

Chatham News + Record

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LEARNING TO COPE

Chatham locals make the most of pandemic's challenges

Onicas Gaddis, a local artist, said the increased isolation he's experienced due to COVID-19 has actually been productive — he's made 10 large paintings, which collectively, he said, represent some of his best work.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Loneliness, isolation are just two of the costs of COVID-19

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record staff

At the end of August, when Chatham resident Linda Smith turns 70, she plans to celebrate with a virtual “Zoom” party. Smith, who has only seen a handful of people since the North Carolina stay-at-home order went into effect, hopes there will be a lot of people in attendance — currently, her list has more than 100 people on it.

“I may have to trim it back,” she said with a laugh.

Like a growing number of people in the United States — 28% of American households, according to a story published by The Wall Street Journal — Smith lives alone. There have been many stories written recently about the exaggerated sense of loneliness many of these people have felt since the coronavirus

See **CHALLENGES**, page A6



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

‘That’s probably the most positive thing I’ve experienced, is that sense that you know, there’s not really anything out there for me — everything that I need is right here,’ said Chatham resident Linda Smith. At the end of August, when Smith turns 70, she plans to celebrate with a virtual ‘Zoom’ party.

Here’s what you need to know about COVID-19 testing in Chatham County

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record staff

Editor’s note: This is the first in a series of special reports produced through the News + Record’s Facebook Journalism Project COVID-19 grant. The project is funded through the fall. For more, see additional content on “La Voz,” the project’s dedicated Facebook page.

In the pandemic’s early days, Chatham Hospital and Piedmont Health Services shouldered the brunt of COVID-19 testing in Chatham County, but other sites have come along since.

Six medical providers are offering COVID-19 tests in Chatham County, according to a chart released by the Chatham County Health Department in early July. Besides Chatham Hospital and Piedmont Health’s Siler City and Moncure clinics, four other centers are accepting appointments: Advance Care in South Chapel Hill, Central Piedmont Urgent Care in Siler City, Pine Ridge Urgent Care in Pittsboro and the CVS on U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

The Chatham News + Record spoke to representatives from each center about testing procedures, costs and more. Here’s what you need to know:

1. Piedmont Health Services and Chatham Hospital are still the busiest testing centers.

Chatham Hospital and Piedmont Health Services have been testing Chatham residents for COVID-19 since the earliest

days of the pandemic, according to Mike Zelek, interim director of the Chatham County Public Health Department. By comparison, some Chatham private providers have only recently begun offering tests to residents.

Zelek called Chatham Hospital’s Respiratory Diagnostic Center “an ongoing community testing event” since their “testing capacity is pretty large.” Though limited initially, testing at the hospital ramped up once UNC brought it in-house.

Right now, Chief Medical Officer Andrew Hannapel said they’re probably testing between 30 and 60 people a day. Likewise, Piedmont Health Services

— a Federally Qualified Health Center — is “absolutely busy” testing residents, according to Piedmont Health’s CEO Brian Toomey.

Piedmont Health has four testing centers across North Carolina, and two are clinics based in Siler City and Moncure. After 21 weeks, they’ve completed over 5,000 tests.

“And at each of our sites, we’re probably doing anywhere from — depending on the size and time — 25 to 40 a day,” Toomey said.

They’ve also held mass testing events in Chatham and Lee counties. In April, they worked with the North Carolina National Guard to test Mountaire Farms workers following a COVID-19 outbreak, and they’ve held numerous community testing events in Sanford, including one on July 28. At those events, Toomey said, they test about 300 people each day.

Other Chatham testing

See **COVID**, page A9



New ‘Welcome Center’ nears completion

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — You drive for more than two hours into a small town you’re not totally familiar with in order to get your drum repaired.

You look for a respite while waiting, and when you see a building with a “Welcome Center” sign posted on it, you check it out.

That’s what happened on Saturday at the new Chatham County Welcome Center, located on the circle of the Historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.

Although it hasn’t officially opened, Maria Parker-Lewis, the president of the Main Street Pittsboro board, was taking some visitors on a tour through it when John Czerwinski of Charlotte walked through the front door.

Turns out Czerwinski was in town to drop off a djembe drum, a West African instrument, for repair by local percussionist Will Ridenour. Czerwinski said he saw the building and walked in hoping to find a public restroom, which the Welcome Center has. After learning the building was not quite open — but being



Fiocco



Parker-Lewis



Voller

told he was welcome nonetheless — he jokingly asked about the music scene in Chatham County.

Main Street board member Lesley Landis, noting that while COVID-19 had certainly changed things, described to the visitor the robust creative culture available in Chatham: among them, music events at the Oasis Open Air Market in Siler City, the various music festivals at Shakori Hills in Silk Hope, the Bynum Front Porch Concerts and the bluegrass jam on Pittsboro-Goldston Road in Bear Creek that occurs once a month.

She then listed other venues across the county and exchanged information

See **WELCOME**, page A10



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The Chatham County Welcome Center in Pittsboro is nearing its grand opening. Main Street Pittsboro President Maria Parker-Lewis (in yellow) joined board members (from left) Lesley Landis, Micheal Fiocco and Randy Voller on a recent tour of the facility.



The bridge on Chatham Church Road south of Pittsboro may be the last of its kind in use in Chatham County. Local residents saved the bridge from replacement four years ago.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Recalling the preservation of a historic bridge

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

ASBURY — Four years ago, residents of Chatham County saved a bridge that continues to serve as a snapshot of history.

The bridge on Chatham Church Road, officially named Chatham Bridge 147, may be the last of its kind still in use in the county. The historic truss bridge, with a deck made a timbers covered in a light coating of asphalt, was built in 1921 and spans the Rocky Riv-

er in the Asbury area of the county, about 12 miles south of Pittsboro.

The bridge uses pins to secure connections, rather than bolts, making it one of a “perilously small” number of the type of bridge in North Carolina, according to a report on historic bridges by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation. As a result, it was placed on the NCDOT’s North Carolina Historic Bridge Inventory in 2005.

See **BRIDGE**, page A6

OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

CCS offers two pathways for upcoming academic year

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record staff

Chatham County Schools has shared a resource with families to help them understand the different academic pathways CCS will offer for the upcoming 2020 to 2021 school year.

The Google document, titled “CCS Academic Instruction Pathways for 2020-2021,” was introduced last Thursday and is broken into two sections: the 100% CCS Virtual Academy option (CCSVA) which requires a semester-long commitment, and the standard pathway, broken into Plans A, B and C.

CCS will begin the school year on Aug. 17 under the at-home learning option “Plan C” and re-evaluate after four weeks, the board of education decided at its July 16 meeting. This decision followed Gov. Roy Cooper’s announcement two days earlier that public schools would open under the hybrid option “Plan B,” with the option for individual districts to opt for Plan C. The state defines Plan A — not currently on the table for CCS or North Carolina schools — as “returning to school buildings for in-person

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IN THE KNOW

Siler City, with grant possible, seeking homes needing repairs. **PAGE A8**

County’s Senior Games wrap with socially distanced celebrations. **PAGE B1**

Pittsboro’s ‘The Mod’ working to recover from pandemic’s blow. **PAGE B3**

Election security: battling for fairness, accuracy in 2020 voting. **PAGE B5**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

- The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 10 from the Pittsboro Town Hall. This is a virtual meeting. For more information, contact Pittsboro Interim Town Clerk Cassandra Bullock at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov.
- The **Chatham County Board of Education** will hold its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 10. The meeting is currently slated to take place at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse, but will likely be held online due to COVID-19 meeting restrictions. For more information on how to attend, contact CCS Public Relations Coordinator John McCann at jmccann@chatham.k12.nc.us. To help facilitate timely hiring decisions during the summer months, the CCS Board of Education will also meet in closed personnel sessions at 12 p.m. on Aug. 6 and Aug. 13.
- The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 17 from the town hall courtroom. This is a virtual meeting. For more information, contact Siler City Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at jjohnson@silercity.org.
- The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 21 from the Pittsboro Town Hall. This is a virtual meeting. For more information, contact Pittsboro Interim Town Clerk Cassandra Bullock at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov.

CANCELLATIONS

- The **E.A. Brady reunion**, scheduled for August 8, has been canceled due to the coronavirus.
- **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. They are 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 is offering **free classes** on **Microsoft Word, genealogy basics and job interview skills** in August. 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 Word Basics, Part 2: 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11; Genealogy 101: 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25; Job Interview Skills: 3 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26; 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

• **Second Bloom of Chatham** began accepting Fall/Winter donations on August 1 during regular store hours, Tues. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Due to space limitations, a two bag/boxes maximum. We accept clean, new and gently used men and women's clothing, shoes, accessories and jewelry. We accept credit cards. We are located on the Courthouse circle at 10 Sanford Rd., Pittsboro. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and 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 nccoastalpines.org. In addition to GS-NCCP 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 **JMACorona-Concert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMA-CoronaConcert 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.

COVID-19 cases identified at recent memorial service and funeral

From Chatham County Health Department

The Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD) recently received notice that multiple people who attended a memorial gathering on July 25 at Bonlee Recreational Park and a funeral service at Emmaus Baptist Church in Pittsboro on July 27 had COVID-19 when they attended these events. The positive test results came after the events, though others who were in attendance may have been exposed to the virus.

