It’s me and my family, investing in the foreseeable future. And it’s all part of that package. I want to be part of the Pittsboro community.”

Through a series of reviews of qualifications

and interviews with various commissioners, the board determined Kennedy would be the best choice for moving the town forward out of the 65 applicants.

Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass called it the “most strenuous process I’ve had the occasion to be

associated” with, adding “the board worked tirelessly.”

“They devoted full time and attention to this process,” Nass said. “I salute each and every one of these commissioners on behalf of the town of Pittsboro.”

Commissioner Jay Farrell told Kennedy that his hiring represented “an exciting day” for the town.

“It’s a new start for you and for Pittsboro,” Farrell said. “We’re very happy to have you here.”

Following the appointment, Kennedy was sworn in as his wife, Emily, held a family Bible. Kennedy’s parents, Dale and Debbie Kennedy of Asheboro, were by his side.

“I am very excited about the opportunity and I’m honored to be your town manager,” Kennedy said. “I can’t wait to serve you all and the community of Pittsboro.”

As Kennedy begins his tenure with the town of Pittsboro, he’s taking the “onboarding” portion of his new job as a learning

opportunity and as a way to find opportunities for the town.

“I’m thinking, ‘What does Pittsboro do well and what can they be better at and what does Pittsboro not even know that they want to do?’” Kennedy said.

For Kennedy, it’s about learning about the inner workings of the town’s government and its community to find the best ways forward. This includes filling staff positions and creating a “work culture” that serves the town and its employees. Kennedy said he’s “always kind of looked at things as opportunities.” He wants to “focus on the culture” that the town wants and needs, then hire accordingly. At the same time, he wants to start with “foundational positions” with a knowledge and understanding of “what we want” so that the town can hire and support those positions accordingly so that the town “can provide the good services the public expects us to provide.”

Kennedy is most looking forward to getting to know the people of Pittsboro, a town he has been familiar with since a child.

“I feel like Pittsboro people are my people,” Kennedy said. “Yes, I wear a tie to work, but, I mean, I’ve been around cows my whole life. I feel like I’m uniquely positioned. I can talk cows or I can talk real estate investment trust with Chatham Park.”

“My challenge is making sure Pittsboro stays Pittsboro,” he continued. “Keeping it unique. In a historical context and in its character, that is the way it is because Pittsboro kept it unique ... as well as positioning it for success.”

Kennedy wants the community to know he’s an “open book” and is approachable.

“Sometimes it’s just saying ‘Hey’ — feel free to say ‘Hey,’” Kennedy said. “I want to be part of the community. I want people to know that I’m here for them. I’m going to be part of the same community that I’m working to make better.”

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.

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OBITUARIES

MARY JUNE HOLLOWAY PHILLIPS



Mary June Holloway Phillips, age 87, passed away peacefully on July 20, 2020, in Pittsboro, North Carolina. She was born on June 25, 1933 in Sioux, North Carolina, a part of Yancey County in the Cane River watershed.

She raised three children, Lisa (Rosenbarker), Carroll Phillips and Gary Phillips, but she mothered many, including her beloved nephew and niece Bill and Judy Fagan (Atkins), who she “tended” as babies and adored all her life.

June grew up on a hillside farm not far from the Tennessee border. Her mother Etta was part Cherokee and served as postmistress in Bee Log. Her father Bob tended tobacco and practiced retail Democratic politics. She was the last surviving sibling of ten: Virgil, Madge, Wade, Robert, Lena, Colbert, Pat, and Maudie and Vaughtie (the twins).

June loved her mountain family and played basketball in high school but followed her sister Lena down to the foothills of Green Creek and lived there almost all her life. There she met her husband Gurley and found a church community in Green Creek Baptist, where she had many loving friends and taught Sunday School for years. She worked as a cotton mill worker and a homemaker, but her true vocation was in caring for others: tending the elderly, delivering Meals On Wheels with Gurley, mentoring youth in her community for generations and creating an atmosphere of hospitality, with compassion for all, great food and an abundance of laughter.

Close family friend Pat Jobe has written: “Mary June Holloway Phillips embodied all grace and humor; loved to laugh, held her children and grandchildren, friends and husband in caresses of adoration that strained all standards. Those who knew her could scarcely believe a love like June’s could exist. She set a high bar, but we can still reach for it.”

June is survived by two children: Lisa Rosenbarker (Damon) and Gary Phillips (Ilana Dubester); five grandchildren: Adam Phillips, Giles Crider (Bill Bailey), Jesse Phillips (Jenna Schreiber Phillips), Bryce Rosenbarker and Bailey June Rosenbarker, plus two great-grandchildren, Brooks Phillips and Bennett Phillips, plus a mighty cloud of nieces and nephews she loved and carried always in her heart.

June was preceded in death by her son, Carroll Phillips and the love of her life, Gurley Phillips.

Loved ones are invited to join her family for a short graveside service at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2020, at Green Creek First Baptist Church, with visitation starting at 10 a.m.

All attendees are expected to wear masks and to follow social distancing guidelines. In memory of June we want to protect each other and keep each other safe.

In lieu of flowers please send a donation to your local hospice organization.

Arrangements by McFarland Funeral Chapel, Tryon North Carolina.

REID HOWELL MOORE



Reid Howell Moore, Loader/Operator at Chandler Concrete and long-time resident of Pittsboro, NC, died unexpectedly on July 9, 2020, at the age of 66 at his home.

Reid is preceded in death by his parents Fred Moore and Christine Howell Moore, brothers Tommy Moore, Gene Moore; ad sisters Priscilla Hathcock, Linda Peele and J’Vaughn Griffin.

He is survived by his wife, BJ Moore; his daughters, Christie Gardner (Greg) and April Moore; grandchildren Jordan, Skylar, Charlie, Savannah Gardner and Joshua Ragland; sisters Alice Hinson, Renee Moore Clark and Betty Ruth Moore; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Reid was born in Albemarle, Stanly County, NC on December 11, 1953, to Fred Moore and Christine Howell Moore. He married BJ Moore, the love of his life on March 17, 1973. Together they had two beautiful daughters. Reid was a devoted father, husband and friend. He enjoyed antiques (buying, selling, repurposing), auctions and vacationing with his family. He attended church at Life Springs Church in Sanford, NC.

He will be missed by his friends, family and all that knew him.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on July 25, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Newhope Church at 2901 Beechtree Dr. Sanford, NC, 27330. Plantable flowers, or donations may be offered at the church location. Cremation services provided by American Cremation and Funeral Service in Durham, NC.

ELIZABETH ‘BETH’ ANN BECK BRYANT

Elizabeth “Beth” Ann Beck Bryant, age 75, of Pittsboro, went to be with the Lord Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at UNC Hospital.

Beth was born in Rowan County, North Carolina, on September 2, 1944, to the late John F. Beck and Betty Lou Armbruster Beck.

Surviving relatives include her husband Steve Bryant of Pittsboro; sons, Johnny Bowden and wife Melissa of Albemarle, NC, Perry Bowden and wife Cora of Huntsville, Alabama, James Bowden and wife Wendy of Siler City; one daughter, Jean Kirby and husband Michael of Chapel Hill; eight grandchildren, Eric, Dalton, Montgomery, Cecilia, Chandler, Montana, Jake, Spencer, one great-grandchild, Leia; three sisters, Johnnie Mae Warford and husband Tony of Lexington, NC, Karen Denise Early of Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Georgia Rae Lynch of Salisbury, NC.

A graveside service will be held Friday, July 17, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Bynum United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Robert Elmore presiding.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

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

GEORGE SIMMONS

George Simmons, 71 of Winston Salem, passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at his residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

JAMES RICHARD LYONS

James Richard Lyons, 58 of Broadway, passed away on Monday, July 20, 2020, at his residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

VENDER ALEXANDER FRAZIER

Vender A. Frazier, 69, of Sanford passed away on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at his residence.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020 at Macedonia AME Zion Church.

NORMAN PALMER, SR.

Norman Palmer, Sr., 77, of Sanford passed away on Friday, July 17, 2020 at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

JOHN WAYNE THOMAS



John Wayne Thomas, age 72, of Siler City died Wednesday, the 15th of July, 2020, at his home.

Mr. Thomas was born November 8, 1947, and was preceded in death by his parents, John Dewvoy and Margaret Scotten Thomas.

Wayne was a native of Chatham County. After starting work as a stock boy at Wood’s Five & Dime while in high school, he progressed to working at Collins & Aikman in the Engineering Department and proceeded to finally retiring from Sprint Telecom after 33 years as a CO technician in Siler City. He was a member of Oakley Baptist Church. He served six years in the NC National Guard. Wayne loved his family most of all but also enjoyed hunting, fishing, photography and in his earlier years, golf. He served as Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1912, for over 30 years and was a member of Chatham Camera Club.

He is survived by his wife, Grosidean Dixon Thomas; one son, John Michael Thomas of the home; one stepson, William Foushee and Amanda Kimrey of Graham; and grandson, Zac Foushee.

A special thanks to family friend and care taker, Michelle Hancock with First Choice Home Care. The family would also like to thank Liberty Home Care & Hospice.

The family received friends Saturday, July 18, 2020, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City and other times at the family home.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 18, 2020, at 1 a.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home with Rev. David Hicks officiating. A private burial was in Chatham Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Raleigh Office, 2418 Blue Ridge Road, Suite 206, Raleigh, NC 27607; or to Liberty Hospice, 1005 Carthage Street, Suite C, Sanford NC 27330.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Thomas family.

BILLY ‘BILL’ JACKSON ADCOCK



Billy “Bill” Jackson Adcock, 75, of Siler City died Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at Chatham Hospital after years of declining health.

Billy was born in Chatham County on December 7, 1944, the son of Paul C. Adcock and Pauline Smith Adcock. Billy liked working in his yard and detailing vehicles. He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Pat Adcock and Archie Palmer Adcock.

He is survived by Barbara Lee, long time loving faithful companion and caretaker; daughter, Tammy Barnes of Midland, NC; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; sisters, Catherine “Chigger” Tillman, Clara Langley, Carol Hammer and husband Garrett, Ann White and husband Bob, Brenda Fields and husband Gary, all of Siler City; numerous nieces and nephews; and a special neighbor and friend, Mary Britt.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses in ICU at Chatham Hospital for taking care of him.

A private graveside service will be at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Adcock family.

JANIE MAE PARKER SMITH

Janie Mae Parker Smith, 77, of Cameron, passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at her home.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Buffalo Cemetery.

She was born in Richmond County on October 21, 1942 to the late Sarius and Julia May Teal Parker. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Ralph Smith, sisters, Pat McCool, Alma Plowman, brothers, Harold Parker and Howard Parker. Janie had worked at Static Control Components.

Survivors include daughters, Lori Cody of Myrtle Beach, Sandra Smith Denkins of Cameron, Charlene Smith of North Myrtle Beach; brothers, Edward Parker of Wadesboro, Lewis Parker of Rockingham; sisters, Emma Smith of Thomasville and Christine Flick of Ohio; ten grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

NELSON JUNIOR COTTON

Nelson Junior Cotton, 66, of Chapel Hill passed away Sunday, July 12, 2020 at his residence.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, July 17, 2020 at Terrell’s Creek Missionary Baptist Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

Survivors include his daughter, Angela Renee Cotton of Mebane; a son, Andre Cotton of Durham; and sister, Julia C. Leigh of Raleigh and Phyllis C. Fearrington of Chapel Hill.

CLYDE THOMPSON

Clyde Thompson, 82, of Cameron, passed away on Saturday, July 18, 2020, at Pinelake Health and Rehabilitation in Carthage.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

DEBRA ANN CARTER BROWNING

Debra Ann Carter Browning, 61 of Lillington, died Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, July 20, 2020 at the Broadway Town Cemetery with Rev. Alvin Browning, Jr. officiating.

She was born October 25, 1958, daughter of the late John V. and Hazel Sandow Carter, who preceded her in death.

Surviving is her husband, Alvin Browning; daughters, Brittany Browning and Christina Browning; son, Rev. Alvin Browning, Jr.; sister, Karen Craig; brother, Sammy Sandow; and four grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial gifts be made to the Smith Funeral Home for funeral expenses.

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

JANICE ‘JAN’ MARIE STATON CRANK

Janice “Jan” Marie Staton Crank, 70, of Bear Creek died Friday, July 17, 2020 at UNC Hospice, Pittsboro.

A Celebration of Life service will be held in late August.

Mrs. Crank was born October 16, 1949 in Milan, Tenn., the daughter of Henry Clifford and Lila B Butler Staton. She was preceded in death by her parents. Janice was a retired Paralegal with Greenburg Trauig.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Benny Ralph Crank; sons, Timothy J. Turner of Pittsboro, Dan Ritchie of Clarksville, Tenn. and Jeff Ritchie of Texas; brother, Joe Staton of Kingston, N.Y.; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

JAMES BERNARD EMBRY

James Bernard Embry, 47, of Broadway, died Sunday, July 19, 2020 at UNC Hospital.

The family will receive friends at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home Thursday, July 23, 2020 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with a memorial service following at 7:30.

James was born in Louisville, Ky. on March 27, 1973. His father, James Michael Embry, preceded him in death. James worked for Frontier Spinning Mills for 17 years.

Survivors include his wife of 22 years, Melanie Dawn Dinger Embry; children, Hayden Chance Embry and Logan Bryce Embry, both of Broadway, Michelle Dominique Embry-Luark of Tennessee, Sarah Kaitlyn Embry-Poe of Maryland; mother, Rita Dianne Lee and step-father, Harvey Glenn Lee, III of Sanford; and a brother, Anthony Dale Embry of Broadway.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

ROBERT NORMAN ‘BOBBY’ WOFFORD

Robert Norman “Bobby” Wofford, 73, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, July 20, 2020 at his home.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at Lemon Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. George Walton officiating.

Mr. Wofford was born in Lee County on June 10, 1947 to the late James Franklin and Louise McCain Wofford. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Ella Jean Holder Wofford and two sisters, Patsy W. Rogers and Rebecca Heston. Bobby served his country for ten years in the United States Navy which included two tours of duty in Vietnam. He retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Plant where he worked as an electrician.

Bobby is survived by a son, Jim Wofford of Mt. Holly; a daughter, Anita W. Lambert of Apex; and three grandsons.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Jude’s Children Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 and/or ALS/Catfish Hunter Chapter, 4 N. Blount St., Suite 200, Raleigh, NC, 27601 and/or MS Foundation, 3101 Industrial Drive, Suite 210, Raleigh, NC 27609 and/or CARA of Lee County, 42 Deep River Road, Sanford, NC 27330.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

GEORGE (LINDY) MCLENDON RIMMER

George (Lindy) McLendon Rimmer, 61, of Siler City, passed away Thursday morning, July 16, 2020 in his home.

Services will be held at a later date.

Lindy was born March 1, 1959 to Nell Saunders Rimmer and the late Gordon McLendon Rimmer. He was a member of Good Hope Baptist Church. A graduate of Apex High School, he joined the NC Highway Patrol and served in telecommunications for 30 years.

Lindy is survived by his wife, Michelle, of the home; daughters, Rachel Murray of Okinawa, Japan, Linsey Rimmer of Pittsboro; his mother, Nell Rimmer of Cary; brother, Stanley Rimmer of Holly Springs.

In lieu of flowers, please consider an honorarium to UNC Hospice.

Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

TERESA KATHLEEN (HOOKER) WALLEY

Teresa Kathleen Walley, 57, of Fayetteville, passed away Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville.

Viewing was held Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

EVELIO MARICHE AVILA

Evelio Mariche Avila, 55, of Winston Salem, passed away Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center.

Services are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home of Chapel Hill.



TOWN MULLING OPTIONS FOR PFAS CONTAMINATION

What can Pittsboro do for its water?

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It’s been five years since researcher Detlef Knappe informed the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners that he had discovered synthetic industrial chemical 1,4-Dioxane in the Haw River, Pittsboro’s source for drinking water. Knappe, the S. James Ellen Distinguished Professor of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering at N.C. State, has spent his career studying unregulated chemicals in waterways and was the first to identify the substance Gen X in Wilmington, which eventually was identified as coming from the Chemours plant in Fayetteville.

Knappe later identified Perfluoroalkyl substances, called PFAS for short, in the Haw. The chemicals collectively are known potential carcinogens — and the source of much gnashing of teeth of local environmentalists and headaches for town officials.