CCPHD has been in communication with those who have tested positive for COVID-19, and has been working to ensure others at these events who were close contacts have been notified. CCPHD has also been in contact with church leadership, who shared that attendees of the funeral service were required to wear face coverings (and were provided face coverings if they did not have one when they arrived) and to be seated six feet apart. These measures likely helped reduce the risk of spread at the service.

If you attended either or both of these events, please monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and be sure to practice social distancing, especially around those who are at higher risk of serious illness such as older adults and people with underlying health conditions. If you were told that you were in close contact with someone who tested positive, quarantine at

home and stay away from others for at least 14 days since you were last in contact with them. If you become sick, especially if you were told you may have been exposed to the virus, stay home except to seek medical care, call your doctor, and consider getting tested. Information about COVID-19 testing, including a list of COVID-19 testing sites in Chatham County, can be found at www.chathamnc.org/coronavirustesting.

If you have additional questions, please call the public health department at 919-742-5641.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. COVID-19 symptoms are often mild, especially when first becoming

sick. It is important that individuals with any of these symptoms, even if they are mild and thought to be caused by something other than COVID-19, stay at home and away from others, and avoid gatherings.

Large gatherings, especially where social distancing cannot be maintained and face coverings are not consistently worn, have led to many clusters of COVID-19 cases across the state and country.

Even those without symptoms can have COVID-19 and spread it to others. The best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 is to practice the 3 Ws: Wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth. Wait 6

feet apart and avoid close contact. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer. For more information, visit www.chathamnc.org/coronavirus.



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SEAFORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Decision on new school’s attendance zone to be made Monday

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Schools Board of Education is set to make the final decision on the Seaforth High School Attendance Zone at its next regular session meeting, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday.

Seaforth, a new school located off of U.S. Hwy. 64 near Jordan Lake, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2021. The school’s attendance zone is to be developed from the existing Northwood High School attendance zone, since Northwood is facing significant overcrowding. In a CCS presentation provided for community input sessions, data showed Northwood’s capacity of 964 students currently being surpassed, with more than 1,400 current students. The same slide projected the school would have nearly 2,000 students by 2029 if overcrowding is not reduced.

The zoning decision has been highly controversial, with many parents and community members expressing concern about the potential loss of resources at Northwood based on certain scenarios. In an opinion piece published in the News + Record July 24, columnist Andrew Taylor-Troutman — “a white parent living in the neighborhood of Briar Chapel” — said Briar Chapel students could be moved to Seaforth next fall based on the scenario options, which would make the percentage of Black students 7%, compared with Northwood’s 14%.

“Why does this matter? Every major academic indicator shows that Black students perform better in schools that are more fully integrated,” Taylor-Troutman wrote. “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.”

CCS partnered with N.C. State’s Operations Research and Education Laboratory (ORED), a third-party evaluation research group that assists with school planning processes to gather data to help make the rezoning decision. The district also hosted four community input sessions in January and February for parents of current pre-kindergarten through ninth grade students.

At those meetings, surveys were posted and available for input, with that data to then be compiled — additional attendance zone scenarios could also be added to the board’s consideration. Prior to coronavirus restrictions, the Seaforth zoning decision was set to be made by July, with deliberations beginning in April. Originally, the board only had three scenarios (Scenarios One, Two and Three), but two more were added during the input process (Scenario Four in April and Five in May).

By last month’s school board meeting, Scenarios Four and Five were removed from the board’s consideration. In the public comment session, citizens overwhelmingly supported Scenario Two, which zones Briar Chapel to Northwood and all of Chatham Park to Seaforth, stating significant concern about the board clustering affluence at Seaforth and taking away resources from Northwood High School. The board also removed Scenario One from consideration — leaving only Scenarios Two and Three to decide between — and unanimously pushed the

‘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*.’

ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN, columnist

final decision on Seaforth attendance to their Aug. 10 meeting. Scenario Three zones Briar Chapel to Seaforth and Chatham Park splits between Northwood and Seaforth.

“Once again, this should have been a conversation that should have been had three weeks ago,” July 16 attendee Randall Armstrong said in that meeting’s chat.

The upcoming meeting is currently scheduled to take place at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse, but like the board’s other regular meetings in the last months, it will likely be changed to an electronic meeting via Zoom because of COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

Seaforth will be the first new high school in Chatham County since 1972, with a projected capacity of 1,200 students academically and budgeted cost of \$61.3 million, as of this spring.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Changes to county’s electronics recycling program detailed

PITTSBORO — Starting this month, changes have been made to the Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling electronics recycling program.

Residents with a current collection center decal will be able to bring electronics of any size and weight from their household to the Bonlee, Cole Park and Pittsboro collection centers. The other nine collection centers will still only be able to accept televisions smaller than 25 inches and electronics weighing less than 50 pounds.

Additionally, residents without a current decal who bring electronics to the main facility for disposal will be charged for some electronics, including \$5 per television, monitor, desktop computer, laptop computer, printer, scanner, copier or fax machine. There will be no charge for smaller electronics accepted in the recycling program, such as cell phones, routers, radios and hard drives.

In addition, small businesses and non-profits can also now bring electronic items to the main facility for recycling and will be charged the same rates as residents without a decal — \$5 for larger items and no charge for smaller items. Electronics from large businesses will not be accepted. Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling reserves the right to determine access to the electronics recycling program.

To learn more about the electronics recycling program visit chathamnc.org/electronics.

— CN+R staff reports

OPTIONS

Continued from page A1

instruction with minimal social distancing and health and safety protocols,” the resource says.

The district’s remote learning plan is up to date, CCS Public Relations Coordinator John McCann told the News + Record, but CCS is working to develop additional expectation sheets for students and parents prior to first day of classes. The

remote learning plan was also approved at the July 16 BOE meeting.

Differences between Plan B and C

The school board will re-evaluate in the coming weeks if moving to Plan B on the four-week mark, Sept. 11, is possible or if the district will continue under Plan C. The board’s next regular session meeting on Aug. 10 is the only regular meeting currently scheduled prior to that four-week mark.

Between the Plan B and C pathways identified by the district, the biggest differences relate to student schedules, live/direct instruction and Exceptional Children programming. The district included the link to a separate resource breaking down EC instruction under each plan. In the outlined general CCS information, the process for determining decision timelines, class sizes and curriculum does not vary between the two plans.

During fully remote learning days, under Plan C, students will receive daily direct instruction as follows:

- K-2 students will receive instruction in reading and math (with science and social studies integrated into those lessons) while students in 3rd through 5th grades will receive instruction in science, reading and math.
- 6th through 8th graders will have “three direct instruction sessions each week averaging 20-30 minutes each,” with 9th through 12th graders under the same requirement but for 30 minutes. Total class sessions for high schoolers will vary depending on the course level, the resource said.

The document said students will receive five days of fully remote instruction under Plan C, while students would transition between two to three days of remote instruction with two to three days of in-person instruction in alternating weeks, under Plan B.

“Administrators at each school will develop specific schedules that maximize staffing and student resources,” the pathways resource said.

Internet access

On Friday, the district also published a podcast regarding internet access and hotspots with Emma Braaten, CCS executive director of digital teaching and learning. During the podcast, McCann said the four weeks of at-home instruction —

also referred to as remote learning — will be greatly assisted by access to the internet.

“Of course, we realized that for some in our Chatham County Schools community, Internet access away from our campuses is very difficult to come by if they can get it at all,” McCann said. “But listen to me. Do not for one second think that we as a school system are going to let that stop any of our young people from getting their schoolwork. Whatever we have to do, within our power and within reason, to provide education — we are going to get creative and do it.”

Braaten then addressed students for whom accessing the internet is possible, but extra help is needed to access it.

“We know that connectivity in Chatham County is a real need of across the district...and it’s been critical as we’ve moved into our at-home learning to try and figure out what are some solutions for that,” Braaten said.

In January 2020, Braaten said CCS joined the 1Million Project, a nationwide endeavor launched by Sprint in 2017 to provide students with hotspots, wireless access points that can connect user to the Internet. Originally intended for high school students, Braaten said the project recently expanded its offerings to younger grades because of the impact of the coronavirus. As the district works to distribute those hotspots in the coming weeks, she said it

would also explore using funding from the state to purchase additional devices. CCS is also in the early stages of investigating the possibility of bus hotspots for rides to school, looking at various provider options.

There is no charge for students to receive or use a hotspot, Braaten said. “Hotspots are just a Band-Aid — it’s just a quick fix for us right now. It’s not actually going to be a long term solution for us,” she said, adding that investment by the government to ensure internet access is a part of the utility for every individual must happen.

While the hotspots are helpful for many students, she said the devices are rendered completely useless for students who live in areas without cell service.

“It’s really an uphill climb right now,” Braaten said. “But we’re trying to put our heads together, put the funding out there. So we’ll be able to provide some type of solution for some of our students, and keep working to make up the difference in other places.”

To access the district’s resource on instruction pathways, go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gd_cyk-ORUUo-kN_hj2F8xAtMc-5S1pZCICG2yoHi8rpK/edit?fbclid=IwAR3K-2Wm6I5SMCZpD-SwqmaWetuVNYN-vbNp8a1DPGx-T5Ezif7f8VrHmTn1mNA

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



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VIEWPOINTS

Every book has its day. Or does it?