Since then, Pittsboro has been studying and working toward finding a solution to improving the quality of its drinking water.

To start, Pittsboro’s water is fine based on current regulatory standards set by both the state and federal governments. In fact, the Pittsboro water system routinely wins awards for the quality of its water from regulatory agencies including consecutive years of winning the N.C. Area Wide Optimization Awards presented by the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. But these chemicals now being found in the water source are unregulated — which means that while there are guidelines in place from the EPA that state the potential danger of these chemicals, there is no limit allowed in drinking water systems, meaning there is no mandate about measuring the volume of them in water supply systems.

The chemicals are often released in the manufacturing of a multitude of products through the wastewater system of the municipality in which the plant operates. They’re found in waterways, the air and also in the products we use every day — everything from cosmetics to frying pans to clothing to the fish that we eat, according to published reports.

In the Haw River, studies and N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reports have identified several sources of the contaminants upstream of Pittsboro, including industries in Greensboro and Burlington. On June 22, the DEQ issued a draft Special Order by Consent for the treatment plant in Greensboro for 1,4-Dioxane discharges.



The purpose of the order is to “reduce the concentrations of 1,4-Dioxane being discharged from the wastewater treatment plant and within two years meet a target of 35 µg/l, based on EPA’s drinking water health advisory, to protect downstream drinking water intakes.”

Because those chemicals have made their way into Pittsboro’s drinking water system, the town has been working to find ways it can improve the water system through its water treatment plant just north of town. Two years ago, it hired CDM Smith, an engineering and construction company which provides solutions in water and other arenas for government and private clients, to assist them with analysis and potential options. As a result, the town is currently testing a pilot program to see if there is a system that can effectively and sustainably remove or reduce the amount of unregulated chemicals in its water.

Challenges

Judging from conversations from town officials at public meetings over the last two years, solving the problem of unregulated chemicals in the Haw River is much more nuanced than anyone wants to admit. This is an issue in communities across the United States and it will likely take a strategic approach to resolve, officials and experts have repeatedly stated.

If the town decides to install such a system, it is likely to cost between \$13 and \$24 million depending on which configuration the board of commissioners choose. Though the town is anticipated to grow exponentially over the next 30 years based on projections of the growth of Chatham Park, the current population is just over

2,000 with an annual municipal budget of \$10 million. In addition, the town is also in desperate need of an upgraded sewer system to improve and expand capacity. Current figures on that project are estimated to be about \$20 million.

In addition to the cost, the system offers its own challenges. Though a water treatment plant system may remove these chemicals from the drinking water, the waste chemicals will need to go somewhere. To this point, CDM Smith acknowledged to the board of commissioners when presenting the pilot study last year that they would be returned to the Haw River as discharge, leaving them in the water system in concentrated levels.

The town’s board has been discussing short-term options for drinking water as well. This includes in-home systems for Pittsboro residents and discussing a filtered water auxiliary station where residents can fill jugs of drinking water that have been filtered using reverse osmosis, one of the systems that has proved to remove these chemicals.

But questions of maintenance and the toll reverse osmosis can take on a water system are also present. Reverse osmosis will remove good chemicals including the bad ones, according to multiple studies. Beneficial elements such as iron, calcium, manganese, and fluoride may be removed, depending on the system used. As a result, when used for cooking, it can cause loss of “essential elements from foods,” according to multiple studies.

Possible solutions

The town has been mulling several options for its water quality. In addition to testing water treatment plant equipment, the town is researching the potential for a regional water and wastewater system in collaboration with the city of Sanford.

The town has already been engaged with Sanford for the production of a sewer line down U.S. Hwy. 15-501 from Pittsboro to Sanford. The line, which has been seeking permitting from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality since 2016, would expand the town’s sewer capacity by at least 2 million gallons a day, nearly tripling its current dwindling capacity.

At the same time, there have been some discussions about potentially placing a water line at the same time to secure water from the Deep River to the town of Pittsboro for its drinking water. To do this would require a special per-

mit for an “inter-basin” crossing. The town is seeking a consultant who might be able to create a regional water/wastewater system between the two towns, creating a cooperative relationship, easing some of the permitting issues.

The cost of creating such a system, as well as the complexities, are not yet known.

The extent to which Pittsboro will pay for the discharges upstream are yet to be seen, but it continues to study and invest as it struggles to find a solution. Commissioners are expected to continue discussions moving forward at the board’s next meeting on July 27. In addition, the board will likely hear the results of the pilot program during its first meeting in August.

All the while, environmental groups continue to apply pressure on the town to act. The Haw River Assembly recently distributed copies of a letter it sent to the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners following the release of the most recent study showing elevated levels of unregulated chemicals in the Haw River. The letter asks the board to do three things:

- Actively pursue an end to upstream discharges by engaging in conversations with Burlington, Greensboro, and Reidsville elected officials and staff

- Pursue drinking water treatment methods to supply safe water to all residents of Pittsboro through options previously discussed, and provide short term safe drinking water to all Pittsboro residents now. Engage with state legislators and agency staff for financial assistance

- Actively engage with DEQ and state legislators to invoke laws to protect downstream drinking water users impacted by PFAS contamination throughout the state.

While the Pittsboro board has been pursuing options for short- and long-term solutions for the drinking supply, the board requested that its Water Quality Task Force, created late last year, offer recommendations on engagement with upstream dischargers and state regulatory bodies. The task force, which was set to disband on June 30 when it was created in December, had not yet provided those recommendations. The water quality task force and its efficacy will likely be a topic the next board meeting as the board technically no longer exists because of the original time limit for the group, while the concerns of the board over water quality remain.

Casey Mann can be reached at Casey-Mann@Chathamnr.com.

Drug use a concern during pandemic

‘Unsupervised time and boredom creates all kinds of pitfalls for young people’

BY OLIVIA ROJAS
AND HANNAH
MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

With the COVID-19 pandemic having kept many people mostly indoors these past few months, local leaders who work with youths have concerns about how that unstructured time and boredom has affected teens — particularly in terms of drug use.

Nationwide, suspected drug overdoses rose 18% in March, 29% in April and 42% in May when compared to numbers from 2019, according to data from the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program. ODMAP is a program started by the Washington/Baltimore High

Intensity Drug Trafficking Area in 2017 to track overdoses and set alerts across many different users.

George Greger-Holt is the community outreach coordinator for Chatham Drug Free, a county-wide coalition to help prevent alcohol, tobacco and drug use among youth. He’s worried about how the increased amount of unsupervised time from the pandemic has affected Chatham youth.

“Unsupervised time and boredom creates all kinds of pitfalls for young people,” he said. “We were worried that not only would drug use be up, but also small time crime or, you know, delinquency petitions. I would expect to see all that stuff increase and maybe even teenage pregnancy.”

At its July 9 virtual meeting, Chatham Drug Free discussed several long-term initiatives the coalition is investing in. Among these projects is a social media campaign targeted at youth ages 12 to 20 through Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and eventually TikTok as well. There are two campaigns — one to reduce opioid use and overdose, and another to educate about the dangers of vaping and nicotine. The two campaigns are funded through a State Opioid Response grant and a Healthy Communities grant, Greger-Holt said.

“We know from research, both here in Chatham and across the nation, that if we can raise perceived harmfulness, that is the

belief that the negative consequences of drug use will happen to the user, then we can reduce that person’s probability of using the drug,” he said. “Both campaigns started right before the coronavirus lockdown and were originally intended to also have a school-based component. As we all know, school closed so we were not able to initiate that part of the campaign, although our hope is that we can continue as soon as students are back in the buildings.”

Lt. Sara Pack, public information officer for the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office, told the News + Record in an email last week that the sheriff’s office “cannot confirm any rumors of an uptick in drug usage over the course of the pandemic.”

“At this time, we do not have evidence to support that theory,” she said in the email.

However, she said the sheriff’s office does recognize the toll the pandemic is taking on many people.

“Drug abuse doesn’t solve problems — instead, it compounds suffering both for the individual and community,” Pack wrote. “Our staff hopes those considering turning to drugs due to feelings of hope-



Submitted photo

lessness, depression, or even boredom remember that there are positive, constructive alternatives at their disposal, and that the Sheriff’s Office cares about their safety and wellbeing.”

At Chatham Drug Free’s meeting on July 9, the group also discussed the Sheriff’s Prevention Partnership Action Plan Tracker and Materials Distribution documents. These tools provides a way for members of the Sheriff’s Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances (SPPCS) to document

activities related to the work done by subcommittees concerning prevention, harm reduction, access to treatment and recovery.

The SPPCS was formed by Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson and retired Chatham County Health Director Layton Long. In 2017, the group formed and implemented an action plan to address the impact of the national opioid crisis at the local level with the intention of saving lives.

“The SPPCS has provided public meetings in local communities to raise awareness, answer questions, and share resources with those who need them most,” Lt. Pack said.

Greger-Holt said the coronavirus has hampered the coalition’s efforts to initiate many planned programs — due to canceled events and being unable to meet as a group in-person.

“Much of our work in prevention is done with the community during community events, which for the time being have either been postponed or canceled,” he said. “Our efforts haven’t stopped, but have been severely curtailed by our inability to meet face-to-face with each other or pop in to each other’s offices with questions or ideas.”

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of Jack C. Beal would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during his illness and passing. We appreciate the flowers and cards so much.

To the staff at Genesis, thank you for loving him and taking such good care of him.

June, Donna, and Burl, Jr.

CHURCH NEWS

CAMERON GROVE AME ZION CHURCH

The 144th church anniversary and homecoming celebration of Cameron Grove AME Zion Church will be held virtually at 9 a.m., on Sunday, July 26. The message will be

given by Pastor Kenneth Swann.

Revival services will be held virtually at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 28 and 29. Tuesday's speaker will be Pastor Bertram Whitsette of BMW Ministries of Greensboro and Wednesday's speaker will be Pastor Johnathan Pipkin of Restoration of Praise Ministries in Linden.

All services will be available on the Facebook page of Cameron Grove AME Zion Church. The church is located at 309 Vernon St., Broadway.

Chatham’s legislators give General Assembly session a ‘C’ grade

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

The N.C. General Assembly's "short" session ended on July 20.

And while the first portion of the session focused on COVID-19 relief, both of Chatham's legislators — Rep. Robert Reives II (D-District 54) and Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-District 23) — lamented what they saw as a less productive session than they would have liked.

While the legislature did pass several bills related to coronavirus relief, a budget bill failed to pass. And much of the last portion of the session was dedicated to bills regarding re-opening and "limiting the government's ability to have emergency powers," according to Reives.

Both Reives and Foushee said that when the legislature was called into session early in the pandemic to handle COVID-19 response, the atmosphere was productive.

"There was a lot of effort for people to work together," Reives said.

"The first part of the session, working in bipartisan fashion, we did a good job appropriating money from the federal government," Foushee said.

Even so, Foushee noted that because of a "lack of guidelines" provided by the federal government for COVID-19 relief, she was still concerned about some of the ways that the money was distributed. For example, larger municipalities received federal aid directly from Congress, but much of the other money for other jurisdictions went through state legislatures.

Foushee noted that the federal funding came at a time when municipalities were working on their budgets, with the unknown of the impact of the damage from reductions in sales tax and other revenues due because of pandemic-related — and government-mandated — closures. In addition, as executive orders came through putting a moratorium on sewer and water shut-offs, municipalities were continuing to serve their residents needs without any financing.

"We weren't able to assist [municipalities] in that regard," Foushee said. "We did as good as we could have done based on our guidelines."

Reives echoed that sentiment.

"I wish we were working on the issues to help people get through the pandemic," Reives said. "If we had kept our focus on ways to help people economically, medically, I feel like we could be more productive."

Reives wished that the legislature would have "tackled some of the problems exposed" in the unemployment system when the pandemic began. While they did address the amount of time and amount of money a recipient would receive benefits, Reives believed that the system as a whole needed more investment in order to assist those needing unemployment.

In addition, Reives noted that the state should have passed Medicaid expansion. Reives said it "needs to be way beyond a partisan issue" with people needing "healthcare more than ever before." In addition, Reives argued it was also an economic issue

since the expansion is estimated to provide about a \$2 billion impact between the jobs created and the healthcare provided.

"More healthcare could help stem the tide of this virus," Reives said. "It's too bad we didn't do that."

Both leaders said the failure of the legislature to meaningfully address the expansion of broadband access was also a disappointment. Foushee spoke about how virtually learning further demonstrated the divide of access in the state. Reives also noted the challenge for those who need to work from home and that for him, living in rural Goldston, he has been unable to have reliable access for virtual meetings as well.

At the same time, Reives acknowledged that the legislature was able to pass broadband legislation that "works within the system we have now." The \$30 million in grants, he said, are geared to help places like Siler City, calling it a "Tier 3 town in a Tier 1 county," referencing the Tier system in North Carolina that rates county's priority in grants distribution based on income and a variety of other fiscal factors. Chatham County is a Tier 1 county which means the state considers it a "wealthy" county, a classification that essentially disqualifies areas like Siler City — which have markedly lower incomes and revenues — for for certain grants and awards.

Both legislators also described a turn when "mask wearing became political" and progress in the legislature began to slow.

"We spent a lot of time

on re-opening bills," Foushee said. "While trying to do what we could to flatten the curve and reduce spread and protect our healthcare system. It put us in a quandary where we have no winners."

Foushee, who said that she had "loss no less than 10 people to COVID," the "intent was to protect as much of the economy as we could while protecting the health and safety of the people of North Carolina" which created tension.

"Making it a political statement, some allegiance to a particular party or leader, is not practical at this time," Reives said. "With this particular disease, if you're wrong, you affect a number of people."

When asked to grade the achievements of the General Assembly, Reives and Foushee gave this year's short session a "C" and "C-" respectively.

The legislators will likely return to the General Assembly before the end of the year to "plug holes" to keep the state going without a passed budget. There are also still millions of federal dollars in COVID relief yet to be appropriated that must be decided and disbursed by December 31.

Foushee was appointed to the state senate in 2013 after serving a year and a half in the N.C. House. Reives was appointed to the N.C. House of Representatives District 54 in 2014. Both have been re-elected ever since and are up for re-election this November.

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.

This is a song by John Fogerty.

I think it fits the things we are going through today. I want people to think of the words and help people.

Don't You Wish It Was True

Written by John Fogerty

I dreamed I walked in heaven, Just the other night,
There was so much beauty, So much light,
Don't you wish it was true, Don't you wish it was true,
An angel took my hand
Said you don't have to hurry, Got all the time in the world,
Don't worry, Don't you wish it was true, Lord, don't you wish it was true
But if tomorrow, Everybody was your friend
Anyone could take you in, No matter what or where you've been,
But if tomorrow Everybody had enough,
The world wasn't quite so rough, Lord, don't you wish it was true,
He said the world's gonna change
And it's starting today, There'll be no more armies,
No more hate, Don't you wish it was true, Ah, don't you wish it was true
And all the little children, Who live happily
There'll be singing and laughter, Sweet harmony,
Don't you wish it was true, Lord, Don't you wish it was true,
But if tomorrow everybody under the sun,
Was happy just living as one, No borders or battles to be won,
But if tomorrow Everybody was your friend,
Happiness would never end, Lord, don't you wish it was true

God Bless Everyone
Lois Garner

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

TB LISTINGS

ACROSS					DOWN				
1 Affliction	56 Czar who was not inordinately cruel?	95 Enigmatic clodhopper casting spells?	1 Peak near Tokyo: Abbr.	45 President after Harrison	88 Coveted annual prizes				
7 Really shout	62 "Look!" in Latin	101 Bride's vow	2 Concert sites	46 Ale relative	90 Part of DNA				
13 Wine vessels	63 Person being examined	102 Wye follower	3 Purple flowers	47 Incurred a lot of, as debt	91 Irate				
20 One of the Nixon daughters	64 "What kind of fool —?"	103 List-curtailing abbr.	4 "Put — in it!"	48 Key on a PC	96 Illegal punch				
21 — Vision (eye care chain)	65 Set sail	104 Anna of fashion	5 Dandle — (dog breed)	49 Tiny	97 One of 18 on a course				
22 Weird sort	68 122-Down officer: Abbr.	107 Light lunch, maybe	6 "Hurray!"	50 Quote	98 "So icky!"				
23 Serious crime	69 Doughnut filling that's an exchanged commodity?	111 People purchasing decorative rolling car parts?	8 Filmdom's — B. DeMille	51 In a dead heat	99 Gambling site, for short				
24 Carol about holiday cheese?	74 Wane	117 Israeli carrier	9 "Hurray!"	52 Roping in	100 Optometrist, old-style				
26 Strip of weapons	77 Easily available	118 Touch on	11 Boxer Laila	57 High- —	104 Action hero Steven				
27 "... or — thought"	79 Petri dish site	119 Talking: — (lectures)	12 Soccer star Lionel	58 Ares' mother	105 Like grizzlies and kodaks				
28 Look as if	80 Got totally used up	120 Canine cord	13 Shows up for	59 Livy's "I love"	106 Hoffman/Beatty film				
29 Trickle out	82 Tennis great	121 Tall fence surrounding a pugnacious dog?	14 Actor Sandler	60 See	107 Three more than quadri-				
30 Guy who can do any interweaving style?	84 Politician	126 Improvise	15 Aves.	61 Pro at CPR	108 Fake name				
35 Ribeye, e.g.	85 Gary propping himself up against something?	127 Forms a liking for	16 Main monk	66 Polar hazard	109 Hanukkah potato treat				
36 Particular mag. edition	89 Actress	128 Brezhnev of Russia	17 Denmark's — Islands	67 Bedouin, e.g.	110 Pulitzer winner				
37 Writer Anaïs	92 Verdi's "— tu"	129 Kazakhstan's capital, until 2019	18 Fictional Doolittle	70 Doc who may scrape wax	Edward				
38 With 60-Down, BB gun	93 Prefix with chic or resort	130 "It finally makes sense"	19 Streamlined	71 "Abou Ben —" (Leigh Hunt poem)	112 Central point				
39 Sorority "T"	94 2010 Apple debut	131 "The Munsters" actress	20 Poet Hughes	72 Sheep cry	113 Milan's land				
41 "This tastes way better than coffee, tea or ale"?		132 Less fresh	27 South Carolina river	73 "Li'l" guy	114 Had a meal at home				
50 Toon pics			31 Hi- — (stereos)	75 La — Tar Pits	115 One-named singer of "Royals"				
53 Suffix with southwest			32 Tote or duffel	76 Longtime senator Robert	116 Gossipy type				
54 Spring month			33 "— Bravo"	78 Soda brand	118 Choir female				
55 Comfortable			34 Nice scent	81 Depilatory brand	122 Adm.'s milieu				
			35 Hard fat	82 "Big Blue"	123 Charge (up)				
			40 Atty.'s org.	83 Mauna —	124 Aussie leaper				
			41 Has no life	85 Suffix with cook or trick	125 Resting place				
			42 Eye, to poets	86 "Totentanz" composer	126 Had life				
			43 An hour past midnight	Franz					
			44 Pat lightly	87 Acutely cold					

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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Boys & Girls Clubs members will benefit from Duke Energy's grant, which will be used to help fill gaps in fundraising during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo courtesy of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina



Central Carolina clubs get \$10K Duke Energy grant

CN+R Staff Report

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina has been selected to receive a \$10,000 grant provided by the Duke Energy Foundation.

Earlier this year, the Duke Energy Foundation opened grant applications to support North Carolina K-12 programs focused on summer reading loss and STEM and experiential learning. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina, in partnership with Central Carolina Community College, initially requested funding in support of a robust year round career exploration program, along with a first of its kind "Engineering, Energy, and Health Sciences Summer Academy." Given the COVID-19 crisis, the Foundation reached out to BGCCC with the option to use the funds to address unforeseen operational challenges.

"Duke Energy has proven to be a longtime partner in educational endeavors with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina," said Daniel Simmons,

BGCCC's CEO. "In light of COVID-19 and its negative impact on our fundraising capabilities, we are incredibly grateful to Duke Energy for allowing their support to fill the gaps in operational funding, which is truly what allows us to educate, feed, and develop good character in hundreds of kids day in and day out."

By permitting BGCCC to utilize these funds outside of the scope of the originally intended purpose, Duke Energy Foundation has made it possible for BGCCC to continue operating in the safest way possible for members and staff. Cost of operations have significantly increased for the club due to the need to socially distance staff and kids, purchase extra cleaning products and face masks and provide adequate multi-day training on COVID operation protocols for staff, all of which is already in progress. Also, multiple fundraisers have been canceled or postponed with no real idea of when they can be rescheduled.

"We are proud to support the Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina, especially during this challenging time," said Indira Everett, the community relations manager for Duke Energy. "We are grateful for the work they do to serve our communities and provide a safe environment for children to learn and grow."

In an effort to help working parents and to support the growing needs of our young people, BGCCC reopened its doors June 8 at the O.T. Sloan Park Club in Lee County and the Wren Family Center in Chatham County, and opened the Robin Paige Boys & Girls Club in Lillington on June 17. All three Club locations serve as approved COVID-19 emergency childcare centers and are open for full day child care.

For more information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina, visit centralcarolinclubs.org.

For more information about Duke Energy Foundation, visit duke-energy.com/community/duke-energy-foundation.

You say toma-toe, I say tomat-ah



DOLLY R. SICKLES
The Optimistic Gardener

There are so many things I love about summer vegetable gardens, but without a doubt, tomatoes are my favorite. Like, I would arm wrestle Sasquatch for the last tomato in the field.

If you're a gardener, you probably have a standard list of go-to's — in the veggie patch, in your house, and in your flower bed. Tomatoes seem so easy to grow, but let me assure you, this green thumb tomato fangirl struggles with consistent tomatoes from year to year.

Last summer, I put in six plants of different varieties. We tilled the soil, amended it with organic tomato fertilizer, pinched off the suckers, and made sure to weave the branches back inside the cages to provide a reliable support structure. Each plant blossomed and small grape-sized tomatoes filled the tomato bed — I bet there were 150 tomatoes at the end of June. But by the end of July, none of those stupid tomatoes had grown or ripened. I gave them to the groundhogs.

This summer I decided to do it differently. As usual, my Victory Garden is a fenced in space with four beds. I rotated the tomatoes to a different square this year and put in my pretty bright red cages. But instead of focusing on keeping the branches inside the cages, I let them do their own thing. They're like Animal in Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem's band. I also cut down the number of plants from six to four to give them space to spread out, because it's likely they were packed too tightly. Whatever the reason, it seems to be doing the trick. The tomato half of the garden looks like Mr. Snuf-



Photo courtesy of Dolly Sickles

When you let your tomatoes do their own thing, they wind up looking like Mr. Snuffleupagus.

fleupagus this summer, but they're thriving and I'm not complaining. My tomatoes are the Electric Company of my otherwise orderly Mr. Rogers Victory Garden.

I caught up with my friend, Kathryn Robinson, whom I first met as a student in a creative writing class I teach at Central Carolina Community College, Writing for Young Audiences. She's the principal consultant and owner of Lumen Strategies, and she's a big-picture kind of woman. She's a runner, a photographer, a gardener, and like me, a struggling tomato grower.

"I've had two disappointing years," she said. "This year's experiments included Better Boy, Cherokee Purple, German Johnson's, and Romas."

In the spring, Kathryn took a course through the Chatham County Extension Office, where she learned all about starting vegetables from seed. She's had success with her squash, zucchini, cucumbers, green beans, cantaloupe and purple bell peppers. All of the tomatoes, on the contrary, were started from very small organic plants, and transplanted into her tilled garden field.

One of the best things about gardening is the relative instant gratification. From a mound of dirt, grows small, delicate plants that nourish the body. For my fellow optimistic garden-

ers, those sprouts nourish the soul, as well. Which is why it's particularly distressing for these tomatoes to have a mind of their own.

"My tomatoes are so sad," Kathryn told me. "The plants themselves looked very healthy, and up until about a week ago were producing a lot of fruit. After the groundhogs and my golden retriever picked their share (ugh), the rest of the fruit are just not ripening. They get to a good size, look good for a few days and then start splitting on the bottom."

I feel your pain, Kathryn. Her moody teenager tomatoes are mostly thriving, but refusing to ripen. It's probably a conspiracy. Here's an old-fashioned tip: if you have any tomatoes that jump the vine too early because your hand brushes against it, or pests are getting too pesky, bring them inside and let them ripen on the windowsill.

Are there any tomato whisperers out there? Got any tips for an otherwise expert gardener?

For more information

- N.C. Cooperative Extension — Chatham County Center | Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/growing-tomatoes-in-the-home-garden>
- The Optimistic Gardener: www.OptimisticGardener.com



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Mountaire looking to expand parking, continues quest to close East Third

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Mountaire Farms is seeking to purchase additional property on Raleigh Street to expand parking for its facility while still seeking a resolution from the town to permanently close East Third Street in front of its plant in Siler City.

Mountaire, the Delaware-based poultry processing company, built the processing plant on East Third at the sight on the former Townsend Chicken processing plant. Across the street, the company constructed a wastewater pre-treatment facility and a parking lot.

At Monday’s Siler City Board of Commissioners meeting, the board approved a re-zoning request for the approximately 34 acres of land across Raleigh Street Mountaire is seeking to purchase, which

would allow the company to construct an additional parking area to support the plant and its more than 1,200 employees.

During the discussions, commissioners raised concerns about whether the increase in traffic would require changes to Raleigh Street to accommodate. Though they unanimously approved the zoning change, the board requested that Siler City Planning Director Jack Meadows contact the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, which maintains the road. Some potential changes the board discussed included a center turning lane and/or additional lanes for ingress and egress at both the parking lots.

Later in the meeting, the board continued discussions about Mountaire’s request to permanently close East Third Street in front of the plant. The current request also includes closing a portion of Fifth Street and all of Johnson

Avenue. Instead of traffic entering and exiting Eleventh Street (U.S. Hwy. 64) on East Third, traffic would be diverted to North Avenue. This would include not only regular traffic heading into downtown, but a portion of Mountaire’s trucking fleet as well.

An initial traffic impact analysis was conducted early in the year-long process of negotiations between Mountaire and the town. On Monday, the board requested the company conduct a new traffic impact analysis that would include the impacts from its parking lot expansion plan. In addition, the board requested the staff investigate whether the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation would conduct an economic impact analysis for businesses on East Third Street and the surrounding area may be affected by the closure.

The board also instructed staff to cre-

ate a resolution to close the portions of East Third Street, East Fifth Street and Johnson Avenue. The resolution, which may be voted upon at a later date, would only trigger a public hearing and does not mean the board is leaning toward the closure. In the meantime, the board requested staff create public input sessions for residents and businesses to learn about Mountaire’s plans for the closure and traffic diversion.

According to Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch, this would include clear maps as well as representatives of all those who have conducted the analyses to be available to answer questions and concerns.

No timeline for those public input sessions has been determined.

Casey Mann can be reached at Casey-Mann@Chathamnr.com.

VOICES

Continued from page A1

Wolfram, the William C. Friday Distinguished University Professor at N.C. State, in 1993.

“Our goal is to preserve the language as it’s changing and to celebrate it as a part of North Carolina heritage,” said Wolfram. “It’s as North Carolinian as any artifact.”

In the 27 years it’s been active, the Language and Life Project has conducted more than 3,500 interviews in nearly 30 sites across North Carolina, ranging from Robeson County to Ocracoke to Raleigh, and now, to Chatham County.

Wolfram chose to focus on Chatham County because of its reputation as one of the fastest-growing counties in the state as it continues to make a transition from a mostly rural county to what Darien Dixon, a graduate research assistant, refers to as an “urban hybrid.”

With Chatham County

presently undergoing rapid development and experiencing an influx of people moving to towns like Pittsboro, Wolfram expects there to be a drastic shift in the language of the county moving forward.

“We’re studying the community of Chatham and the two different (sides of the) project are focusing on different components of that,” said Mia Shang, a graduate research assistant at N.C. State. “But it really is overall about the people, about the community and in a lot of ways, about change.”

Two parts

Voices of Chatham is split into two main parts: oral history and sociolinguistic analysis.

The oral history portion of the project encompasses the stories told by the interviewees, putting a greater focus on the content of their stories.

Participants have to be at least 16 years old and they need to have lived in Chatham County for at least three-fourths of

their life. Wolfram and his team have primarily interviewed people who are 40 and older, including two people who were 100 years old at the time of their interviews. Getting younger people to participate is still a challenge.

“It’s not something that every 17-year-old is going to be chomping at the bit to do, to tell us about their childhood that’s still unfolding,” said Dixon. “When it came to setting up the questionnaire for teenagers, we had to talk about things they’ve actually experienced, so we’ve got questions in there about TikTok and Instagram and school bullies, real stuff that kids engage with.”

Once the participant is interviewed, a researcher will transcribe the interview and place it into a category based on its overarching themes, such as integration, farming or school. Snippets of these interviews, along with basic information about the participant (sex, date of birth, race), are uploaded to a website that’s accessible to the public: [www. voicesofchatham.org](http://www.voicesofchatham.org).

Sociolinguistics, or the study of language in a social setting, is analyzed in the second portion of the project, which deals with the interviewee’s lived experiences and their effect on that person’s speech.

Using an application called Praat, which is, among many things, a speech analysis software, Wolfram and his team can intricately break down each syllable, vowel and soundwave that comes from the mouths of their interviewees.

“Why do we care so much about how someone says a particular vowel?” asked Dixon. “Because language drives social interaction, language shapes how we see the world and how we see people. It molds how we function as humans. So studying the minute details of that are just as important as being able to point out somebody’s accent and say ‘Oh, you’re not from here.’”

The project uses this data to track how language in Chatham County has changed over time

as the population grows younger and the demographics begin to shift. Wolfram will then work to present this data to the public in more digestible ways.

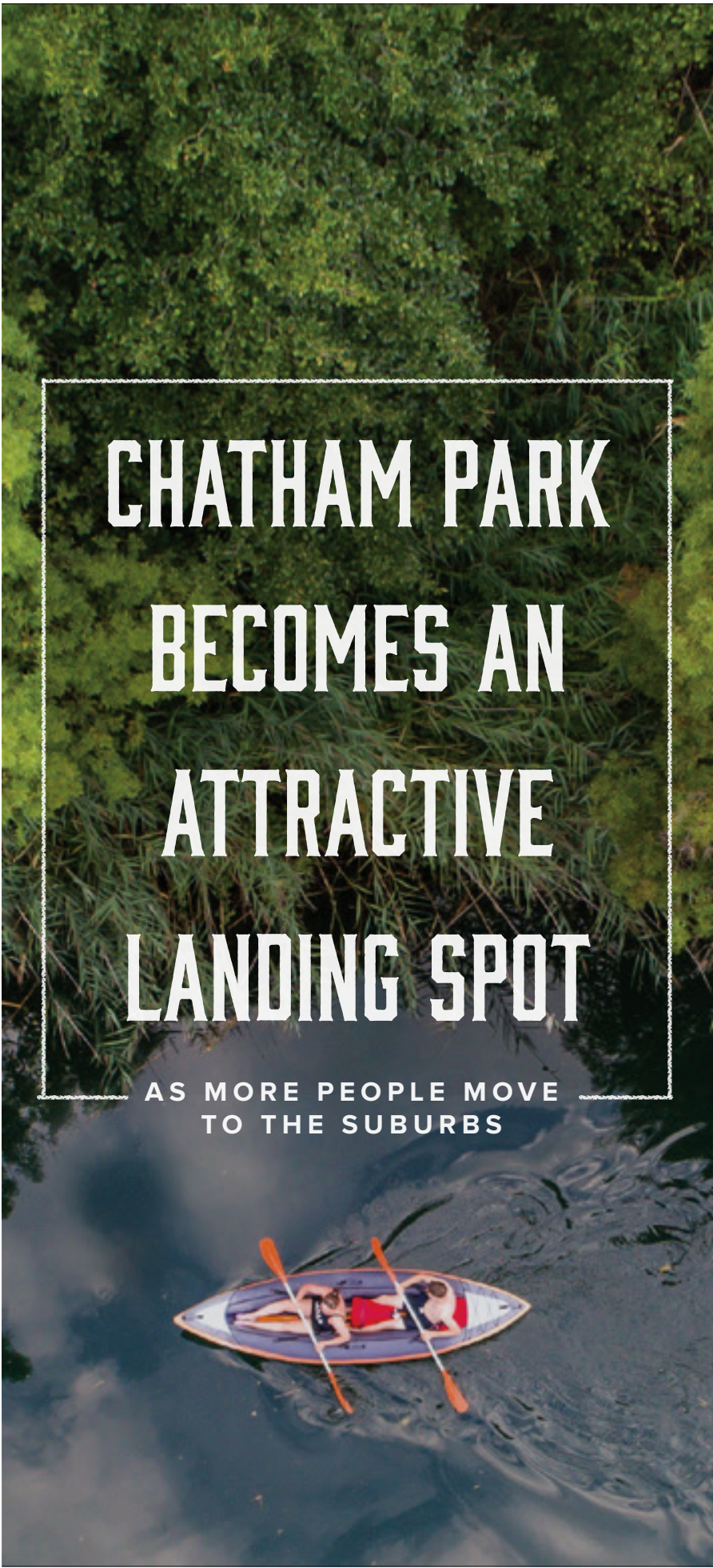
The Language and Life Project has produced 14 documentaries based on its research, including one — “Talking Black in America” — that won a Midsouth Emmy for Best Cultural Documentary earlier this year.