My love affair with books sometimes eclipses my love affair with reading. Which is to also say that I don't finish every book I start, a trend I sometimes struggle to reconcile.

BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

Reading has always been high on my list of desirable activities, and lately I've found myself doing a little reading *about* reading, causing me to examine my own relationship with books and my practice of the habit. In re-reading, for example, parts of novelist Stephen King's non-fiction treatise on writing — of course it's called "On Writing" — I was reminded that this prolific and popular author is also a voracious reader: he carries a book with him wherever he goes in public. You never know, King reasons, when you might end up standing in line somewhere and have a few minutes to finish that next chapter.

What about books you buy and *don't* read? King's own

842-page novel "11/22/63" is one of a small collection that rests, unread, upon a bookcase near my bed. It's among a group of supposedly great books I want to read — and bought in order to read — but haven't found the fortitude yet to get started, despite having them close by for a year or more.

What I've been thinking most about, however, are the books I have started but, for one reason or another, abandoned before finishing. In the vicinity of the untouched King novel, for instance, there are two biographies, a memoir and a classic work of fiction that I began in the last year or two but never completed. "Hitler's Vienna: A Dictator's Apprenticeship," a scholarly work outlining the formative years the madman spent in Vienna as an art student-turned racist ideologue, was well-written, fascinating and richly detailed. "Horace Greeley: Print, Politics, and the Failure of American Nationhood," a critical look at the newspaperman's colorful career, was concise and well-researched. And "In Such Good Company: Eleven Years of Laughter, Mayhem, and Fun in the Sandbox," Carol Burnett's

behind-the-scenes story of The Carol Burnett Show — a staple from my childhood — was full of plenty of fun tidbits.

Still — Oxford commas in the titles aside — I gradually grew bored with each and set them down.

And the classic work of fiction? I've just not been able to get very far into Markus Zusak's "The Book Thief" on several attempts, but it remains high on my list of books I really want to finish. Particularly since it's about books and the power of the written word.

So all that has made me particularly determined to get out of Dodge, and soon.

Literally. And I literally mean "literally."

The last couple of months I've been making my way through "Dodge City" by Tom Clavin. It's an entertaining but meandering book about Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and "the Wickedest Town in the American West," recommended to me by my attorney pal Darrell Spain. Darrell is a Kansas high school bud whose own personal library and love of reading likely exceed my own. He recommended that book to me a couple of years ago and I

bought it immediately, promising him I'd give it a read and him a full report.

I've started it three or four times since— never getting more than 10 pages in — and finally determinedly picked it up again in June. I'm just about halfway through but circumstances (and frankly, a competing book I started reading on my Kindle in July and am well on my way to finishing — yay for me!) have kept me out of its pages the last few weeks.

So as I prepare to hop on an airplane on my first COVID-19-era trip, Earp and Masterson and "Dodge City" are accompanying me. (We'll be flying over western Kansas, maybe even within spitting distance of Dodge, if I could roll down the window; maybe that'll help inspire me to get through the last half.)

So what to do about unfinished books? In Marie Kon-do's "Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up" — yep, I did read that — she instructs us about *tsundoku*, the Japanese word for that stack of "to-reads" you have on your bedside table. The word also reflects the act of buying books and not reading them.


Kondo's advice about books includes:

- Unread books are harder to part with than books we've read. If it's been on your shelf for a while and doesn't "spark joy," give it away.
- If you've had a book for a few years and not started or finished it, that book's purpose was to teach you that you didn't need it. Time to part with it.
- If you're concerned you'll give an unfinished book away and then regret it, don't worry. If you want it badly enough later, just buy it — and read and study it then. "The moment you first encounter a particular book," Kondo writes, "is the right time to read it."
- If you don't love a book you think you're supposed to love, don't feel guilty. Again, give it away.

In the "Dodge City" book, Bat Masterson is quoted as saying, "Every dog has his day, unless there are more dogs than days."

When I finally finish it, I'll have a lot to choose from for my next read. More than enough, frankly, because my shelves elsewhere in the house are full of the unread and unfinished. Definitely more dogs than days.

Some things really do naturally go together



In the movie "Forrest Gump," the Tom Hanks-played main character says numerous times that he and his lady love Jenny go together "just like peas and carrots."

BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

Now not everybody likes peas and carrots, I know, so for them they don't go together but they do for me. I like peas and carrots, by themselves or in chicken pot pie. I like English peas, what Shirley refers to as "silly little peas," cooked with new potatoes and some pastry. My mama used to do that when I was a tender lad of 6 or 11 or 14. And Shirley not often enough throws together a carrot dish that she calls "dimes" or "silver dollars" or some other piece of money. All I know is that they're sliced across like dimes or nickels and the sauce or whatever that stuff the dish is in has lots of sugar.

I say all that to say that there really are some things that go together in our lives or when you have one you almost automatically think of the other. I know that varies from person to person depending on who we are and what floats our boat. But one of the good things about them, especially when it comes to chow, is not only how tasty good they are but also when it comes to something other than chow how sweet the memories can be.

Case in point: I seldom eat a hog dog that's served in one of those little ruffled paper holders without thinking of my Uncle Frank Durham. He wasn't a bit of blood kin to me but his wife was the daughter of the lady in Bynum who reared my daddy, who always referred to Louise as "sister" and her mother as "Mama." My brothers and I always referred to the two of them as "Uncle Frank and Louise." I'm not really sure why exactly, and I don't remember how we called her or spoke to her directly. What I do know is we always called him "Uncle Frank."

Anyway, when I was the tender age of 5, I spent a year at the Governor Morehead School in Raleigh, aka "the State School for the Blind." My folks weren't really sure how I was going to turn out as far as being able to see very well so they thought I should get a head start just in case. In time, the folks at the long-gone McPherson Hospital in Durham helped me turn some corners

but that first year had some benefits.

One of them occurred every Sunday night when my folks and, most of the time, Uncle Frank (again) and Louise would take me back to my buddies in the dorm on the Raleigh campus off Western Boulevard. In those dark days of early civilization, there was no I-40 or 440 or four-lane this or that. There was U.S. Hwy. 64 in its radiant 2-lane glory going through Pittsboro and Apex and Cary and on into Raleigh.

Along that stretch between Apex and Cary was a restaurant that, I think, went by the name Seaboard Something or Another. That was, I think, because it was beside or across the road from a pond and the old, now long-gone Seaboard Air-line Railway train tracks passed by the place. What was the key, however, was that it was where I got my Sunday night staple of two hot dogs all the way and a significant amount of chocolate milk.

I think it's the smell — and that's the association of things going together I spoke of earlier — that makes me remember Uncle Frank. The combination of the chili that soaks into the paper holder always takes about, dare I say it, more than 60-some years off my life and I am once again that little guy.

There is also another nasal association I have with him of things going together, namely Juicy Fruit chewing gum. Today it's too sweet for me; rather have Spearmint or something similar. But I used to pound a stick or two between my ivories until the cows came home twice and every time I smell Juicy Fruit I think of him.

The other day on purpose I got a pack of Juicy Fruit just to smell it. Chewed one stick; the rest is on my desk. It may be another five years before a second one is chewed but the same association will be there, I'm sure.

He also used to give me a dime every time we said "Goodbye," too, but I didn't eat those. Comic books were only 10 cents at the turn of the century then so that's where my financial bonanza went. Come to think of it, I think hot dogs were maybe a dime at the time, too, so maybe the dimes are the real association.

Anyway, those things — and there are others — are pretty special and really important to me. I hope you've got some; if not, find or make some. And if you need help, let me know. A good hot dog is never out of season ... or out of mind.

You are a hero



By the time you read this, my significant other will have returned to his job at a well-known Chapel Hill restaurant. Three years ago, I walked through those doors, not realizing that by returning to my job there, our friendship would turn to romance and we would end up moving next door to Chatham County.

RACHEL HOROWITZ
Millennial Musings

But the next time he walks into work, we will both feel nothing but apprehension.

You see, he will be up close and personal with a lot of guests every night, wearing a face mask to protect others but not himself from COVID-19. He and his coworkers will not earn hazard pay — in fact, most of the other employees have been on extended furlough. A lot of their protocol will fall into brand new territory, and even though other restaurants have tested strategies, we don't know how bad things may become.

At the time I write this, Congress has not have passed a plan to counter the expired CARES Act unemployment benefits. If they remain at a standstill, 20 million out-of-work Americans won't earn a living wage while they search for very limited jobs that pay what's needed to feed themselves and their families.

If we were in a parallel universe, the irony would almost be funny. Every day when I drive home, I pass a sign proclaiming: "Heroes Work Here." "Heroes," we say, as many of us continue to work from home or in socially distant offices, avoiding unnecessary public interaction.

"Heroes," as we send teachers into classrooms and develop response plans for student and teacher deaths — not if they will happen, but when. "Heroes," as we argue with grocery store employees who have been working since March without sick pay. "Heroes," as we wonder why our healthcare friends had to isolate instead of attending the Fourth of July barbecue.

A few weeks ago, The City Tap in Pittsboro posted a copy of a receipt where the customer wrote "Go F--- Yourself" in the tip line. The

reason was because they asked that customer to wear a mask in their place of business. And when someone in the service industry falls ill, all we've heard are "thoughts and prayers." Thoughts and prayers and "my freedom" versus "your life." This angers me, and it should anger you too.

According to a Yale study published in mid-July, people experienced slight gains in employment when they received larger increases in benefit generosity. The same study found that the most important factor for gainful employment is job availability. Yet many large employers tell contract and temporary workers that they are dispensable and refuse to give them company benefits or health insurance.

I believe that it's not too late to give more than lip service to the service industry. It starts with people like you and me giving at least a 20 percent tip if we dine at a restaurant, or get our hair cut, or order delivery, or even pick up food curbside. It starts with wearing a mask in every establishment and if we can't, staying home (see resources below for neighbors who are willing to help).


It continues by fighting for a living wage for ALL employees, one that allows them to afford a home in the county where they work. It continues by fighting for hazard pay and extended sick leave, not just an apple for your teacher or a smoothie for your physician. It continues by calling out people who continuously put themselves before others and spread misinformation behind their screens.

Don't treat our heroes like villains. The fate of the world depends on it.

Chatham resources:
Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor
• English: <https://bit.ly/ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor>
• Spanish: <https://bit.ly/ChathamVecinoAVEcino>
Caremongering Pittsboro (Facebook group)
NextDoor Help Map: https://nextdoor.com/help_map/

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.

Team effort for democracy



"Be like Mike" is the advertising jingle I remember from my childhood, although I couldn't say for sure whether the marketing was for Gatorade or Nike. Still, every boy I knew shot baskets with his tongue hanging out like the Chicago Bulls superstar.

ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

Growing up, I learned that Michael Jordan didn't make his high school basketball team. His failure motivated him to work harder. I bought into an idea more valuable than high-top shoes or sugary sports drinks: Not every loss is a final defeat.

Sports can teach life les-

sons. But with all due respect to Air Jordan, now is a time for us to "Be like John" — John Lewis. This legendary Civil Rights leader and congressman leaves a legacy of courage and determination.

Lewis grew up as the son of sharecroppers. He also learned from the adversity of his childhood. When strong winds threatened to lift their ramshackle house from its foundation, Lewis and his siblings threw their bodies on the floor. The team effort saved their home.

Today's crises threaten the livelihood of many families. The coronavirus pandemic has wrought financial havoc, unemployment and insecurity. Against these terrible forces, we must come together. The weight of collective action can make a life-saving difference.

Lewis would have laid down his life so that you and I could lift up our voices.

Yet, at a time when we need one another, political winds threaten equal opportunities to vote. Polling locations are closed. Restrictive photo identification laws are in effect.

I urge my fellow residents of Chatham County to request your 2020 state absentee ballot at <https://www.chathamnc.org>. Register today so that your paperwork is completed on time. Act now so that you can vote safely.

Perhaps the greatest threat to our democracy is a lack of motivation. Cynicism is also a national pandemic. People claim that individuals cannot make a difference, that common people are powerless against a corrupt system.

John Lewis did not believe that was true. And neither did our Founding Fathers. They charged us to form a more perfect union, meaning that the country was imperfect at its founding and it is

our responsibility live into our nation's highest ideals of liberty and justice for all.

While there was breath in him, Lewis fought for the voting rights of every American. Be like John. Free and fair elections are the moral force of a democracy. Now it is our time to show our weight at the ballot box so that we the people hold our representatives accountable to provide courageous, honest leadership in the face of the storm of COVID-19.

We live in challenging, often tragic circumstances, but not every loss is a defeat. Adversity can inspire us to come together as a team.

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.

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What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

Socialism and progressivism spread poverty

TO THE EDITOR:

Socialism (authoritarian government and communal ownership) providing “for all” is embraced by progressives (i.e., Medicare for all, free healthcare and higher education for all, student debt relief). These proposals would massively increase federal debt and require increased taxation. Escalated debt increases inflation, a hidden tax on the poor.

Circa 1980, the Soviet Union’s socialistic economy stagnated. Consumer shortages, wage caps and worthless money resulted in spiraling inflation. Attempting economic stimulation, the government lifted price controls and adopted free market ideas. Two disasters shattered government integrity: Afghanistan occupation and the Chernobyl catastrophe. Relaxed free speech allowed citizenry liberty, resulting in overwhelming government criticism. Oil revenue fell enabling the 1991 economic collapse; Eduard Shevardnadze said to President Gorbachev, “Everything is rotten. It has to be changed.” Venezuela was rich with huge oil reserves. In

1998, President Chavez created massive government debt to bankroll socialism. Indebted actions included: to gain international influence, sold oil at below-market rates; neglected oil infrastructure fettering production; initiated wealth redistribution to improve nutrition, healthcare, and education for everyone.

Government supermarkets subsidized groceries below market prices, eliminating profit supermarkets. Resultant food shortages forced mass exodus. Bartered healthcare (free oil to Cuba, free doctors/clinics reciprocated to Venezuela; free travel to Havana for free treatment). Oil revenue fell in 2014; healthcare faltered with consequential doctor exodus and hospital shortages. University access improved, but infrastructure/professors were insufficient for the inrush. Since 2012, President Maduro dismantled participatory governance; skyrocketing debt fueled hyperinflation. Consequently, worthless Venezuelan currency devastated the poor.

Aforementioned Socialistic failures mimic progressivism (free healthcare, free education, student debt relief). Contrarian capitalistic ideals of individual self-improvement include job

creation, prosperity, saving, and purchasing one’s own healthcare. Rather than acquiring huge student debt, a thrifty education can be garnered at community colleges. Why are taxpayers asked to forgive student debt? Did taxpayers co-erce students’ loan signatures? Socialism encourages entitlement for free stuff, but Soviet and Venezuelan models failed because there is no innovation, no productivity, and old ideas stagnate spreading the poverty to everyone.

The capitalistic model encourages one to “not fear failure,” to take a risk to build a new product or better service, because there is financial reward if one succeeds. Economic vitality, prosperity, and jobs “for all” follow Ruchir Sharma’s principle: new businesses created by hard-working people are the saplings replacing the dead trees of decaying businesses.

Frank Dunphy
Pittsboro

A gut punch, and ‘necessary trouble’

TO THE EDITOR:

Today I felt as if I received two punches to the gut! Most

days I feel discouraged about the present state of politics, but today is different somehow. Maybe it’s reading that Mitch McConnell and the Senate are only offering \$200 weekly to our citizens in need AND evictions can resume again.

There is so much wrong with our current state: COVID-19, maskwearing controversy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s recurring cancer, businesses struggling to exist, schools struggling with decisions to keep students and staff safe, people struggling to feed their families and keep their homes, protesters being attacked by federal troops, and most disturbingly, a president who refuses to see, and a Congress without a heart.

These are just a few of the issues that plague my thinking today. We all need “some good news.” I’m starting a new postcard writing campaign for getting out the vote, and have volunteers willing to join me.

We are planning to write and send out 375 cards this time around. We’ve written thousands already for candidates. These writer volunteers carry my optimism, as well as all the medical workers, volunteers at food banks, and all the people that help make our world better.

As the dedicated leader John Lewis said in his final essay: “Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble.”

We all need to help turn this country around in order to move forward and create that world that Lewis envisioned.

Adele Kelly
Pittsboro

Policies Hood espouses are rotten

TO THE EDITOR:

I found John Hood’s op-ed piece (“Government’s basic tasks need doing,” News + Record, July 30) disingenuous. He complains that government institutions are “rotten,” but ignores the fact that the policies he espouses lead inevitably to that unfortunate situation.

The John Locke Foundation’s principal goal is to cut taxes, thus reducing government. Most likely the tax reductions under the McCrory administration, not sloth, led to Raleigh’s and the state’s staff inability to remove the offending deer carcass.

Michael Cotter
Chapel Hill

GUEST COLUMN VALERIE BROADWAY

When racism hides in plain sight

As a white person, I was somewhat hesitant to submit this because in no way do I want to imply that I understand at all what it is like to experience life as a person of color. My hope in sharing this is to bring awareness to the reality of what has happened to me up to this very day, in Chatham County, that seem to go unnoticed by white people, while my Black friends understand and respond with examples of their own.

I used to believe racist thoughts were something people kept to themselves. One day my eyes were opened and I discovered racism is all around us, hiding in plain sight, literally.

The first time I saw it was about 15 years ago, when I was keeping one of my friend’s two children. On this particular day her children were coming for a sleepover at my house. It was a Friday and, along with my two girls, we started the evening by going out to dinner. As the hostess led us to a table I couldn’t help but notice a number of people along the way glaring at me as we walked by. I call it the “side-eye, lemon-sucking stink-face,” a look of repulsiveness. At the time, I couldn’t imagine why they were looking at me that way. Was I being mistaken for someone who had done some terrible thing? It gave me an uneasy, unsafe feeling. I wondered what they might have done if we weren’t in a public place. Thankfully, the young children didn’t notice.