Wolfram plans to do the same for the Voices of Chatham project, along with possibly writing a small book about their findings.

In the first semester and a half of the project, Wolfram’s team interviewed more than 50 lifelong residents of Chatham County, making progress toward their goal of 100 participants. Then came the coronavirus pandemic.

Voices of Chatham halted the interviewing process in mid-March and four months later, there’s still no answer as to when it’ll be able to resume since their interviewees

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Recently there have been more and more people leaving the hectic city life for a serene and manageable lifestyle in the suburbs. As this trend continues to pick up speed, places in the Triangle such as Chatham Park find themselves as attractive landing spots.

SO, WHAT IS IT EXACTLY ABOUT CHATHAM PARK THAT PIQUES THE INTEREST OF THESE ONE-TIME CITY DWELLERS?

For starters, Chatham Park was created not just as a place to live, but a place where living, working, playing and learning can all happen in the same location. Convenience plays a pivotal role in this lifestyle choice, as families have little desire to get into a car every time they go out to eat, hit the gym or go shopping. This is why Chatham Park is being developed in such a way that you can do it all, without ever leaving.

A lack of greenspace has also contributed to people leaving their confined living situation, but in Chatham Park, there is no shortage. With the first community park expected to open in October 2020 as well as expansive open space to incorporate nature trails, bike paths, greenways and outdoor art exhibits already in place, not to mention the close proximity to Jordan Lake and Haw River for boating, fishing and kayaking — Chatham Park is quickly becoming an outdoor enthusiast’s dream location.

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TO JOIN THE TREND OF
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BE EXACTLY WHAT YOU
ARE LOOKING FOR.



For local connections Mason, Huff, retirement of Washington's NFL team name is a logical change

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

At the gym he owns in Sterling, Virginia, Eddie Mason displays one of his old burgundy and gold Washington Redskins helmets on the wall.

It's a reminder of his credentials — and his four most productive years as an NFL linebacker — in the area he and his family now call home.

But since last Monday, when the team announced it would retire its long controversial name after completion of an ongoing internal review, Mason's been asked: will he take the helmet down?

"Nah, bro," Mason has replied. "I earned that helmet. That legacy will continue."

That's one school of thought for Mason, a Siler City native who played linebacker for Jordan-Matthews, the University of North Carolina and then Washington's NFL team from 1999 to 2002. His family has Cherokee and Lumbee heritage on his mother's side, and he said he didn't view Washington's nickname as derogatory. When he thinks of the team, he thinks of its historical success on the field, its fans and his personal experiences on the roster, all of which were positive.

"But also I would never minimize the perspective of someone else," he said.

That's the other way Mason looks at it — and why he ultimately supports the name change as one major step in what he hopes is a "fresh start" for the sputtering franchise.

"Say I had an issue as it relates to being African American," he said. "I have this one thing that I believe, and somebody minimized that, tried to make it as though it wasn't a big deal. Well, I would never want anybody to do that — and I wouldn't do

that to anybody."

Washington's decision to retire its 87-year-old name — which team owner Daniel Snyder told USA Today in 2013 he would "never change" — drew widespread praise across the sports world and among prominent Native American organizations, activists and allies.

The United South and Eastern Tribes is a non-profit that represents 30 tribal nations — including the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, North Carolina — at regional and national levels. In a statement, president Kirk Francis Sr. said USET was "encouraged and heartened" by the change.

"While it should have been relegated to America's racist past long ago," Francis said, "we welcome this change as an opportunity for education, growth, and reconciliation, as the nation acknowledges its historic and ongoing shameful acts against tribal nations and Native people ... bottom line: our people and cultures are not mascots, and the time is long past due for us to be properly respected, not only within sports teams, but in all aspects."

The National Congress for American Indians, which represents broad interests of tribal governments and communities, said July 13 was "a day for all Native people to celebrate."

"We commend the Washington NFL team for eliminating a brand that disrespected, demeaned and stereotyped all Native people," the organization said in a statement, "and we call on all other sports teams and corporate brands to retire all caricatures of Native people that they use as their mascots."

Ken Huff, a former UNC offensive lineman who lives in Governors Club in Chatham County and runs a custom home renovations company,



Submitted photo

Former Washington Redskin Eddie Mason, a Siler City native and ex-Jordan-Matthews linebacker, has owned and operated MASE Training since 2003.

is another local with ties to the franchise. The No. 3 overall pick in the 1975 NFL Draft, Huff played the last three years of his career (1983-85) with Washington.

Huff, a right guard who appeared in Super Bowl XVII in 1984 with the team, said the nickname's derogatory nature "wasn't a perception in my mind, ever." He knows demographics play a role there.

"You're asking me as a white, Anglo-Saxon American," Huff said, "so I'm not going have the views that some other people may have. I can understand the perception and the feeling that a lot of Americans had about the name, thinking it was deroga-

tory. I can certainly empathize with that."

Like Mason, Huff said the nickname has a "proud association" for him, but he supports its retirement.

"Even if a minority of people had a problem with it, then it's probably time to change," he said. "We're in a time right now where a lot of things are being brought into question: some justifiably, and some maybe not so. But we've got to examine things so we're not offending large groups of people — or any people. It's not right."

Mason, who has kept up with the team since his retirement and trains some current players at his gym in near-by Loudoun County, hopes

Washington will commit to a serious "change of culture." He cited other issues, such as a Washington Post story last Thursday that detailed 15 women's allegations of sexual harassment and verbal abuse by former team employees, and the team's on-field struggles.

"This gives way to a lot of great, special and unique opportunities — not just building, but rebuilding the brand," Mason said of the name change. "I think there's nothing wrong with a fresh start in life."

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapel-fowler.



Submitted photo

Northwood's Madi Horrell played two seasons of JV men's lacrosse and two seasons of varsity women's lacrosse.

GOLDEN IN GOAL

Horrell leaves a legacy, 318 saves later

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The stats are eye-popping enough. But to truly appreciate Madi Horrell's 2019 season in goal for Northwood women's lacrosse, you need the context.

Last spring was the Chargers' first lacrosse season. Ever. Head coach Amanda Huegerich and assistant Larry Fritsche assembled a roster of 40 players, most of whom had never formally played the sport once.

In the Triangle, there's no easing into a schedule. North-

wood's 11 games were all against 3A and 4A stalwarts, from nearby Carrboro and East Chapel Hill to Heritage and Wake Forest.

And offense takes center stage in the sport — games are fast, fluid, free-flowing and more often than not dominated by flashy scorers. Double-digit goals are the norm for most teams.

Case in point: as a junior goalie, Horrell earned every bit of her 24.5 saves per game, .622 save percentage and first-team all-league selection for a

See **LACROSSE**, page B2

After two weeks, prep workouts in Chatham suspended 'until further notice'

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

After two weeks, Chatham County Schools is suspending summer workouts for all sports effective immediately and "until further notice" at Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central.

The move came on last Friday, a day after the Chatham County Board of Education unanimously passed a motion for county schools to start the 2020-21 year with four weeks of fully remote learning — Gov. Roy Cooper's "Plan C" — in reaction to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The Northwood and Jordan-Matthews athletic department Twitter accounts posted statements with the news Friday afternoon, and CCS spokesperson John McCann confirmed to the News + Record the suspension applies to all three public high schools in the district.

"Effective immediately, all summer workouts and athletic activities have been suspended until further notice," the statement read. "Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff is always our primary concern. Be sure to continue following the 3 W's (Wear a mask, Wait 6 feet apart, and Wash your hands frequently)."

Chatham County's three public high schools had been working out under the NCHSAA's Phase One guidelines since July 6. Football teams worked out at all three schools, and Olympic sports such as cross country and volleyball did, too.

The district delayed workouts until July 6, rather than starting as soon as possible on June 15, as allowed by the NCHSAA, to better prepare coaches and administration on safety measures. It also restricted workouts to fall sports teams only. Friday's suspension of work-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Central coach Sherman Howze supervises an agility drill on July 8. The school district suspended workouts indefinitely the following week.

outs capped off a week of news on the education front — for the county and the state at large.

In a highly anticipated news conference last Tuesday, Gov. Roy Cooper announced North Carolina's public schools would open next month under his proposed Plan B, a mix of in-person and remote learning. But individual districts could also opt for Plan C, a fully remote option.

Last Wednesday, the NCHSAA announced it was delaying the start of all fall sports, including football, until at least Sept. 1, and instituting a dead period for the first five days of school. Official fall sport tryouts and practices were previously scheduled to begin on Aug. 1.

Chatham's board of education last Thursday discussed Cooper's announcement in a scheduled meeting, and its five members unanimously approved a motion for the county's public schools to start off

with four weeks of Plan C next month. (After those four weeks, the board said it will re-evaluate a potential move to Plan B.)

Finally, the district suspended workouts last Friday in a decision announced a little past 5 p.m. The decision fell in line with those of nearby school districts such as Wake County Schools, Durham County Schools, Alamance-Burlington Schools and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

Chatham Charter and Woods Charter, the county's other two high schools, do not fall under CCS jurisdiction and aren't affected by the announcement. Chatham Charter has been holding socially distanced for multiple teams since June 15, and Woods Charter started workouts for its cross country team on July 6.

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PITCHER, CLUB PRESIDENT AND GRAD SPEAKER

Noah Carter excelled at Chatham Charter. He credits his faith and his mother

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Noah Carter’s two years at Chatham Charter were busy, to say the least. He dove headfirst into college-level classes. He worked out incessantly to improve his pitch speed. He played catch-up to make connections in a 45-person graduating class where everybody knew everybody. As a senior, he led the school’s DECA chapter as president, co-led its Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter and “double timed” his workout routines in the fall in hopes of boosting his college scholarship chances. Not to mention juggling the coronavirus pandemic that upended his final baseball season. It wasn’t until last Saturday morning, once Chatham Charter’s drive-by ceremony ended and his graduation was official, that he sat down and really took it all in. The late nights. The early mornings. The roster spot awaiting him at Catawba Valley Community College, where he signed to play baseball in January. “You know, I did more in two years than I could have imagined I’d do in four,” he said. “It’s really special to look back



Submitted photo
Noah Carter will pitch at Catawba Valley Community College next year.

and think: there’s a reason why I did this. And, of course, I believe it’s because of my faith — and the way my mom raised me.” And raise him Luanne Holt Oestreich did. They lived in Cary, the two of them, and Carter’s mom led by example: in her faith, in her attitude, in her perseverance. She did not miss games. Simple as that. Regardless of distance or weather or health — she battled brain cancer for three years — when Carter looked to

the bleachers, she was there. “She was so influential in my life when I was younger,” he said. “I tell everybody: she really got everything she needed to teach me out before I turned 16. Because I was 16 when she passed away.” July 1, 2018. 3:16 p.m. A Sunday. Oestreich, 50, “went peacefully to with her Lord,” her obituary read, “surrounded by her loving family and bathed in prayer.” Carter had just finished his sophomore year at Panther Creek. He knew change was coming. But his mother had set a foundation for success — he had to finish what she’d started. He returned to Chatham County, where he’d grown up with his parents (and attended Bonlee Elementary) until they divorced as he entered sixth grade and he moved to Cary with his mother. Carter said he and his father, Chris, have always had a strong relationship, too. He moved in with his dad and step-mom, Pam Culberson, in Silk Hope and transferred to Chatham Charter ahead of his junior year. The fit was natural — he especially loved the personable feel of things as compared to Panther Creek, a large 4A school.

“And coach (Bill) Slaughter, the first time I met him, I just absolutely loved him to death,” Carter said. “Like this was going to be a great place to call home for the next few years.” It was. A 6-foot-4 righty, Carter thrived in an ace role for the Knights, compiling a 2.10 ERA and one memorable no-hitter over two seasons. He also took his share of at-bats and, in a pinch, played some infield positions — two things he loved doing and saw as crucial to his overall development. He made lasting relationships, too. Grieving wasn’t easy, he said, but a “great support system” at his school made the hard days a little easier. Carter, also active in the school’s Beta Club, pushed himself academically and tried to hone his leadership skills whenever possible. This spring, he figured out it paid off. Chatham Charter took video proposals for two senior addresses — a “memories” speech and a “challenge” speech — in April. Reluctant at first, Carter submitted an entry for the latter category after some encouragement from Beth McCullough, the school’s executive director of secondary programs and communications. And his peers voted him the winner. So on Saturday, he gave

an unorthodox speech at an unorthodox ceremony. McCullough played a recording of Carter’s words through a microphone at the school’s drive-by ceremony; he watched the YouTube livestream in purple and white regalia with his father, step-mother and grandmother from home. “Strive to enjoy life in its fullest, no matter the circumstances,” Carter, 18, told his classmates. “Strive to appreciate your family, friends and the moments you get to share with them. Strive not for tangible things but for the good times we are gifted in this life. Strive to be joyful in the face of adversity and be the beacon of hope our world needs in this hour.” Forty-five minutes later, he was a Chatham Charter graduate, a soon-to-be college pitcher and a son that Luanne Holt Oestreich could be proud of. “That’s what makes me the happiest to think about,” Carter said. “I know that I’m fulfilling what she wanted me to do. And I’m doing what she raised me to do. And I’m being the young man that she raised me to be.”

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.

LACROSSE

Continued from page B1

team that went 0-11 and 0-7 in Conference 3 play. “It kind of felt like nonstop practice, because that’s how practice is: nonstop repetition of shots, over and over again,” Horrell said. “But without a break.” “Defense wins championships,” added Fritsche, now Northwood’s head coach. “We had a new defense that rose throughout the season, but we’re talking a lot of break-aways at Madi. A lot of shots — very high volume shots.” Horrell, a graduated senior set to play lacrosse at Meredith College in Raleigh, now looks back on that initial season as a formative one. She faced 432 shots on goal and saved 269 (the most in the state and sixth most in the country in 2019, according to MaxPreps). Trial by fire was the best way forward. But when she first learned Northwood would field a women’s lacrosse team two falls ago?

“I was actually kind of mad,” she said. Horrell, who picked up the sport when she moved to Pittsboro in eighth grade, had spent her last two seasons on the men’s JV lacrosse team — a unique role that earned her a feature in Chatham Magazine’s 2018 Women’s Issue. She played minimally as a freshman but started every game in goal as a sophomore for an 8-4 team. She was settled. Plus, the men’s program was well established; it offered consistent spring games to supplement her club games with Red Devils United Lacrosse in the fall. A virtual expansion women’s team, she thought, had its issues: fewer games, lots of losing. In their inaugural game March 5, the Chargers fell 15-4 at home to Carrboro. “After that first game, I was just mad,” Horrell said. “I had never been scored on that many times before, and I was not happy about it. It sucks to lose, but it sucks to lose by so much more.” She quickly came around, though, after watching her teammates’ positive body language and work ethic in later games and practices. Horrell liked the strides Northwood made its first season — and she loved the summer and pre-season workouts the team dedicated itself to leading into 2020. The Chargers hit a few high points in that much-shortened second season this spring: a shutout win in a pre-season scrimmage, and their first ever win —



Submitted photo
Goalie Madi Horrell (14), head coach Larry Fritsche (top, second from left) and the rest of the Northwood women’s lacrosse team celebrate after winning their first ever game on March 4, at home versus Union Pines.