It took me a day or two to determine why it happened. My conclusion was those people must have thought all the children were mine. My friend’s children are Black. Were these people disgusted by the assumption that I had been with a Black man? Before the glares, they looked like normal people, whose friends would probably describe them as up-standing citizens. I wish I could say it was an isolated incident, but it wasn’t. Since then I’ve had the same experience many times, and only when I’m in the company of Black children.

Do people even realize they are contorting their faces? It’s impossible to tell who is going to do it in advance. In one instance, at a local farm festival, a lady manning the bouncy house put on her “stink-face.” She wouldn’t even speak to me. I had questions about whether the child with me was too big for the bouncy house or whether he had to take off his shoes. Not a word from her. Just the “stink-face.” I wanted to verbally eviscerate the woman but didn’t want to cause a scene in front of the child. Up to then, I’d attended this festival for years. Even though no one else there made us feel uncomfortable, I never returned because of that one woman.

As the children have gotten older they now notice the “stink-faces”; sometimes they’re directed at them, and it makes them angry. A couple of times when it’s happened, I’ve heard the now-teenage boy I had taken to the festival mumble under his breath, “I hate white people.” He doesn’t hate all white people. His comment is directed at those who silently, but loudly and clearly, are telling him he is not welcome.

Throughout history there have always been insecure, fearful people. They have the need to feel superior to others for reasons as ridiculous as skin color. In Chatham County and everywhere there will always be racists, and also people who don’t recognize they’re racist. It would be great if we all could put our egos aside and perform honest, and perhaps difficult, self-assessments. Everyone has biases and filters they’ve picked up along the way. I’ve found it helpful to talk with Black friends about how they feel, listen to their experiences and even share about times when I realize I’ve judged others unfairly. It can be an awakening, bonding and healing experience.

There is no doubt of the momentum right now that could allow us to get us off the hamster wheel of racial inequity and injustice which has plagued this country since its inception. Regardless of the number of people who embrace racism, the laws and norms that make up the fabric of a fair and just society should always be equal and inclusive for everyone.

Only then do we have any hope of truly living in peace and unity.

Valerie Broadway is a 40-year Chatham County resident. She is self-employed as a Dog Behavior Specialist, the mother of two, has fostered, adopted, and mentors children, and is currently on the board of the Dept. of Social Services for Chatham County.

New monuments could unify state

If you’ve lived in North Carolina for even a few years, you’ve probably formed an opinion about whether statues and monuments honoring Confederate leaders and soldiers ought to remain in or near courthouses, town halls, state buildings and other public property throughout the state.

Whatever your opinion on the issue, you can be sure a significant share of North Carolinians agree with you. That’s how divided we are.

According to the polls I’ve seen, around a third say Confederate statues and monuments should be removed. About a quarter say they should be left precisely as they are and where they are. The rest think the items in question shouldn’t be removed entirely from public property but are open to such alternatives as relocating them to other public spaces or contextualizing them with plaques and other historical material.

I’ve waded into this controversy a number of times, emphasizing the critical importance of reaching such decisions through deliberation and legislation instead of attacking the rule of law. Today, I’ll make a different point altogether: rather than expend so much time debating what to do with existing public monuments, we ought to focus more attention on erecting new ones.

Having visited nearly every county courthouse in the state as well as a large number of other public buildings, parks and squares, I

firmly believe that most are underpopulated with monuments to North Carolina’s rich history of fascinating stories, momentous events and inspiring leaders. These tales need telling. Doing so through statues, memorials, murals and other public art would have many welcome consequences.

Over the coming weeks and months, I’ll be devoting a series of columns to key figures in North Carolina history whose public service and accomplishments deserve greater renown. Some have already been honored by historical markers or other works but merit more numerous and impressive memorialization. Others languish in relative obscurity.

What these North Carolinians have in common is that, through word and deed, they prodded their state (native or adopted) to live up, however imperfectly, to its stated constitutional principles of “liberty and free government.”

Consider the life of James Walker Hood (no relation). Born in 1831 into a family of free African-Americans in Pennsylvania, Hood followed his father Levi into the ministry and eventually became a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. It sent him south in 1863 to lead an AME Zion congregation in New Bern, which was by then controlled by Union troops.

After the Civil War, Hood served as president of the first statewide convention of black North Carolinians, and three years later as a delegate to the state’s constitutional convention. The resulting Constitution of 1868 had so many provisions he had either initiated or endorsed that some reactionaries later derided it as “Hood’s Constitution.”

As assistant state superintendent of public instruction from 1868 to 1871, Hood championed educational opportunities for black North Carolinians while also assisting the Freedmen’s Bureau and serving as one of the state’s first African-American magistrates. His political activities included representing North Carolina at the national Republican Party’s 1872 convention and chairing the state GOP convention in 1876.

A truly statewide figure, James Walker Hood led churches in New Bern, Charlotte and Fayetteville and was instrumental in founding what are now Livingstone College and Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury.

A dogged defender of equality, Hood repeatedly refused attempts by the Pennsylvania Railroad and other transit systems to remove him from their first-class accommodations. He also believed passionately in freedom, both political and spiritual. In a remarkable passage from one of his five books, Hood wrote that what distinguishes man from other creatures is his freedom to choose how he will live his life. “The fatalist would rob man of his moral free agency, and make him a mere machine,” he wrote.

James Walker Hood — minister, scholar, statesman and civic leader — is a North Carolinian whose likeness should displayed in numerous public spaces across our state. His heroic life is well worth celebrating and emulating.

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.

Do black lives matter in a new novel set in Raleigh?

Do black lives matter in a good, almost all-white neighborhood in Raleigh?

The black lives in this neighborhood are two of the main characters in Raleigh author Therese Anne Fowler’s latest novel, “A Good Neighborhood.”

Fowler became a literary hot property following her bestselling “Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald” in 2013 and “A Well-Behaved Woman” about Alva Smith Vanderbilt in 2018.

The new book opens in the middle of a not unusual neighborhood conflict brought on by the tearing down of an older home that had sat on a wooded lot in Raleigh’s fictional Oakdale neighborhood. The old house and trees have been replaced by a mansion-sized house and swimming pool. The old ambience is gone. That would be bad enough, but the pool construction destroyed the roots of a giant beloved tree next door.

The owner of the doomed tree and adjoining

lot is Valerie Alston-Holt, a college professor who is a well-liked fixture in Oakdale.

Valerie’s new neighbor, Brad Whitman, is a self-confident, self-made man who has built a successful heating and air conditioning business. His personal appearances on TV to promote his business have made him popular and recognizable in Raleigh. He is used to getting his way.

Brad’s wife’s daughter, Juniper, is 17. When she was 14 she and Brad participated in a “Purity Ball.” As Brad explained to a neighbor, “Well, the ball culminates a ceremony wherein the dads promise to protect and support the girls, and the girls promise to stay virgins until after the dads hand them off at their wedding.”

When we first meet Juniper, she is swimming in the new pool.

So, what does all this have to do with Black Lives Matter?

First, Valerie is her late husband, who was white, had a son Xavier, who is now a high school senior. Xavier is near perfect. Smart. Hard working. Courteous and considerate. Popular. A musician good enough to win a

scholarship to a fine conservatory in San Francisco.

He is popular with his contemporaries of both races. He cherishes the memory of his dead white father and considers himself to be both white and black.

But outside of his family and friends, he is just another young black male.

If you have already guessed that the book’s story line will revolve around a romance between Xavier and Juniper, you have it right.

And if you guess that Brad’s devotion to his stepdaughter and his latent racism might lead to a tragedy exacerbated by Xavier’s skin color, you have understood the Black Lives Matter connection to the story.

Fowler’s novel has appeared at a time when the Oprah-selected and best-selling novel “American Dirt” has been roundly criticized for having been written by an author who had not actually experienced the culture she so vividly described.

In short, the question for Fowler’s book is whether a white author can successfully write about black characters such as Valerie and Xavier?

Critics have different

opinions about “A Good Neighborhood.”

In The New York Times, reviewer Kiley Reid said no. She wrote, “Much like Uncle Tom, Xavier, the perfect biracial teenager, is presented as a non-threatening fantasy for the book’s white audience.”

On the other hand, Washington Post reviewer Jung Yun writes, “What Fowler has executed is a book in which the black characters are thoughtfully rendered and essential to the story being told. Valerie and Xavier’s perspectives enrich and complicate a larger narrative about prejudice and how it can infiltrate even the most neighborly and seemingly open-minded of communities.”

I agree with Jung Yun. Fowler deserves admiration and praise for carefully developing her characters and telling a disturbing story that makes her readers confront Black Lives Matter.

D.G. Martin hosts “North Carolina Bookwatch,” at 11 a.m. Sundays and 5 p.m. Tuesdays on UNC-TV. The program also airs on the North Carolina Channel at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and other times.

CHALLENGES

Continued from page A1

pandemic has prevented many of them from getting out as much as usual. But like Smith, many are also turning to new hobbies and investing in old ones to make the most of this new pandemic reality.

A longtime gardener, Smith's garden has gotten "bigger and bigger and bigger" over the years, which means her gardening keeps her pretty busy. In addition to planning her own birthday party, she's also planning a virtual retirement celebration for her sister, taking writing classes and cooking nearly every new recipe she finds. More than anything, she said she's trying to use the extra time she now has to better appreciate the nature and people around her.