18-1 over Union Pines — on March 4. Horrell was proud, too, of a competitive 12-8 loss to Heritage on March 9, where she had 24 saves and felt especially in sync with her fellow defenders. In three games, she finished with a .644 save percentage. “She has that mental toughness, that commitment,” Fritsche said of Horrell, a two-time team captain. “She works year round ... as far as learning the game, I’ve said it multiple times: she could teach a rules class to other coaches. She’s so well versed in the sport.” Horrell’s also a perfectionist. She enjoys watching and learning from her own game film. She remains perturbed that she allowed one goal instead of zero against Union Pines and just missed her senior goal of a .65 save percentage. Outside of a summer job at Taco Bell, her main quarantine activity has been bench pressing in a neighbor’s garage. “And I love looking at my own stats and everything,” Horrell said, “because that motivates me so much.” At Meredith, where she committed in November, she’s looking forward to joining in on the team’s winning ways. Under coach Lauren Scott, the Avengers Angels have won six straight league titles in the Division III USA South Conference. Horrell, 18, will have to duke it out with a returning senior and

fellow freshman for the starting goalie spot — and she’s excited for the competition. She’s also planning on an engineering degree, and she’ll take full advantage of Meredith’s dual-degree program with nearby N.C. State to accomplish it. At Northwood, she leaves behind a strong legacy, which includes selections to the 2019 HighSchoolOT All-East Team and statewide 2020 Bull City All Star Game. And a lot of saves. Try 318 for her women’s team career in 14 games, good for a 22.7 per game average. Fritsche put it simply: “She’ll be missed.”

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowl-

‘She could teach a rules class to other coaches.’
LARRY FRITSCHÉ,
Northwood women’s lacrosse head coach
er@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.

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A scene from a re-enactment of the 1781 skirmish at the House in the Horseshoe. Submitted photo



239th anniversary of the 'House in the Horseshoe' skirmish goes digital

CN+R Staff Report

SANFORD — “We will surrender, Sir, on condition that no one shall be injured; otherwise we will make the best defense we can ...”

Temperance Alston's words to David Fanning ended the fight between opposing militia forces. She bravely stepped onto the porch of her home, amid a hail of bullets, carrying a flag of truce, the scars of this personal and complicated war can still be seen on the Alston House.

This year, the battle will be remembered through a digital event that will be hosted on the site's social media pages.

Visitors who usually travel to the Deep River home are invited to view the event on August 1 through digital media. Videos highlighting the 1781 skirmish and life in 18th Century North Carolina will be featured throughout the day via Facebook.

There will be no demonstrations or activities at the historic site on August 1 and 2, this year. However, plans are being made for a 240th commemoration in 2021. Please keep in mind that plans

may change as the situation continues to develop.

Located at 288 Alston House Road, Sanford, House in the Horseshoe is 16 miles west of Sanford off NC 42 and 10 miles north of Carthage on the Caribton-Carthage Road. The house was built in 1772 by Philip Alston. During the American Revolution Alston proved a fiery leader for the Whig cause. In 1781 the Alston house was the site of militia skirmish between the owner, Whig Col. Philip Alston, and Loyalist Col. David Fanning. The house still bears some of the scars from this engagement. From 1798 to 1814 the House in the Horseshoe, under the name Retreat, was home to another Patriot leader and four-time North Carolina governor, Benjamin Williams.

House in the Horseshoe is part of the Division of State Historic Sites within the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader

in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call (919) 807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

Coping with stress during COVID-19

7 ways to mitigate stress in your daily life during the pandemic & beyond

BY CAROLINE WATKINS

News + Record Staff

Editor's note: The News + Record's three-part series about stress in the age of COVID-19 wrapped up in last week's edition. This story — drawn from a video project on the subject by CN+R Digital Intern Caroline Watkins — summarizes strategies to cope with, and mitigate, stress.

The coronavirus crisis has sent shockwaves around the world. In a time of stress and uncertainty, it's easy to get overwhelmed.

“What people should know first and foremost is that it's really normal and really common to feel stressed during this time,” Dr. Jonathan S. Abromowitz said. Abromowitz is a UNC-Chapel Hill professor of psychology and neuroscience and director of the UNC Anxiety Clinic.

It's also important, however, to develop healthy habits to help manage your stress. As part of the Chatham News + Record's ongoing stress series, we created an interactive digital guide that outlines seven ways that you can cope with stress during COVID-19 and beyond, which is now live on our website. The guide includes the seven following ways that you can mitigate stress in your daily life:

1. Be a smart news consumer

When it comes to staying informed during the pandemic, it's important to ensure that you are getting information from trustworthy sources. Reference government sources such as the CDC and NCDHHS and established news sources. Don't trust everything that you see

on social media.

2. Know when to go offline

While it's important to stay informed, it's also imperative for your mental health to recognize when it's time to unplug. “Obviously, it's overwhelming,” Alexis Gunipero Bunt, a licensed clinical worker, said. “You're inundated with this kind of information, whether it's false or accurate. I think it's really important right now to prioritize that self-care. So, I really think that means specifically taking breaks from the radio and social media.”

3. Find ways to get help

The pandemic has affected many different aspects of our lives, such as closing down schools and moving our work online. Changes to our daily lives can leave us feeling stressed and overwhelmed. Never be ashamed to get help where you can. In our digital interactive guide, you will find a number of resources that are available at your disposal.

4. Try yoga and meditation

Experts say that yoga and meditation are also great ways to relieve stress and anxiety. According to Mayo Clinic, “Yoga may help reduce stress, lower blood pressure and lower your heart rate.”

In addition to trying an online yoga class or doing your own flow at home, a simple breathing exercise can also help calm your mind.

“If you can get yourself in the moment, you can sometimes begin to relax that stress,” Lexie Wolf,

owner of Yoga Garden Pittsboro said. “And if you're so anxious that your breath is actually elevated or fast, just mindfully flowing that breath, taking deep inhales and exhales, can get you to begin to relax.”

5. Keep a normal routine

In a time where many things are unpredictable, it may help to keep a daily routine to achieve a sense of normalcy.

“I think on top of making sure that you disconnect each day and connect with nature, also try to have a schedule to the best of your ability that's balanced in three areas: work, connection to others and then self-care,” Katelyn Jakobsen, licensed clinical mental health counselor associate said.

In order to keep a set routine, it may help to keep a planner nearby to make sure that you're staying on track.

6. Exercise

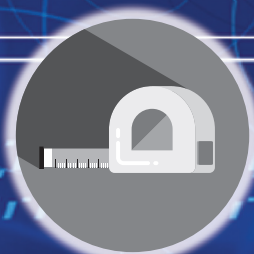
Kristin Krippa, a psychological associate, encourages others to, “Get outside as much as possible and exercise; doing those two things together is critical. It's remarkable how much it can reduce stress.”

Try running around your neighborhood after a long day's work or exploring local trails in Chatham County.

7. Stay connected with friends

It might be difficult to get together with friends right now, but there are still a number of ways to interact with them virtually. Schedule a Zoom “happy hour,” host a virtual game night with a service such as Jackbox Games or even try snail mail.

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

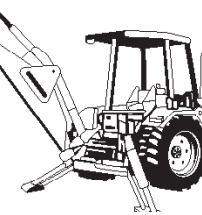


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From livestock to nanoparticles: COVID-19 research runs the gamut at state universities

BY RILEY DAVIS
NC News Intern Corps

Can food animals, like cows and pigs, harbor the coronavirus? Could nanoparticles protect surfaces from COVID-19 contamination? What social factors determine who is willing to wear a mask, and who is not? These are among the questions N.C. researchers are exploring this summer as they examine the impacts of the pandemic.

The North Carolina Policy Collaboratory has approved funding for a total of 79 COVID-19 research projects at universities across the state. The Collaboratory received \$29 million in May as part of the state's \$1.5 billion coronavirus relief to support studies on the impacts of coronavirus.

The Collaboratory is funding at least one project on almost all the UNC system campuses, according to executive director Jeff Warren. N.C. State University, East Carolina University and UNC-Wilmington all received separate funding to study COVID-19.

"We realized we've got a role to play here and realized that there has to be a massive state-wide research effort," Warren said.

The Collaboratory was created in 2016 by the North Carolina General Assembly to help facilitate coordinating research expertise across the UNC System. Up until now, its projects have mainly centered around natural resource management.

But when the pandemic began making its way into North Carolina, the Collaboratory put out a call for COVID-related research projects, receiving hundreds of proposals.

The majority of the funding remained at UNC-Chapel Hill, where the Collaboratory is housed, Warren said. The school is ranked as one of the top coronavirus research institutions in the country, he added, due in large

part to distinguished researcher and professor of epidemiology and of microbiology and immunology Ralph Baric's work on the drug remdesivir.

And while Baric and other researchers in the Gillings School of Public Health are leading some of the projects, others involve experts in social work, dentistry, psychology and finance.

"It's amazing, when you kind of throw the spaghetti against the wall and say, 'hey what are your ideas' and you get back all these amazing ideas," Warren said.

The second-largest allocation was announced in June, when the Collaboratory granted \$6 million in funding to the state's six historically minority-serving institutions: Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, North Carolina Central, UNC-Pembroke, N.C. A&T and Winston-Salem State each received \$1 million.

Warren said he and UNC Board of Governors member Darrell Allison spoke early on in the funding process and agreed that a significant portion should go to those schools.

"They're some of the hardest hit communities, and a lot of times when these big funding opportunities come through, they're not necessarily at the table," he added.

The projects at the six schools focus largely on regional impacts of the pandemic—particularly in rural and underserved communities—and promising technological developments. One project at N.C. A&T is examining how to build more affordable infrared fever detection systems for schools, which usually cost \$10,000 to \$20,000. The project proposes building a prototype at one tenth that cost.

Scanning people entering buildings for elevated temperatures "is the first line of defense," said Raymond Tesiero, a principal investigator on the project and an assistant professor of civil, architectural and environ-

mental engineering at the school. But current scanners are not built with places like schools or lower income institutions in mind.

"The current scanning systems are priced way out of range for any school system," Tesiero said. "We feel we can help the community out by developing a much simpler system."

Several other projects at the universities are examining the impacts of the pandemic on minority populations or people of color. As part of several linked studies, researchers at Winston-Salem State have proposed leveraging partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities to help identify and address communities in greatest need of intervention.

Two linked studies at Elizabeth City State intend to use drones in development of regional infrastructure to manage COVID-19 within racial/ethnic minorities, socially vulnerable people and rural communities.

Several of the projects have just received their funding or are in the beginning stages, Warren said. But two pilot studies approved at UNC-Chapel Hill in May are already underway.

The first involves studying wastewater to learn more about how the pandemic is affecting entire communities. Rachel Noble, a professor of environmental sciences and engineering at UNC and lead researcher on the project, has studied viruses in wastewater in her lab previously. But when rumblings of COVID-19's impact started back in February, she and her colleagues began talking about using the technology to track SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

"The idea is that using wastewater allows you to measure the prevalence of the virus using the concentration value — the numbers of the virus in the wastewater," Noble said. "And it tells you something more about the community or the entire system of people

that is feeding into the wastewater."

UNC's second pilot study is tackling the intersection between health and mobility, and studying the effects of COVID-19 on transport in the state. The study hopes to compare data from previous years with data collected during the state's state of emergency, stay-at-home and reopening orders, to see how mobility patterns have changed.

Randa Radwan, the director of UNC's Highway Safety Research Center, said she's excited about the project's potential to analyze several different impacts of the pandemic.

"The longer term thinking here is: how does COVID-19 affect long-term travel behavior?" she said.

Radwan added that a large part of the study will be coordinating across UNC departments to aggregate the data, launching a website and making their findings available to the public in an easy to understand format.

"As researchers, we tend to provide our output in technical papers or peer reviewed literature," she said. "But in this case, we have more than one audience."

The projects are slated to report their initial findings to the General Assembly by Sept. 1, and are scheduled to be completed by Dec. 30, per requirements of the CARES Act on how COVID-19 federal funds must be spent.

But of all the states conducting COVID-19 research this year, Warren thinks North Carolina may just be unique.

"To my knowledge, we're the only state that has this legislatively created and endorsed mechanism to utilize every campus," he said. "It's beyond my wildest dreams."

The NC News Intern Corps is a program of the NC Local News Workshop, funded by the North Carolina Local News Lab Fund and housed at Elon University's School of Communications.

The browner the butter ...



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Growing up, we were a Parkay family. Anything that called for butter — mashed pota-



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Brown Sugar Vanilla Bean Chewies

tion, an obscenity, and an insult to the love and skill of the baker.

When I set up my own kitchen, I vowed I would only buy butter, not margarine.

Years ago, I was melting butter to pour over cauliflowerer. I got busy and it started to brown. It didn't burn so I decided to use it.

It was a revelation. It turned the flavor of the plain, melted variety up to eleventy-eleven. Nutty and rich, it brought a whole new dimension to boring old cauliflowerer. I began using it all the time. If you've never tried it as sauce on fresh pasta or ravioli, do it. It's like perfectly applied makeup. It doesn't really change the features; it just enhances the heck out of them.

The good news about brown butter: the cheaper the butter, the better the

brown. Expensive butter has more butterfat and less water and solids. The solids are the part that brown. Some chefs even brown very large batches, then pour over a filter, resulting in both clarified butter (butter in which all solids have been removed) and browned solids that then can be sprinkled directly over food.

To brown butter, just melt it slowly in a pan and continue to cook. It will foam up after a few minutes, then you will see the foam begin to brown. When that browning has reached the russet brown of a well-loved leather jacket, take it off the heat to stop the cooking.

Let's see a tub of Parkay do that!

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

Brown Sugar Vanilla Bean Chewies

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch

12-15 gratings of fresh nutmeg (if you don't have fresh, leave it out)

1/2 teaspoon salt

3/4 cup butter (1 1/2 sticks), melted, browned, and slightly cooled*

1 1/4 cups packed light or dark brown sugar

1 large egg, room temperature

1 vanilla bean, split, with contents scraped out. Place scraped pod into pot with sticks of butter and let it steep while butter melts, browns, and cools. Remove before mixing.

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1/3 cup granulated sugar, for rolling

large flaky sea salt (optional)

Instructions:

Toss together flour, baking soda, cornstarch, nutmeg, and salt in large bowl. Set aside.

In a medium-size bowl, whisk the melted butter, vanilla bean innards, and brown sugar together until no brown sugar lumps remain. Whisk in the egg. Finally, whisk in the vanilla extract. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix with a large spoon or rubber spatula. The dough will be very soft, yet thick.

Cover the dough and chill for 2 hours, or up to 3 days. Chilling is mandatory.

Take the dough out of the refrigerator and allow to slightly soften at room temperature for 10 minutes if you had it chilling for more than 2 hours.

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside.

Pour the granulated sugar into a bowl. Take 2 scant tablespoons of dough and roll into a ball, then roll into the sugar. Place 3 inches apart on the baking sheets.

Bake for 8-9 minutes. Remove from the oven and gently press the top of the cookie down with the back of a utensil. You're trying to obtain a crinkly top. Sprinkle a bit of salt on now-flattened top.


Place back into the oven for 2-4 more minutes. The total time these cookies are in the oven is 10-13 minutes. The cookies will be puffy and still appear very soft in the middle. Remove from the oven and allow to cool on the baking sheet for ten minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. They will continue to cook in the center on the baking sheet after being removed from the oven.

Cookies will stay fresh covered at room temperature for 1 week.

To freeze: portion dough and roll into balls. Lay, not touching on cookie sheet and place in freezer for 1-2 hours. When completely frozen, place into zip-top bag and freeze up to 2 months. To bake, let sit on counter to thaw for 30 minutes or fridge overnight before rolling in sugar. Bake as directed.

Siler City seeking District 2 rep

The Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners are accepting letters of interest from the public to serve as a member of the Siler City Board of Commissioners representing District 2. Interested parties must be registered and eligible to vote in District 2 (see map) in order to be considered. For more information contact Siler City Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at jjohnson@silercity.org.



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CHATHAM CHAT | VICKI NEWELL, CHATHAM LITERACY COUNCIL

‘No-Show’ event features ‘A Fool for Christmas’

This week, we chat with Vicki Newell, executive director of the Chatham Literacy Council, about the organization’s upcoming fundraising event. Newell has worked as the executive director for nine of her 10 years with Chatham Literacy. Before that, she worked in early childhood development with local and statewide Smart Start initiatives. All told, she has 32 years working in the nonprofit world, having started that journey as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Newell hails from the state of Utah and has lived in Chatham County since 2003 with her husband and three sons.