"What I noticed really quickly with COVID was, oh, I don't have to worry about what's going on out there that I might be missing because nobody's doing anything," Smith said. "That's probably the most positive thing I've experienced, is that sense that you know, there's not really anything out there for me — everything that I need is right here."

'Where do I fit in?'

Though loneliness can feel especially prevalent for folks living alone right now, Chatham-based counselor and meditative teacher Mary Stokes said the feeling of loneliness is much more widespread than just among people who live alone. Just the reality of living through a pandemic can cause people to think deeply about their own mortality, sometimes causing what Stokes calls an "existential sense of loneliness."

"We have a lot of ways in which we distract from those deeper currents that go on in the psyche and in our emotional lives," she said. "So, I think right now there's a lot less ability to distract from something that is somewhat underlying — I don't know that I've ever worked with anyone who doesn't deal with loneliness."

When the pandemic began impacting North Carolina in late March, initially appointments at Stokes' practice dropped, likely, she said, the result of people adjusting to new patterns of working and parenting. Still, she said some people felt the extra time and space they had to sleep, practice creative hobbies and meditate helped them feel happier.

As the pandemic has gone on, Stokes said many people are scheduling appointments again — with the various challenges of losing "normal life" being felt more clearly, Stokes said.

"In people who do more long-term work with me, I've noticed them beginning to articulate the incredible amount of grief and sense of loss," she said. "Not just in relationships, like I've lost the ability to go out and see my friends or my family, but the sense of loss that the life that I had and that I imagined I would have, isn't there. I think a lot of people are beginning, at least this is how I'm feeling it and seeing it, are beginning to have deeper questions about their identity and place in the world. Like where do I fit in if I can't do those things I normally think of as being my life?"

These questions are difficult, Stokes said, in a time that's already challenging enough — coping with stress, anxiety and grief caused by unemployment, sickness, death and more. When it comes to addressing our own difficult feelings, Stokes said paying attention to your thoughts, emotions and body is important.

"If people can learn to work and explore that with curiosity and compassion for ourselves, then there's a lot of untangling and keeping ourselves from spinning out, basically, by recognizing and then learning to train our minds to allow ourselves to feel sad," she said.

'To love where you are'

Onicas Gaddis, a local artist,

said the increased isolation he's experienced due to COVID-19 has actually been productive — he's made 10 large paintings, which collectively, he said, represent some of his best work. Ever since he was a young boy experiencing abuse in the foster care system, Gaddis said art has helped him cope with pain and loneliness.

In addition to painting, Gaddis works at Lowe's — until he sells his \$1 million painting, 2007 "Heaven & Hell" piece, which is part of his spiritual expressionism collection — which helps with not feeling completely isolated. Though he said he was initially concerned about exposure to the virus at work, he generally feels protected as a worker.

Still, seeing all of the death and suffering happening around the world has been difficult.

"It's the hardest thing to see as the human being right now for me," he said. "But the isolation part, I've been pretty much isolated my whole life — I was always drawing, always painting or I spent a lot of time in my studio. So for me, during the pandemic, it was just like business as usual because that's what I always did."

Like Gaddis, Pittsboro resident Suza White has been able to spend even more time over the last few months doing what she loves — gardening. An industrial-grade gardener and

horticulturist, White's "secret garden" is a large part of both her normal and quarantine life.

In addition to her own gardening, she's done a Facetime garden consult with an old friend living in Pennsylvania. She's cleaned more, sent lots of postcards (her way of saying, "Hey, I'm still out here!") and listened to more Elvis Presley. Still getting used to being retired, the longer days have helped her to have less structured, but still productive days. While she said she's felt lonely at times, she wouldn't say she's experiencing loneliness.

"I considered this quarantine, as could anybody, as a challenge to go deep within and find your other levels of being that go beyond going to work," she said. "That something about each of us that we have when we don't have all the distractions of trauma and drama...just really being able to love where you are, because, hey, what can you do anyway?"

For Smith, having the time to slow down and appreciate "the little things" has helped give perspective in a time full of its challenges.

"So I try to treasure every minute," she said. "I know that sounds trite and it's something we say a lot, but it's not something we actually do very much."

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

BRIDGE

Continued from page A1

Even so, removing or replacing the bridge has been proposed by the NCDOT several times over the years. The first time in 1998, the local residents urged the NCDOT to reject the project — which it eventually did, instead choosing to improve and repair the bridge, painting its metal trusses blue.

Replacing the bridge was again proposed in 2016, a project that would have cost at least \$2 million to complete. Residents were again vocal in opposition to removing the bridge, gathering more than 100 names for a petition and imploring the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to save the bridge. Following a meeting on April 18, 2016, then-Chairman Jim Crawford sent a letter to the NCDOT stating that both the county's Transportation Advisory Committee and the board of commissioners "did not perceive any urgent need to replace

the current bridge."

Just over four years ago — on July 27, 2016 — the NCDOT made the decision to remove the project from its improvement program after "evaluating the cost of replacement and considering traffic volume was not at the time or projected to be a driving force for replacing the bridge," according to Brandon Jones, NCDOT Division Eight Engineer. In addition, Jones noted that NCDOT could replace "several other bridges for the \$2 million price tag."

The bridge, which is 120 feet long, utilizes a Pratt truss, one of the most commonly-used in North Carolina and the country at the time of its initial construction. According to the NCDOT, this kind of truss is identified by "a simple web arrangement of diagonals in tension and verticals in compression." Most of these bridges constructed at the time used riveted or bolted connections, but the Atlantic Bridge Company that originally built the bridge used pins, which makes it even more rare for a bridge still in use.

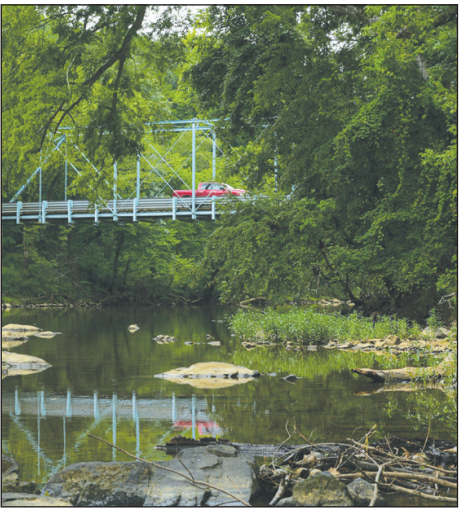
Chatham Church Road is located in a rural area of Chatham County and

is considered a "low volume road" by NCDOT. While portions of the road are paved, a significant stretch leading to the bridge on the east-side is gravel. The bridge is only wide enough for one car to pass through at a time, so cars will often have to pull to the side of the road to allow a car to pass before entering the structure. It crosses a portion of the Rocky River where the east side of the river is wooded, though logged several years ago and on the western side rest a few homes on extended acreage. In reality, unless you live on the road, it is highly unlikely you would ever know it exists.

Though the project to replace the bridge was eventually canceled, the NCDOT at the time noted that "eventually" the department would "need to coordinate with the county on a long-term plan" for the bridge.

In the meantime, NCDOT continues to inspect and maintain the bridge. Next up: workers from the NCDOT will be putting on a fresh coat of paint.

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The bridge is a single lane truss bridge built in 1921 using pin connections, something that the NCDOT noted was of a type that was 'perilously small' in quantity in North Carolina. The bridge was placed on the NCDOT's North Carolina Historic Bridge Inventory in 2005.



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OBITUARIES

JERRY TALMAGE JOHNSON



Jerry Talmage Johnson, age 72, of Chapel Hill, died Wednesday, July 29, 2020 in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Jerry was born in Lee County, North Carolina on April 14, 1948 to the late John Talmage Johnson and Audrey Annie Johnson. He was also preceded in death by one son, Darryl Scott Johnson.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Shirley Eubanks Johnson of the home; one son, Wayne Johnson and wife Traci of Hampstead, N.C.; and two grandchildren, Max Johnson and

Sam Johnson.

A graveside service was held Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 1 p.m., at Rock Spring Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Bob Wachs presiding.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Jerry's memory to Rock Spring Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 29 Rock Springs Church Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

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

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

DENNIS ALBERT TALLY



Dennis Albert Tally, 76, of Bear Creek died Saturday, August 1, 2020 at his home.

Albert was born May 8, 1944 in Chatham County, the son of William Woodrow and Florence Laurene Phillips Tally. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Albert was a graduate of Chatham Central High School. His first job after high school was working for Pepsi Cola Company and then working at Hart Furniture Company, retiring after 48 years as Manager. Albert was a diehard Carolina fan, a member

of Diamond Heels Club for 20 years and the Ram Clubs. He enjoyed going to sporting events at high schools, college and little league.

He is survived by sons, Keith Tally of Creedmoor, Kevin Tally of Morrisville; sisters, Jane Tally Burns and husband Thomas of Bear Creek; and Marie Tally Adams and husband Lloyd of Pineville, W.Va.

Due to the COVID-19 the family will not be present, but you may come by the funeral home to sign the register book on Saturday, August 8, 2020 from the hours of 12 to 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 401 Harrison Blvd., Ste 200, Cary, NC 27513, or a charity of choice.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Tally Family.

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

GEORGE EDGAR PAIRE



George Edgar Paire, age 84, of Siler City died Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

Mr. Paire was born on September 22, 1935, in Gaston County, N.C., the son of Robert M. and Pauline Morgan Paire. He was a retired attorney and a graduate of the University of Tennessee Law School. George was a member of both Piney Grove United Methodist Church and Rocky River Friends Meeting. He loved fishing, golf and western reading.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. George had a strong faith in God and loved teaching Sunday school, telling stories and loved animals. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, John M. Paire.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Gale Clark Paire; son, John M. Paire II and wife Elizabeth; daughters, Leslie Hunt and husband Tommy, Kathryn Cox and husband Tim, Carol Shackelford and husband David; Kimberly Watson and husband David, and Laura Combs and husband Ricky; brothers, Zeke G. Paire and Robert M. Paire, Jr; grandchildren, Jessica M. Balog, Crystal N. Belvins, Josh and Joe Hunt, Katie Tribble, Meredith Cox, Caleb Sizemore, Adam and Andrew Watson, Jesse Lucas, and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Paire Family.

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

JUSTIN MORGAN CLARK

Justin Morgan Clark, 39, of Surprise, AZ, died Sunday, July 19, 2020.

A graveside service was held at Carabonton United Methodist Church Cemetery on Friday, July 31, 2020, at 10 a.m. with Rev. Kent Miller officiating.

He was born in North Carolina on August 22, 1980 to Burton H. Clark and Faye Jeffers Clark.

He is survived by his father, Burton Clark of Greenville; his mother, Faye Clark Sechler; a daughter, Taylor Brooke Clark of Wilmington; and a brother, Jason Clark of Surprise, AZ.

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

DONALD HERSEY ALLEN

Donald Hersey Allen, 71, passed away on Monday, July 27, 2020 at UNC Hospital.

Don is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Allen of West End; brothers, Quinton D. Allen and Steven Allen of Montgomery, Ala; step-sons, Joshua Halverstadt of Sanford, and Matthew Halverstadt of Charleston, S.C.; six grandchildren; step-mother, Lucille Allen and step-sister, Leslie Britt, both of Montgomery, Ala.

He founded the Bread of Life ministry at his church.

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

WILLIAM HENRY MARTIN, JR.

William Henry Martin, Jr, 71, passed away Thursday, July 30, 2020 at his home.

A graveside service was held Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 3 p.m. in Lee Memory Gardens with Rev. Melvin Fallon and Pam Harrington presiding.

Mr. Martin was born in Person County, on March 26, 1949, to the late William Henry and Lois Davis Martin. He was preceded in death by his sister, Marie Pruitt and a brother, Ray Martin. He worked as a mechanic for Martin Enterprise of Sanford.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon Thomas Martin of the home; a step-son, Scott Beal of Angier; brothers, Dennis Martin of Sanford, Ronnie Martin of Lillington, Cecil Martin of Wilson; sisters, Shirley Duncan of Timberlake, Pam Harrington of Sanford; and two grandchildren.

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

GEORGE PHILLIP DAVIS

George Phillip Davis, 78, of Sanford, died Friday, July 31, 2020 at his home.

The family will receive friends Sunday, August 9, 2020 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

There will be no formal services.

He was born in Marion County, S.C. on March 4, 1942 to the late Joe Bruce and Gladys Edwards Davis. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a brother, Joe Bruce Davis, Jr. and sister, Marjorie Holleman. George was a bank examiner.

Mr. Davis is survived by sons Kevin Davis of Sharpsburg, Ga., Michael Davis of Nesquehoning, Penna.; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Alzheimer's Association at: www.alz.org in memory of George.

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

DORIS MILLIKAN FRITZ WEGMAN

Doris Millikan Fritz Wegman, 89, of Sanford, passed away July 29, 2020 at Moore Regional Hospital.

Services will be held at a later date.

Doris was born to the late Robert H. and Ada Godfrey Fritz in Pearl River, N.Y. on December 28, 1930. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Wegman, and a brother, Mortimer Godfrey Fritz. She and her husband had retired to N.C. for a life of golf. She was involved in the Newcomers Club, the Garden Club, Antique Club, and was a volunteer at a local hospital and nursing home.

Survivors include a sister, Roberta A. Assur of Falls Church, Va.; children, Kenneth, Daniel, Kathleen, Kevin, Kerri, Marianne; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Doris' memory to St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105 or St. Josephs Indian School, P.O. Box 326, Chamberlain, S.D. 57326.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Wegman family.

LONNIE RAY TART

Lonnie Ray Tart, 71, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at Central Carolina Hospital.

No funeral service will be scheduled.

He was born in Harnett County on February 4, 1949, to the late Jasper and Alease Jackson Tart. He worked as a heavy duty mechanic for the brickyard. He was preceded in death by a brother, Bobby Tart and a sister, Betty Teal.

Surviving is his wife, Shirley Riddle Tart of the home; daughters, Joyce Tart Marks of Sanford and Jackie Renee Stone of Midland, TX; one sister; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

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

ROBERT LEE GRAY

Robert Lee Gray of Siler City passed away recently.

A private service was held for his family. A memorial service to celebrate Robert's life will be held at a later date.

Robert Lee Gray was born December 18, 1968, in Orange County, Calif., to Billy and Marie Gray. The family moved to Chatham County where Robert attended Basic Law Enforcement Training. Upon graduation, he became a deputy in Chatham County and also spent time as an officer with the Pittsboro Police Department. Robert was currently employed with the Chatham County Bridge Crew of the NC DOT. Robert was preceded in death by his father, William Henry Gray and a brother, George Michael Gray.

Survivors include a daughter, Felicity Faith Gray and a son, Jackson Cole Gray; his mother, Lorene Marie Gray; sister, Cathy Gray; and brothers, Billy, Jr, Loren and Doug Gray.

MAIDELINE PARRISH ASHBY

Maideline Parrish Ashby, 87, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

A graveside service was held Friday, July 31, 2020 at 11 a.m. at Lee Memory Gardens with Pastor Jeff Pierce officiating.

She was born in Johnston County on March 13, 1933 to the late Cellie Carl and Lucy Langdon Parrish. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, Lloyd Ashby, Hoover Johnson, and siblings, JP Parrish, Roscoe Parrish, Pauline Christian, Cola Mae Mann and Flo Pierce.

Survivors include her daughter, Tammy Johnson of Broadway; one grandson, and two great-grandchildren.

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

APOSTLE LESTER MCKOY, JR.

Apostle Lester McKoy, Jr., 70, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at Moore Regional Hospital.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

FRANK D. ALSTON

Frank D. Alston, 81, of Mt. Vernon, NY, formerly of Siler city passed away on Friday, July 17, 2020.

Local services entrusted to Knotts & Sons in Siler City.

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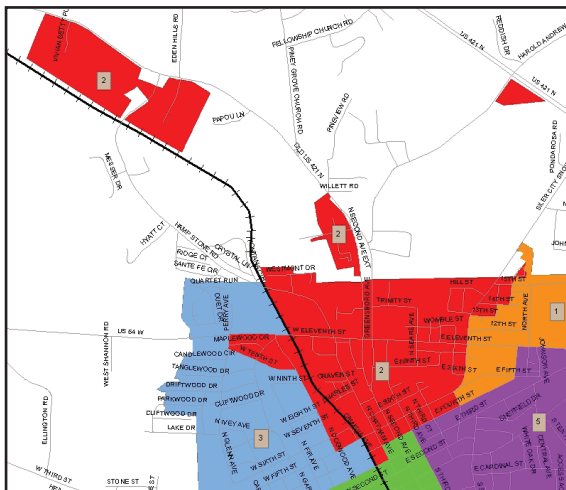
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The Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners are accepting letters of interest from the public to serve as a member of the Siler City Board of Commissioners representing District 2. Interested parties must be registered and eligible to vote in District 2 (map below) in order to be considered.



Letters of interest and any supporting information about qualifications and experience should be submitted no later than 2:00pm on Monday, August 31, 2020.

Submit letters to: Jenifer Johnson, Town Clerk
Town of Siler City, PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344
jjohnson@silercity.org

For questions, please contact Jenifer Johnson at 919-742-4731 or jjohnson@silercity.org.

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STUDENTS HONORED

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE

Emory & Henry College in the highlands of Virginia has announced Rachel Watts of Pittsboro, an athlete from the Intermont Equestrian team, was named as a scholar athlete for the year 2019-20. Eligibility for this

honor is open to a student-athlete that competes in an E&H varsity sport. Student-athletes must achieve at least a 3.25 grade point average for the year to be considered.

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Hannah Burgess of

Pittsboro has earned 2020 Dean's List honors at Lawrence University. She is a member of the class of 2021 at Appleton, Wisconsin. A student must have earned at least 36 units in Lawrence courses during the academia year and have earned a GPA of at least 3.5.

Siler City seeking homeowners in need

BY CASEY MANN

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town of Siler City is looking for homeowners who are struggling to pay for repairs to their homes, hoping to help those residents using a Community Development Block Grant.

The grant has been a subject of the Siler City Board of Commissioners for more than a month and was again discussed during the board's regular meeting on Monday.