Typically at this time of the year we’re talking about the legendary author or writer you’re preparing to bring in for the next Chatham Literacy fundraiser. This year’s “No-Show Fall for Literacy Book Event” will naturally — because of COVID-19 — be different. For starters, let’s talk about the “No-Show” event and what it’ll look like...

We’re excited to hold a truly unique event for our community in September. As the staff and volunteers adjusted to this COVID challenge we rethought our internal and program-focused activities including our fall fundraiser.

That clarity and focus produced some innovative fundraising solutions, including what we’re calling a “No-Show” Fall for Literacy Book Event set for 11 a.m. on September 26th. “No-Show” means you don’t even have to step outside your door to participate in our fall event.

Chatham Literacy is really looking forward to sharing this opportunity to collectively enjoy Gurganus’ short work, “A Fool for Christmas.”

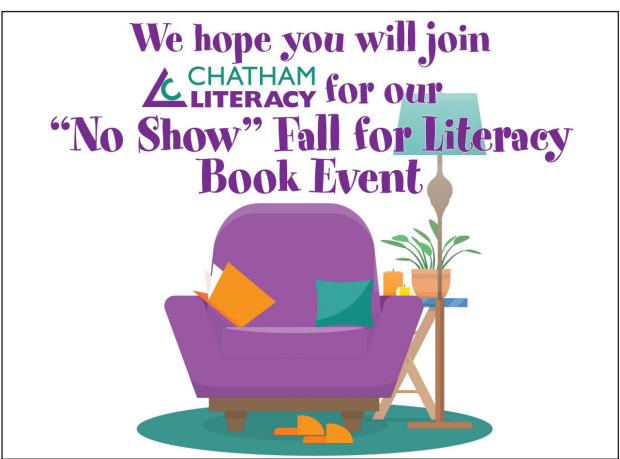
We are encouraging book lovers to read this uplifting, delightful story on your own, in an intimate gathering with your book club friends (all the while in masks and socially distancing), or virtually with friends.

What can you tell us about Allan, his body of work, and why his “A Fool for Christmas” is such an appropriate book to feature during the upcoming event?

With the impact and challenge of COVID-19, we felt readers would simply enjoy celebrating this deeply interesting and wonderful author in the comfort of their own homes. Reading this short story is a great way to have some fun and also get a jump start for the holiday season since this story centers on a chance encounter that produces a Christmas miracle. So we hope everyone will join us in spirit as they read this literary treasure.

Gurganus told us that he’s proud that Chatham Literacy chose this tale for the event. He said that one of the main characters in his story reflects Chatham Literacy’s efforts in the community. Like the character Verne, he sees Chatham Literacy’s potential everywhere because literacy is growing more important every day. Specifically he told us, “We’re living through a crisis that requires friends to help friends, communities helping communities. Literate citizens are essential to our nation’s health.”

Gurganus is a native North Carolinian. Many people may know of his best-selling novel, “Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All.” That book was on the New York Times best-seller list for eight months and was made into a television production and later became a Broadway play.



Gurganus just told us his latest work will be called “The Uncollected Stories of Allan Gurganus,” to be published in January of 2021.

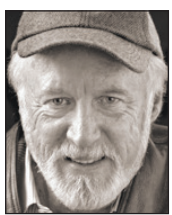
Why is the fundraiser so important to Chatham Literacy? And how will it help mitigate the impact the pandemic has had on the important work you’re doing?

Often literacy is overlooked as a basic need. Adult literacy is essential to develop an educated workforce, help people make informed decisions and help them gain confidence to become more engaged in their community.

Though we can’t come together for the “No-Show” Fall for Literacy Book Event and raffle, donations we receive will allow us to continue providing essential adult literacy services that creatively respond to this “new reality” caused by COVID-19.

Many of you helped Chatham Literacy in the spring when COVID-19 forced us to cancel our Spring for Literacy Author’s Event and you converted your registration into a donation. That generosity was a significant help to our program and thus to many Chatham families. So let’s have some fun

“together” during our No-Show Fall for Literacy Book Event while you also help us help our community.



Gurganus

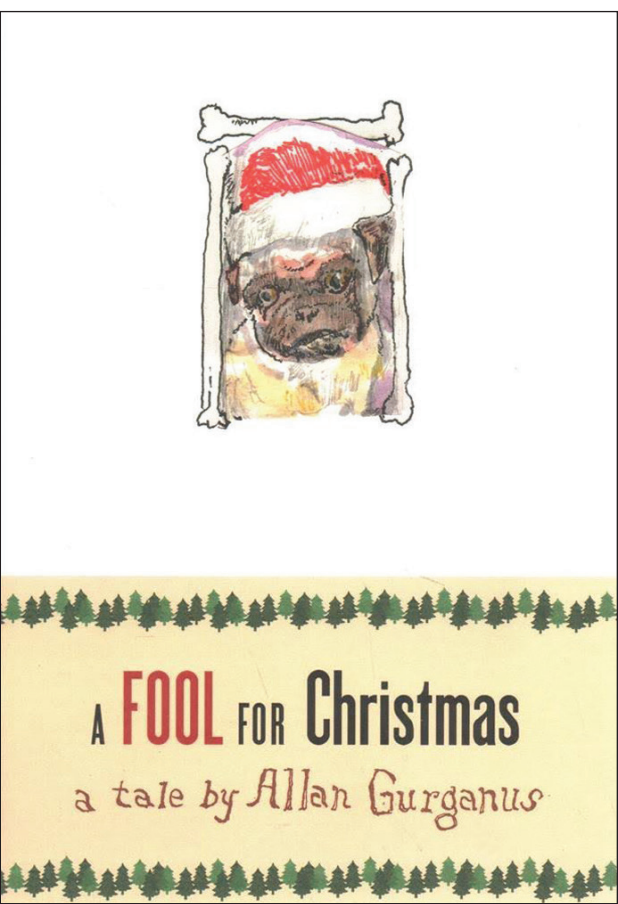
Literacy leads to gainful employment, financial and family stability, improved health care and better outcomes for the next generation. Literacy transforms lives.

Chatham Literacy, NCWorks Career Center and the county’s Economic Development Corporation have teamed up on a “Ready, Success, Grow” series of enhanced job skills courses for business professionals, which kicked off this week. What can you tell us about that?

The term “literacy” means an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems, at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual, and in society (Workforce Investment Act 2014).

As literacy is defined above, we also offer life skills literacy services that prepare adults for the expectations and norms in today’s society and workplace. When confronted with COVID-19, we decided it was more necessary than ever to deliver training on job skills enhancement. Since the importance of this is paramount to Chatham Economic Development Corporation and NCWorks Career Center, we joined forces to develop and promote this virtual opportunity.

“READY, SUCCESS, GROW!” is free job skills-enhancement training to increase employability. Chatham Literacy, NCWorks Career Center and the Chatham Eco-



Allan Gurganus’ book ‘A Fool for Christmas’ will be a featured part of the Chatham Literacy Council fundraiser this fall.

nomic Development Corporation partnered to create a four-course training that will be held at 6 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday of each month, July through November 2020. Each course lasts one hour.

The training is free and presents career-boosting information in a smart format. These short, but effective courses will cover:

- “COVID-19 and the Workplace,” to learn about how the pandemic has affected the workplace, including the new state and federal laws.
- “Professionalism: Enthusiasm and Attitude,” which will cover how professionalism, enthusiasm and attitude on the job can help secure a raise, promotion, or new job opportunity.
- “Teamworking Essentials,” detailing how teamwork makes the ‘dream work’ and
- “Networking,” on how to make valuable career connections and why it’s an important component of moving forward in a job. Trainings sessions are July 21, 23, 28 and 30; August 18, 20, 25, and 27; September 17, 22, 24, and 29; October 20, 22, 27, and 29; November 17, 19, 24, and 26

To register: enter the link <https://bit.ly/2B0xTgG>, visit www.chathamliteracy.org OR call Chatham Literacy at

919-742-0578.

What details do we need to know about the “No-Show” event?

This “No-Show” Fall for Literacy Book Event” is set for 11 a.m. on September 26, the final day of National Literacy Week. Tickets are \$60 each. The first 125 people who sign up will receive a free, hard copy of Gurganus’ book.

This unusual “No-Show” Book Event also includes a unique raffle. Each \$20 online “raffle ticket” gives you a chance to win special and delightful prizes.

If your raffle ticket is randomly chosen you’ll have a chance to win one of six prizes, including

- a \$100 gift certificate to Postal Fish Company;
- a COVID gift basket;
- a reading basket with signed books from local authors;
- framed artwork by Marcelle Pachnowski;
- two wind spinners by Eddie White or
- a \$50 Netflix gift card.

Ticket winners will consecutively be allowed to choose a prize in the order tickets are drawn. The winning tickets will be drawn at noon.

Registration will be open until September 26 for the “No-Show” Fall for Literacy Book Event and Raffle at: www.chathamliteracy.org or call 919-214-1269.

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Southern Voice Trio

9/12

Brick City KO

10/10

Rob Matthews

11/14

Whiskey Revival



POLICE REPORTS

Siler City couple arrested in death of 3-year-old

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Police Department last week announced the arrest of two Siler City residents in the December death of 3-year-old Evan Preston Marrero.

The child’s mother, Tricia Ann Bissett, 33, and her live-in boyfriend, 38-year-old Judson Sier Dunnivant, both of 1217 Red Sunset Place, have been charged with first-degree murder and intentional child abuse, causing serious bodily injury.

The investigation began with a 9-1-1 call early on the morning of

December 10 involving a child who was “unresponsive,” according to Lt. Jason Boyd of the Siler City Police Department.

The child, who was known to have developmental issues, was dead when units arrived.

Bissett and Dunnivant had only been living in Chatham County for a “few months,” according to Boyd. After seeing bruising on the child, the chief investigator, Detective Jon Murray

opened a case for possible homicide.



Boyd said Bissett was involved in case with the Wake County Dept. of Social Services

that did not involve Dunnivant, who spent a brief time as a law enforcement officer in another state. Dunnivant was released from that job for “conduct reasons” though the specifics are not known, according to Boyd.

Though the details of the Wake County Social

Services case aren’t public, Boyd did note that the case in Wake County contained “different type of incident” than occurred in Siler City. Neither of the suspects have a record for drug abuse or other violence, according to Boyd.

Boyd noted that Murray said the Chatham County Dept. of Social Services, which removed a second child from the home following the death of Evan, was “great to work with and did a fantastic job” adding that “it was tough.” Murray also worked closely with the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office and the N.C. Bureau of Investigation throughout the process.

Even so, the case took its toll.

“He was the detective on this case,” Boyd said. “And while it can’t be personal, it takes a personal toll. Because a 3-year-old can’t speak for himself.”

After collaborating to build evidence, the case was taken to a grand jury.

“We wanted to cross all our T’s and dot all our I’s so, yes, we went to a grand jury,” Boyd said. “This was a major, major crime.”

After a true bill of indictment was secured, the two were arrested by Siler City Police and transported to the Chatham County Detention Center, where

they are being held with no bond.

“The detective in all this, give him a lot of credit,” Boyd said of Murray. “He’s had a lot of sleepless nights. He’s ready to move to the next level [of the case]. And the people who worked with him, I commend them all. These things, these types of crimes, they’re hard.”

The Siler City Police Department has asked that if anyone has information regarding this case to contact Murray at 919-742-5626.

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Tarik Greene, 24, of Manassas, Virginia, was charged July 10 for breaking and entering into motor vehicle, larceny of a firearm, possess of a stolen firearm, injury to personal property, misdemeanor larceny, possession stolen goods and property, financial card theft, financial card fraud, obtaining property false pretense, attempt breaking and entering into motor vehicle and felony larceny. Greene was jailed under a \$100,000 secured bond with a July 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Theodore Eubanks, 39, of Siler City, was charged July 11 for breaking and entering with intent to terrorize/injure, assault by pointing a gun, assault with a deadly weapon with minor present and

communicating threats. Eubanks was issued a written promise with a July 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Jacob Allen, 29, of Graham, was charged July 11 for possession of a stolen motor vehicle, possession of a Schedule I controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and larceny. Allen was jailed under a \$20,000 secured bond with July 20 court date in Pittsboro. In addition, Allen was also charged July 11 for breaking and entering, larceny, damage to property and trespassing. Allen was jailed under a \$30,000 secured bond with a July 31 court date in Asheboro. Allen was also charged July 11 for breaking and entering and larceny. Allen was jailed under a \$1,000 secured bond with a July 24 court date in Carthage. Also, Allen was charged July 11 for shoplift-

ing. Allen was jailed under a \$10,000 secured bond with a August 6 court date in Graham.

Joseph Michael Bartasis, 33, of Sanford, was charged July 11 for resisting a public officer. Bartasis was jailed under a \$500 secured bond with a July 14 court date in Pittsboro.

Jnaya Marville, 26, of Clayton, was charged July 12 for simple assault and burglary/breaking and entering. Marville was jailed under a domestic violence 48-hour hold with a July 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Travis Lilly, 30, of Pittsboro, was charged July 12 for simple assault. Lilly was issued a written promise with a July 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Ronald Lilly, 61, of Pittsboro, was

charged July 12 for simple assault. Lilly was issued a written promise with a July 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Daniel Diaz, 28, of Liberty, was charged July 13 with intent to sell or deliver marijuana and maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance. Diaz was issued a written promise with August 11 court date in Greensboro.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Waliul Yasin of Chapel Hill was cited July 13 for failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Hw. 64 near Pittsboro.

Aaron Brewer of Cary was cited July 15 for failure to maintain lane control on N.C. Hwy. 87 near Pittsboro.

Piedmont Health Services receives emergency grant

CN+R STAFF REPORT

Piedmont Health has announced an infusion of \$50,000 in emergency grant funding from the medical aid organization Direct Relief, in partnership with the National Association of Community Health Centers.

Piedmont Health was among 518 federally qualified health centers to receive funding earlier this month through Direct Relief’s \$25 million COVID-19 Fund for Community Health, which recognizes the profound effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the finances, services, staff, and patients of community health centers.

Piedmont Health will use the funds to help deliver prescriptions from its pharmacies to their patients’ homes. There is no income threshold for this free service. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it remains essential for patients to get their medications in a timely manner. At times, patients delay picking up prescriptions for a variety of reasons. This new service complements Piedmont Health’s mission to “improve the health and well-being of the community by providing high-quality,

affordable and comprehensive primary health care.”

“Access to primary care is what keeps people healthy and out of the hospital, and the frontline work of Piedmont Health and other nonprofit community health centers across the U.S. is more critical than ever with the onset of COVID-19,” Direct Relief President and CEO Thomas Tighe said. “Direct Relief is doing everything possible to bolster the work and support the staffs at the safety-net health facilities on which so many patients and their families rely for excellent care and trust for advice in this public health emergency.”

Carl Taylor, director of pharmacy services, said getting patients needed low-cost prescriptions quickly “has always been a primary goal of the pharmacy program, and I am so happy to make this happen with this grant. Patients and providers are very appreciative and elderly patients can benefit greatly from this program.”

Nearly 30 million (one in 12) of the country’s most vulnerable residents — including one in three individuals living in poverty, one in five

Medicaid beneficiaries, and one in nine children — rely on federally qualified health centers like Piedmont Health for their health care. That number is expected to rise as more people lose employer-sponsored insurance.

“We are grateful for this critical and immediate support as Community Health Centers work hard to keep communities safe during an unprecedented pandemic,” said Tom Van Coverden, the president and CEO of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). “We are also deeply appreciative of our longstanding partnership with Direct Relief in these uncertain times and their efforts to ensure that health centers confronting multiple challenges in underserved communities have the resources when and where they need them. We know that many donors and contributors have helped to make this fund possible, and we further extend our appreciation to all of them.”

Piedmont Health Services has 10 community health centers throughout the piedmont area of North Carolina. Its health centers provide medical, dental, behavioral health, nutrition

and WIC services. It has two SeniorCare (PACE) programs serving Chatham, Lee, Orange,

Alamance and Caswell counties. Piedmont Health has been serving the community for 50

years and is the oldest federally qualified community health center in North Carolina.

NEWS BRIEFS

Duke Energy announces \$750,000 in grants for N.C. nonprofits

CHARLOTTE — Duke Energy has announced a new \$750,000 grant opportunity through the Duke Energy Foundation for North Carolina nonprofit organizations working for social justice and racial equity.

Applications will be reviewed through a competitive grant cycle, and \$25,000 grants will be awarded for general operating funds at eligible nonprofits.

The company has committed to an annual social justice and racial equity grant cycle for at least three years in North Carolina.

The N.C. Social Justice and Racial Equity grant cycle will operate with

the following strategic principles:

- Nonprofits with a history of championing social justice and racial equity work on behalf of Black Americans, as represented in their mission statements and previous bodies of work, are the priority for this program.
- Nonprofits led by people of color, a historically underfunded group across philanthropy, will be given additional consideration in the grant review process.
- Preference will be given to nonprofits not already funded by, or not eligible for, the Duke Energy Foundation’s other competitive grant cycles, specifically the K-12 education, workforce and nature grant cycles.
- The nonprofit applicant may be a governmental entity if the organiza-

tion meets the strategic principles listed above.

- All regions of North Carolina served by Duke Energy Progress or Duke Energy Carolinas are eligible.

Grant applications should come from organizations with primary missions of addressing social justice and racial equity.

The grant application is open now through Aug. 31. Eligible nonprofits should visit www.duke-energy.com/RacialEquity to access the application and materials. Applicants will be notified about the outcome of their applications before Oct. 31.

This new grant opportunity is in addition to the \$1 million commitment Duke Energy made to racial equity across its jurisdictions.

— CN + R staff reports

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neighbor

2

neighbor

A community initiative supporting Chatham County

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FINDING FUN IN COVID-19

1970 camper provides ‘staycations’ for Pittsboro family

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Five years ago, Beth Davis bought a 1970 Serro Scotty travel trailer off Craigslist to take on camping trips.

Now, throughout the stay-at-home orders put in place because of COVID-19, she’s transformed her camper — affectionately known as “Patty” — to allow for “staycations” in her own front yard.

In the early months of quarantine, Davis decided to tackle a leak in the camper and found quarantine gave her the excuse — and time — she needed to really fix it up.

“I said, ‘You know what? I’m gonna make this a little hangout since we’re not going anywhere,’” Davis said. “I renovated the inside during quarantine and then I was like, well, I’m gonna set it up here so we can hang out and have a place to be happy.”

When she first bought the camper, its outside was white with a red pinstripe. Her boyfriend, Chris Maxwell, painted the bright teal that coordinates with the thrifted, dollar-store and vintage pieces Davis redecorated the interior with.

She named the camper after a friend’s mom, who died from cancer right around the time she purchased the Serro Scotty, someone she remembers as “just fun and crazy and wild.”

“I was like, ‘Yes, this is Patty,’” she said.

One of her favorite places to take the camper is with her family to the Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival, a biannual music and dance festival held in Pittsboro. Her sons — Evan, who will start high school this year, and Nathan, a rising senior — enjoy these trips and said their mom’s “new quarantine spot” is starting to rub off on them too.

Davis, who commonly refers to her camper as “Patty” and with female pronouns, enjoyed it before the coronavirus. She’s long loved decorating it with new finds and decking it out with lights for Christmas. But since her quarantine-inspired



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Davis family loves to take Patty on adventurous road trips together. Nathan and Evan help their mom with setting up the awning and keeping decorative lights in order.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Beth Davis named the camper in honor of a friend’s mother, Patty, who succumbed to cancer about the time Davis acquired it.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

In the months after quarantine, Davis set up her camper — affectionately named ‘Patty’ — outside her Pittsboro home, decked out with an awning, furniture and a grill.

decorating, she’s spent more with friends there listening to music and drinking wine — just hanging out.

She added patio furniture, a grill and a colorful floral awning, found on a vintage Facebook page. Davis considered turning it into an Airbnb rental, but decided it was “too cozy” to make that work, though she enjoys

occasionally spending the night there. She considers the time and effort spent redecorating well worth it.

“I wanted to build a ‘she-shed’ for a long time but then I was thinking, when am I gonna ever get that done?” she said.

Laughing as she watched her son, Nathan, attempt to string up the awning lights he accidentally knocked down, she

pointed out the yellow yard flag with a teal and white camper and the words, “The Davis Family.”

“Happy Campers Welcome,” the flag also says in bright teal script.

“That’s her story,” she said.

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Davis family enjoy taking ‘Patty’ camping, and more recently, on staycation. Beth Davis redecorated the camper a few months ago, mostly with thrift store finds.

Davis considered turning the camper into an Airbnb, but for now, she enjoys occasionally spending the night in the camper. The couch turns into a bed.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Brothers Nathan and Evan have lots of fun fishing in their kayaks, pictured here across the yard from the camper — their version of a ‘staycation.’

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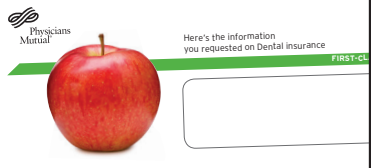
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2020 CENSUS

Already, two-thirds of Chatham households have completed count

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record staff

U.S. Census Bureau data shows that about two-thirds of Chatham County households have filled out their census forms, ahead of national and state averages.

That's consistent with Chatham's self-response rate from the 2010 Census, according to Courtney Cooper-Lewter, a management analyst in the Chatham County Manager's Office. By the end of July in 2010, 66.7% had completed the census without a visit from a census worker.

The national self-response rate is 62.2%; in North Carolina, it's 58.4%.

"We hope for better because we want to top our number from the last census," she said. "But I think given the current circumstances with COVID-19, I am pleasantly surprised that folks are still continuing to fill out their census (forms)."

The United States conducts a census every 10 years to ensure communities receive proportionate political representation in federal, state and local government.

The census also decides how the U.S. distributes billions of federal dollars to states and counties, money that governments use to fund schools, road repairs and welfare programs like Medicaid.



Submitted photo

These census bookmarks help to promote participation. The deadline to participate in the 2020 population count has been moved back to Oct. 31.

That's why undercounting Chatham County's population could have serious consequences, Cooper-Lewter said.

"A lot of those programs support a lot of our Chatham residents," she said. "If we do go undercounted, we run the risk of not taking care of our neighbors basically."

In March, households began receiving postcards inviting residents to complete the census by mailing back the form, calling a number or filling out the form online. To raise awareness and encourage residents to

complete the census, the Chatham County Manager's Office partnered with other community leaders last year to form the Chatham Complete Count Committee.

But COVID-19 threw a wrench in things.

"We've had to transition and pivot a little bit," Cooper-Lewter said. "We weren't expecting this to happen, so we had a lot of events planned and a lot of events we'd planned on attending just to have some presence and answer questions for folks. But now most of our stuff has shifted to online,

and we know that can be challenging for some Chatham residents."

Beyond social media campaigns, newsletters and census commercials, she said they've partnered with schools, libraries and nonprofits to send out census materials — outreach efforts she said she thinks have so far been effective.

In June, the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle held an event at St. Julia Catholic Church to distribute food to families in Siler City, and the committee partnered with them to distribute goodie bags with census materials alongside the food.

"Within a week, we had increased almost 1.5% from 64.7% to 66.1%," she said. "Prior to that, we were only seeing 0.1 to 0.2 percent increases every couple of days."

COVID-19 also forced some participating organizations, like the Hispanic Liaison, to shift focus during the first few months of the pandemic.

The Hispanic Liaison partnered with the county to encourage Chatham's Latinx community members to participate in the census. Paola Rodriguez, the advocacy and civic engagement program manager, said they've posted a Facebook Live video with information in Spanish about the census and helped residents fill out the form, among other things.

COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the Latinx population in Chatham County. More than half of the county's total coronavirus cases have come from the Hispanic community. Many Hispanic residents have also lost jobs but are ineligible for stimulus checks or unemployment benefits because of immigration status.

Thanks to this disproportionate impact and the organization's limited staff capacity, Rodriguez said the Hispanic Liaison has primarily been focusing on COVID-19 response calls and helping clients secure funds.

"People have actually been calling to fill out the census," she said. "But I feel that as the pandemic has grown, people have sort of lost interest in it just because they have more business to deal with."

After addressing clients' problems, Rodriguez said she'd often bring up the census and offer assistance. But now, she said the Hispanic Liaison is just about ready to begin ramping up efforts to promote the census.

The pandemic also changed the original schedule. Normally, the deadline to complete the census was July 31. That's been moved back to Oct. 31 now, Cooper-Lewter said, and the president will probably receive the census results by April 30, 2021, instead of Dec. 31. "We'll start to receive

redistricting counts probably by the 31st of July (2021)," she said.

Under the original schedule, census workers would have begun going door-to-door in May to count households who had yet to complete the census independently. The pandemic has pushed that back to Aug. 11. Yet, rising virus cases might prevent census workers from visiting households, which could stagnate the county's response rate.

"At the end of 2010, we had 66.7% self-responses, which is when people do it on their own," Cooper-Lewter said. "But we finished the census time frame with 81 percent, so that was a significant increase from census workers coming to homes and helping folks fill out the census."

Still, she said the committee has done a great job of adapting and trying to figure out how to best reach people in such a challenging time.

"Since the end of April, the numbers have slowed," she said. "But I'm hopeful that we'll have a last little push and be able to get as many folks counted as possible."

To fill out the census, go to my2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020. Additional information on the census can be found on Chatham County's website.

Chatham commissioners discuss public hearings in future hybrid meetings

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff
PITTSBORO — At the

board's second hybrid virtual and in-person meeting Monday, Chatham County Commissioners continued to discuss mak-

ing virtual meetings more accessible and fair for the public.

Prior to last month's regular board of com-

missioners meeting, board gatherings took place with limited public attendance and public hearings were delayed as staff worked to adapt the meeting structure during the coronavirus pandemic. During Monday's public input session, deciding a course of action for future public hearings — specifically for the Williams Corner hearing — was addressed by several speakers.

In the discussion of public hearings slated for the Aug. 17 meeting, board Chairman Karen Howard addressed the question of accessibility to the meetings. "Staff has spent a considerable amount of time on ensuring that the public has access to the meeting and I do want to say I think it's been the goal for this board — in all the conversations we've had — to be fair, transparent and predictable in how we conduct our meetings," she said.

Howard added that county staff and the board should prepare for the possibility of needing to hold future meetings, including public hearings, completely virtually.

"There are multiple things to be considered and not the least of which is that for each of these meetings we do put ourselves at risk by attending the public meetings," she said. "Given the trajectory of the pandemic in the state and country, I think we should at least be aware of the possibility that as numbers increase we may be revisiting any decision we make about how we meet at our August meeting."

The upcoming Aug. 17 and Sept. 21 work and regular session meetings already contain many scheduled public hearing items. With staff recommendation, the board

attempted to spread items out by moving uncontroversial items to a consent agenda and delaying less urgent items to the September meeting. Howard said she thought limiting the number of hearings at the August meeting would be wise for the board, staff and public and help ensure fairness throughout those discussions.

At the Aug. 17 meeting, the public hearing on Williams Corner — a 118-acre mixed use community that its website says is "unlike anything else in Chatham County" — will finally take place after months of delay due to the coronavirus. Controversial with the public, many residents have asked the board to further delay the meeting until the public hearing can occur completely in person. During the board's discussion Monday, county staff said this item had been on the docket since January and needed to be addressed.

Board Clerk Lindsay Ray said 50 people registered for Monday's meeting through the GoTo Webinar platform and that there were at least six attendees on-site at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. Because of complaints that it was difficult to hear commissioners and staff at the board's last meeting, Ray said the commissioners met in a separate room from those in attendance at the conference center.

"We weren't able to have the sound on in the large room while they were talking and I know, we as staff, had a hard time hearing the commissioners and others in attendance did as well," Ray said.

Instead, in-person attendees watched the meeting from the GoTo Webinar broadcast in an

'There are multiple things to be considered and not the least of which is that for each of these meetings we do put ourselves at risk by attending the public meetings.'

KAREN HOWARD, board chairman

overflow room, Ray said, which made allowing people to hear the whole conversation much easier.

"It is also easier to hear in here if we make the room smaller," she said. "Totally a decision on the best acoustics for the format."

Before adjourning the meeting, Howard spoke about racial justice and equity in Chatham's criminal justice system during her commissioner's report. She noted her willingness to continue engaging in community conversations, particularly in regards to how the county funds things and understands how the court system works.

"Chatham has some opportunities to do some things. I wouldn't necessarily say better, but different, with the goal of having a better outcome," she said. "I know this is only the beginning and there's so much more to be done but I am very encouraged by who's participating in those conversations and the willingness to self examine — that while we are doing good things, there are things we could be doing better."

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Plans to develop in Pittsboro

Developer Greg Stafford plans to develop a block in downtown Pittsboro into a "retail and dining destination."

The project area, dubbed SoCo — for "South of the Courthouse" — has a three part plan, according to a story published in the Triangle Business Journal:

- Crews will demolish a thrift store on the corner to make way for a new outdoor plaza that will allow for outdoor dining year round, or at least as long as weather permits.
- A string of buildings behind that site will see new life with extensive interior and exterior renovations. This includes a space that is currently home to the Pittsboro Roadhouse restaurant,

which plans to vacate that space this year.

- An aging building to the south of those sites will be demolished and replaced by a new, two-story restaurant space complete with rooftop dining.

Stafford said he hopes to be able to break ground by the start of next year and he is looking for businesses to fill the area.

— CN + R staff reports

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YARD SALES

MOVING YARD SALE - Saturday, July 25, 7am-1pm, 444 West 9th St, Siler City. Jy23,1tp

3-FAMILY YARD SALE - clothes, furniture, toys, household items, Lots and lots of stuff, 4215 Aston Bridge Rd, Siler City, Saturday, July 25, 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Jy23,1tp

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WELDER NEEDED for Metal Fabrication for approximately 1½ months. Located in Pittsboro. Call or text 919-656-2268. Jy23,30,2tc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of June, 2020, as Executrix of the ESTATE OF PHILIP H. KOHL a/k/a PHILIP HOWARD KOHL, 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 2ND day of October, 2020 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This, the 2nd day of July, 2020. MARY S. KOHL, EXECUTRIX ESTATE OF PHILIP H. KOHL a/k/a PHILIP HOWARD KOHL c/o Jennifer E. Dalman, Attorney Walker Lambe, PLLC Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717 Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tc

CHATHAM COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA NOTICE OF SERVICE Robert Terrell III hereby notifies General Shale Brick Inc., all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate; to notice by the adjustments of the court to determine the orders and judgment of claims preceding conditions. The mandated trial merits are fulfilled formulating issues as their prerogative writs. Robert Terrell III 126 West Presnell Street; Apt c Asheboro, North Carolina 27203 (910) 580-9261 Robertintl.o@gmail.com Self-Represented Jy2-D24,25tp

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 300 All persons, firms and corporations having claims against JOSHUA EDWIN MAYNOR, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on June 2, 2020, are notified to exhibit the same to undersigned on or before the 3rd day of October, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 2nd day of July, 2020. Virgilia Elizabeth Barber, Administrator Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A., c/o Ansley Chapman Cella P.O. Box 20389 Raleigh, North Carolina 27619-0389 Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 277 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of DOLORES G. BRENT, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby

notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 2, 2020, 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. This the 29th day of June, 2020. Alison Brent, Executrix 250 Columbine St., Unit 316 Denver, Colorado 80206 Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 299 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MARION GUTHRIE WILLIAMS, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 2, 2020, 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. This the 29th day of June, 2020. Sandra W. Tysor, Administrator PO Box 43 Goldston, NC 27252 Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Michael J. McMahon, having qualified at Executor of the Estate of JAMES PROSSER MCMAHON, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 10th Day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 6th day of July, 2020. Michael J. McMahon 1332 Whisper Drive Virginia Beach, VA 23454 1-757-510-5684 W. Ben Atwater, Jr. Attorney at Law P.O.Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 batwater@pinehurst.net Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-266 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Yolanda Shark, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM DENNIS DOWDY, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Yolanda Shark Administrator for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-267 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Phyllis Greene, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of RONALD P. GREENE, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Phyllis Greene Executor for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-168 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Linda Childress, having qualified as

Executor of the Estate of HELEN PEELE MASON, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Linda Childress Executor for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of LORI A. LOVE, 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 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 9th day of July, 2020. Frederick W. Miller, Executor Estate of Lori A. Love Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against FRANK WALTON AVERY deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Laura Bailey Avery, Executrix Estate of Frank Walton Avery 166 Legacy Club Drive Chapel Hill, NC 27517 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 35 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of CHESTER RAY CHURCHILL, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 9, 2020 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. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Dale J. Churchill 4207 NC Hwy 751

Apex, NC 27523 Bagwell Holt Smith, P.A. 111 Cloister Court, Suite 200 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,J30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 274 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of ROBERT F. TRESNAK, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 9, 2020, 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. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Co-Executors 1. Richard C. Connor 41 Maple Street New Bedford, MA 02740 2. Lynn C. Sykes 8404 Widmer Road Lenexa, KS 66215 Bagwell Holt Smith, P.A. 111 Cloister Court, Suite 200 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,J30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 292 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of HERBERT DEWITT MATTHEWS, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons,

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION
Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon
Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m.
Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.
Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.
Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 9, 2020, 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. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Carolyn M. Matthews, Administrator

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CALL: 919-542-3151
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm
for appointment to complete application and interview
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1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
HOUSE & LAND FOR SALE
Chatham County, NC
Estate Property of Late Mrs. Ethel Buckner
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PO Box 854
77 Matthews Drive
Siler City, NC 27344
Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,J30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
19 E 579 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **FRED WOODY JR.**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 9, 2020, 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.
This the 9th day of July, 2020.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 254 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SHIRLEY COUNCILMAN LINDLEY**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 9, 2020, 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.

This the 9th day of July, 2020.
Robert L. Lindley, Executor
410 Victoria Ct NW
Vienna, VA 22180
Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,J30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 315 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Co-Administrators of the Estate of **RUBY BREWER BRADY**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 9, 2020, 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.
This the 9th day of July, 2020.
Co-Administrator
Michael L. Brady
620 Lane Mill Road
Bennett, NC 27208
Darlene B. Brady
620 Lane Mill Road
Bennett, NC 27208
Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,J30,4tp

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
File No. 20-CVD-351
In the General Court of Justice District Court Division
Saranorah Brooks, Plaintiff vs.
Davontay Brooks, Defendant.
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS by PUBLICATION
To: Davontay Brooks
Take Note: That a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, by the plaintiff herein, the nature of which is as follows: Absolute divorce based upon one year's separation. You are required by law to make defense to such pleading within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If you fail to do so, the plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein.
This the 12th day of June, 2020
Signed: Saranorah Brooks
June 12, 2020
Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,3tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of June, 2020, as Administrator of the ESTATE OF **JEAN ANNETTE WEAKLEY A/K/A JEAN A. WEAKLEY**, 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 16th day of October, 2020 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 16th day of July, 2020.
ALAN WEAKLEY, Administrator
ESTATE OF JEAN ANNETTE WEAKLEY
A/K/A JEAN A. WEAKLEY
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,Au6,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF
EMMETT MARTIN HEDGEPEETH, JR
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **EMMETT MARTIN HEDGEPEETH JR.**, Deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to **BARBARA DUNNAVANT HEDGEPEETH**, Executrix of the said Decedent's Estate, or to the undersigned Attorney, on or before the 17th day of October, 2020, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are hereby asked to make immediate payment to either of the aforementioned.
This the 10th day of July, 2020.
BARBARA DUNNAVANT HEDGEPEETH, Executrix
484 Beechmast
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Jy23,1tp

Walter B. Cates, Esquire
HUBBARD AND CATES, PC
Attorneys at Law
36 Court Street
P.O. Box 679
Roxboro, North Carolina 27573
Telephone: (336)597-2251
State Bar No: 8685
Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,Au6,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 326 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **NELSON DELANE GOINES**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 16, 2020, 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.
This the 16th day of July, 2020.
Delphine Deloris Goines, Executrix
245 Patterson Dr
Chapel Hill, NC 27312
Jy16,Jy23,J30,Au6,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
12 E 139 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JON MAURICE SHAMBURGER**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 16, 2020, 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.
This the 16th day of July, 2020.
Albert B. Long, Jr., Administrator
217 Jason Way
Youngsville, NC 27596
Jy16,Jy23,J30,Au6,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Bruce Hall qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on July 9, 2020, in **File 20 E 234**, as Executor of the Estate of **LYNDA R. HALL**, 3845 McLaurin Road, Bear Creek, NC 27207. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before October 16, 2020, 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.
Payments and claims should be presented to:
Robert Gilleland, Attorney
P.O. Box 1045
Sanford, NC 27331-1045.
Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,Au6,4tp

PUBLIC NOTICE
Tillman Infrastructure, LLC is proposing to build a 195-foot monopole tower (200-ft w/apurtenances) located at 1000 Big Hole Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Structure coordinates are: (N35-46-55.67 / W79-04-33.23). No lighting is anticipated. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR Form 854) file number is A1170230. Interested persons may review the application at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the file number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website. FCC strongly encourages online filing. A mailing address for a paper filing is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, ATTN: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.
Jy23,1tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **BIANCA D. WILSON**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, are hereby notified to present them to Betty S. Wilson, Administrator of the decedent's estate, on or before October 23, 2020, in the care of the undersigned 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.
This 23rd day of July, 2020
Betty S. Wilson, Administrator
Estate of Bianca D. Wilson
Wilson Reives & Silverman, PLLC
Post Office Box 1653
Sanford, NC 27331
Jy23,Jy30,Au6,Au13,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 337 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PATRICIA ANN ALEXANDER**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 23, 2020, 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.
This the 23rd day of July, 2020.
Keith Frederick Alexander, Executor
111 Lantern Ridge Lane
Cary, NC 27519
Jy23,J30,Au6,Au13,4tp

CHATHAM COUNTY REQUEST FOR BIDS - GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICE RENOVATIONS
Chatham County is seeking bids from qualified contractors to perform construction renovations at the Chatham County Government Annex Building located at 12 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Work includes interior renovations of the Finance Office of the Chatham County Government Annex Building of approximately +/- 4,000 sf and exterior improvements to the West side of the building. Interior renovation work includes selective demolition, new interior framing and ceilings, and modifications to the existing mechanical systems, reuse and rework of the existing electrical systems, new plumbing fixtures, and new finishes and millwork. Exterior Improvements include soffit and window repairs/ or replacements, repainting of existing steel, and resealing concrete walks. Building portions will remain occupied during construction. **Server room must remain in operation during construction.** **Bids will be received by Kimberly Johnson, Procurement Manager at the office of Chatham County Finance until 2:00 PM, EST, on Thursday, August 20, 2020.** Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at 2:00 PM EST, in the Chatham County Historic Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (in the traffic circle downtown Pittsboro). A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at the site. Due to COVID-19, the meeting times for the Pre-Bid will be staggered and scheduled with interested bidders **Monday, August 3, 2020, through Wednesday, August 5, 2020.** Hobbs Architects will coordinate the meetings and escort the attendees. Hobbs Architects contact information is listed below. **Masks are required for attendance.** Each BID must be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to Kimberly Johnson, Chatham County Procurement Manager in the Chatham County Finance Office at 12 East St., Pittsboro, NC 27312. Each sealed envelope containing a BID must be plainly marked on the outside as BID for Chatham County Annex Renovations and the envelope shall bear on the outside the BIDDER's name, address, and license number,

and the name of the project for which the BID is submitted. If forwarded by mail, the sealed envelope containing the BID must be enclosed in another envelope addressed to the OWNER at PO Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312. All BIDS must be made on the required BID form. All blank spaces for BID prices must be filled in, in ink or typewritten, and the BID form must be fully completed and executed when submitted. Only one copy of the BID form is required. Bids must also include at the time of filing; a 5% bid bond, and the appropriate minority outreach Affidavit(s). Chatham County's HUB/MBE participation goal is 15%. BIDDERS must satisfy themselves of the accuracy of the estimated quantities in the BID Schedule by examination of the site and a review of the drawings and specifications including ADDENDA. Questions regarding this RFB must be submitted in writing either via e-mail to Kimberly Johnson, Chatham County Procurement Manager, at purchasing@chathamnc.org or by fax to 919-545-2417. All questions requiring additional information will be responded to in an addendum. **The deadline for questions is August 11, 2020, by 12:00 Noon.** The last addendum for this project will be issued August 12, 2020, by 5:00 PM. Complete plans and specifications for this project can be obtained from: Accent Imaging's Planscope Planroom System available at www.planscope.com/public.php, 8121 Brownleigh Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617 (919) 782-3332 On Tuesday July 21, 2020, Plan Deposit Required: \$150. Or electronic copies at no cost by contacting: Hobbs Architects, PA, 159 West Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312, 919.545.2004 This solicitation and others can be located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: <https://www.chathamnc.org/business/current-bid-proposal-opportunities> The owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities. Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, age or disability.
Jy23,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 338 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **RUBY LYNDA KEARNEY BARKER**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 23, 2020, 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.
This the 23rd day of July, 2020.
Rebecca Ann Barker Brocker, Executor
156 Hermitage Lane
Moncure, NC 27559
Jy23,Jy30,Au6,Au13,4tp

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SILK HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
To each member of the Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department (all adults of age 18 years or more residing in Hope Fire District). Take notice that the annual meeting of the membership of the Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. will be held on August 4, 2020, at 8 p.m. at the office of the Corporation, being the fire station located at the intersection of SR 1003 (Silk Hope Road) and SR 1346 (Silk Hope-Gum Springs Road). The business to be conducted will be (1) The election of four (4) directors, (2) Any other business which may lawfully come before it. The 23rd day of July, 2020.
Tony Bristow, Secretary
Jy23,Jy30,2tc

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NCDMV waives road test requirement for some drivers 18 and over

RALEIGH — With the timeframe for resuming road tests remaining unknown because of the continued impact of COVID-19 cases, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) will begin waiving road tests for qualified drivers who are 18 or older, starting Wednesday. These drivers must have an appointment at a license office, which can be made online on the NCDOT website. At the time of the appointment, drivers must present all of the required documentation for a new driver as described on the “New Drivers” page on the NCDMV website and those that verify eligibility of the conditions below. Per the

Governor's executive order, all customers must wear a facial covering or mask, and they are also subject to pre-screening health questions. The waiver will be available to drivers who need a regular Class C license and meet at least one of these conditions:

- Currently hold a Level I permit, are at least 18 years old, and meet all requirements to obtain the Level II Limited Provisional License including not being convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation, seat belt infraction or unlawful use of a mobile phone.
- Have received training and passed a driving course from a certified N.C. driving school approved by the division within the previous 12 months and have not been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation, seat belt infraction or unlawful use of a mobile phone.

- Previously held a N.C. driver's license that has not been expired more than one renewal cycle and was in good standing at the time of expiration.
- Are from any other state, district or territory that has N.C. license reciprocity. They must provide their most recent license and a certified five-year driving record.

Drivers who qualify for the waiver will be issued a license of the appropriate length for their age, either eight or five years. Waivers under this special provision do not apply to drivers who are governed by legal presence or lawful status or drivers in the medical review program. This waiver will remain in place until DMV resumes road tests, which is anticipated when the state reaches Phase 3 of its re-opening.

— CN + R staff reports

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Pittsboro-based advocacy group subsidizes local farms hurt by pandemic

BY LARS DOLDER
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA), a farmer advocacy group based in Pittsboro, recently distributed \$120,000 in pandemic assistance to North Carolina farmers and communities — a unique move in an industry that typically favors national food suppliers, according to organization representatives.

Donated funds were distributed in two rounds of grants. The COVID-19 Farmer Emergency Grant dispensed \$66,000 to 132 North Carolina farmers. The other \$55,000 was given to churches and community organizations as part of the Come to the Table COVID-19 Emergency grant.

RAFI-USA prioritized local farmers whose businesses were shut down or otherwise disrupted by the pandemic in determining beneficiaries of the COVID-19 Farmer Emergency Grant. The farmers, who came from 66 of North Carolina’s counties including Chatham, each received \$500 to cover household expenses.

The Come to the Table program supports farmers by incentivizing the other half of local agriculture markets — community residents who purchase locally sourced food. The grants were given to churches and non-profits that run emergency food programs for use in purchasing from local farmers and locally-owned restaurants. The food programs largely serve children and seniors.

“The pandemic has hampered face-to-face delivery for our food program, while increasing the need in our community,” the Rev. David Joyner, of Red Oak United Methodist Church, said.

“People who used to work at the local hotel and restaurants are now out of work. The Come to the Table COVID-19 Emergency grant helped us to purchase food from the farmers market to meet the increased need.”

Despite such relief efforts, and the critical role local farmers play in their communities’ economies, a cursory review of the industry paints a misleading picture of the local farmer’s fiscal security.

“Agriculture in North Carolina is still a booming business according to some numbers — the money it brings in per year,” said Tyler Whitley, RAFI-USA Program Manager of the Contract Agriculture Reform Program, “but how much reaches the pockets of farmers and how much is net profit gets smaller and smaller.”

Unless things change, he said, local farmers and their employees are working unsustainable jobs.

“Farmers are the lifeblood and drivers of the food industry,” Whitley said, “but the state of farming is tenuous, especially from the perspective of the farmer. They are not benefited by the supposed farmer-first legislation that often makes headlines and misrepresents the assistance local farmers receive.”

Whitley was referring to the billions of dollars in farm subsidies doled out to support American farms, most of which never gets passed the industry’s major players. Rather than assist local farms most in need, such payouts have “allowed big companies to amass control and it means tight margins and low profits for local farmers,” Whitley said.

The predicament for local farmers, which has developed over many years, has only been “exacerbated by COVID,” he said. The pandemic has put farmers in impossible dilemmas as they struggle

to mollify health representatives and to protect their workers without halting operations.

According to Whitley, “Farming is not set up to be adaptable.” This is especially evident at processing plants where workers must stand shoulder-to-shoulder all day. “How do you have them stand six feet apart with plexiglass dividers and still get the work done?” he said.

Farming’s dawdling rate of change in the face of a disease that spreads through close human contact unduly harms minority populations.

“Plant workers, who have been asked to continue their regular work practices, are often people of color and immigrants and they’re disproportionately affected,” Whitley said.

Of the COVID-19 Farmer Emergency Grant beneficiaries, 25% are farmers of color and 38% are women. And 47% constitute another vulnerable sector of the farming community — beginners, operating for less than 10 years.

“We have to work at how to make the food system work for farmers,” Whitley said, “and not just ‘agro-business’” — his term for the national food suppliers who monopolize the market and dictate industry trends.

Local farmers are caught in a tumult of bureaucracy and economic change that offers little hope of respite. Fortunately, Chatham County farmers benefit from their unique proximity to larger markets.

“Chatham is in a different position than some counties because of its location near the Triangle,” Whitley said. Nearby cities offer higher-income buyers who value local meat and produce and can afford to buy it. Still, the ongoing pandemic portends a grave future for the local farming industry as

‘For farmers and non-farmers alike, sudden loss of income has meant choosing between buying groceries or paying the electric bill.’

EDNA RODRIGUEZ, RAFI-USE Executive Director

a whole.

Edna Rodriguez, RAFI-USA Executive Director, is proud of what her organization has done to stymie the demise of local farms, but she is realistic in evaluating their condition.

“North Carolina farmers have been hit hard by impacts of the pandemic, losing markets and long-time customers as businesses shut down — even while food insecurity has increased across the state,” she said. “For farmers and non-farmers alike, sudden loss of income has meant choosing between buying groceries or paying the electric bill.”

Whitley is more optimistic, but it will take more than organizations like RAFI-USA to save local farms. The community must speak up, he said.

“There are ways to get involved in the larger conversation. Call your senators; reach out to your congressmen; tell them you support legislation that’s really for local farmers.”

According to its website, the mission of the Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA is “to cultivate markets, policies, and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms.” RAFI-USA, incorporated in 1990, works nationally and internationally, but focuses on North Carolina and the southeastern United States.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The Chatham Charter graduation podium where names were called and commencement speeches given last Saturday.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A procession of cars waited for their children to receive their diplomas.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Charter’s Beth McCullough held her phone up to the microphone to play a senior speech.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Charter’s Darlene Johnson hands now-graduate Chance Collison his diploma.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles.

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