Federally-funded Community Development Block Grants are administered through the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division. The grant Siler City is seeking falls under Neighborhood Revitalization, which makes funds available for the rehabilitation and repair of homes owned by residents who are economically challenged, elderly or disabled.

The town has been collecting surveys of residents who may qualify to include with the grant application.

"It's not eligible to everyone in the town," Siler City Planning Director Jack Meadows said. "It's meant to help the folks with the most need."

Meadows said that town staff has been using the minimum housing list compiled by the town's code enforcement

contractor to seek out those who may qualify. They have been going door-to-door to encourage "households with lower incomes who occupy substandard housing" to complete to survey to see if they are able to be considered for a rehabilitation or replacement housing loan, which is an up to 8-year, 0% interest forgiven loan through the CDBG program. According to Meadows, rehabilitations and replacement loans are a 100% grant in the form of a loan with a deed of trust on the property. The deed of trust is placed on the property for a period of up to 8 years. At the end of the 8 years the deed trust is removed. If the homeowner sells the property during the 8 year period, the balance of the loan must be repaid. If the owner passes during 8 years, either a low-medium income household must occupy the property for the remainder of the recapture period or the balance of the loan must be paid.

As these grants are geared toward low-income residents, there are income limits, with a single person having to earn less than \$50,900 per year, with gradually increases for each additional person in the household. For example, a family of four would need to earn \$72,700 or less a year to qualify. Applicants would have to have a clear title

to their property and show that they are up to date with their property taxes. Rental units are not eligible.

"All households served must occupy a unit with severe structural deficiencies," a release sent by Meadows last week read. "This program is designed to address housing needs, not minor structural cosmetic improvements."

The deadline to submit a survey in August 10, so Meadows is urging everyone who may qualify to fill out a survey or, if a resident thinks they may know someone who may qualify, urge them to complete a survey.

The surveys can be delivered in person to a drive-thru drop box located along the driveway off at City Hall, which is located at 311 N. Second Ave. The survey should be put to the attention of the CDBG Project Manager. Surveys can also be mailed to Town of Siler City, Attn: CDBG Project Manager, P.O. Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344.

If assistance is needed to complete the form, persons can contact the CDBG Project Manager at 910-392-0060 to set up an appointment. Meadows can be reached at jmeadows@silercity.org or by phone at 919-742-2323.

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

Chatham EDC launches website for CAM megasite

BY LARS DOLDER

News + Record Correspondent

SILER CITY — The Chatham Economic Development Corporation has released a new website to exhibit the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) Site, a 1,802-acre industrial megasite in western Chatham County.

After more than 12 years of development, the location's infrastructure is nearly complete, and CAM is ready to welcome future tenants.

"The CAM site is in a high state of readiness at this time," said Tim Booras, the president of the Freedom Beverage Company and owner of the CAM site. "The only thing we lack is sewer. Sewer right-of-way has been acquired; engineering is done. We still have some work to do on the connector road, but no other work aside from road and field maintenance needs to be done at this time. From our end, there is not much more we can do."

The site's long-awaited unveiling comes at an inopportune time, though, as Chatham County continues to grapple with the novel coronavirus pandemic. While

COVID-19 restrictions did not protract CAM's development timeline, they have forced "prospective projects to go on hold," Booras said. Companies which might already have begun the site selection process were deterred by the advent of COVID-19 and its soporific effect on industry.

CAM site developers and the CEDC hope a newly designed website will help to address that problem.

"The new website is modern and easy for users to navigate and research relevant information," said Alyssa Byrd, the president of the CEDC. "With current conditions, websites are more powerful than ever for marketing and information delivery."

The CAM site's completion promises to be a defining moment for Chatham County's economic health. Although the N.C. Dept. of Commerce ranks Chatham among the most affluent counties in North Carolina, its evaluation is skewed by narrow pockets of wealth in the county's northeastern communities, the News + Record reported in March. Siler City, home of the CAM site, and the county's largest munic-

ipality, would rank 98th out of North Carolina's 100 counties in median household income if it was a county in and of itself. The megasite will flush Chatham County with thousands of new jobs and infuse its poorer areas with vitalizing industry.

Booras says his team and the CEDC are not discriminatory about the types of companies that move into the CAM site. Options include battery manufacturers, recycling facilities, food processors, distribution centers and tire companies, among others. Any company that brings with it a profusion of jobs is acceptable.

"The whole purpose of this is jobs," Booras said. "If the county approves a project, we can't be too picky as long as we bring a project that can provide thousands of jobs and transform Siler City, the county and the state. I don't get involved in any of the projects that are looking to build here. What I care about is, 'How many jobs do they bring?'"

To learn more about the industrial site, and to view the new website, visit chathamadvanced-manufacturing.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

The scholarships help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare and other components of the total cost of attendance for 2020-2021 fall, spring and summer semesters.

Pittsboro Area Health Initiatives Scholarship

The scholarship funds cover the cost of registration for medical/health-care career training

CCCC announces two scholarships

The Central Carolina Community College Continuing Education program announces two scholarships available for students:

Golden LEAF Scholars Program

The program provides grants of up to \$250, not to exceed \$1,000 annually, for workforce continuing education students at Central Carolina Community College.

programs for residents of Chatham County.

The Pittsboro Area Health Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It was founded in 1978 to provide grants and scholarships to benefit the health of the residents of Chatham County. Learn more at cccc.edu/ecd/scholarships/ or contact Latoya Brower, CCCC's Continuing Education Scholarship Coordinator, at 919-545-8033 or by email at lbrow738@cccc.edu.

— CN+R staff reports

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

MAKE JOKES

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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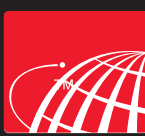
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Avance Care rolls out rapid, same-day COVID-19 testing

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON

News + Record staff

Avance Care, a primary care provider based in the Triangle, introduced rapid, same-day COVID-19 testing this week, Chief Medical Officer Joanne Fruth said. Avance Care already provides COVID-19 testing for both active infections and antibodies at its South Chapel Hill facility in Chatham County. But this newly introduced test — called the rapid antigen test — is different from the “PCR” test Avance Care has been administering since the end of March, Fruth said. A PCR (or polymerase chain reaction) test detects

the virus’ genetic material, or RNA. “(It’s) done in the lab,” Fruth said. Nurses swab the back of a patient’s throat or nose for cells, and then they send the swab off to a lab, where lab technicians isolate the genetic material and trigger a reaction that replicates the tiny viral molecules. This step increases the sample size lab technicians can analyze, providing a more accurate result. The test usually takes a few hours, and many North Carolina patients who undergo this type of testing receive their results back within three to four days — and sometimes longer if labs are backlogged.

The rapid antigen test, Fruth said, detects antigens, or proteins that shoot off of viruses and cause immune responses within their hosts. “(The antigen) meets up with a chemical in a reaction and then that’s scanned,” she said. “It’s called immunofluorescent detection.” It takes about 15 minutes to perform and turns around results that same day. It can be done in the office, too. But it’s not perfect, Fruth warned. “While it sounds attractive,” she said, “it does come with some limitations that we want people to be aware of.” The test, which the FDA granted emergency use authorization earlier this year, is only as good as the virus particles it can detect. For

individuals with a low viral load in their noses or throats — like people without symptoms or in the early stages of infection — the test may not be able to detect enough viral particles to provide an accurate result. “For that reason, we can’t use our rapid antigen test to screen asymptomatic individuals,” Fruth said, adding: “It’s not going to be that test that’s going to clear you for your surgical procedure or to clear you for entrance into school.” It’ll be most accurate in patients who demonstrate symptoms, such as a cough, runny nose or fever, she said, a group the Center for Disease Control estimated on July 10 to account for about 60% of people infected with

the virus. When someone has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, Fruth said “a positive (antigen) test has good validity.” Yet Avance Care providers may recommend that symptomatic people also get a regular PCR test alongside the less sensitive rapid antigen test. “If a test is negative, and we find that we think that somebody still has COVID, we’re going to send the PCR the same day,” she said. Likewise, if people have mild symptoms but test negative under the antigen test, Fruth said they’d recommend that the patients self-isolate for a few days to see if they get better. If

symptoms have worsened after two days, Fruth said they should return to get the PCR test. “(The rapid antigen test’s) definitely going to have some good value,” she said. “It just has limitations. We don’t want people to be angry when we say, ‘Well, we can’t do the test for you if you don’t have symptoms,’ and we don’t want people to lie and say they have symptoms just because they want the test.” To get tested at Avance Care’s Chapel Hill location, people can make testing appointments online or call (919) 590-9005.

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com.

COVID

Continued from page A1

centers, mostly private providers, say they aren’t as heavily trafficked. Central Piedmont Urgent Care, a facility in Siler City, has been testing anywhere between five and 25 residents in a 12-hour period, according to tech Erica Galvan. Pine Ridge Urgent Care in Pittsboro and Avance Care in Chapel Hill report similar numbers. Pine Ridge’s office manager, Gail Collins, said physicians complete 10 to 12 tests a day, though numbers vary. Likewise, Avance Care’s Chief Medical Officer, Joanne Fruth, said the average number of tests they administer a day was close to 10. “We’re able to see just about anybody the same day for (a COVID-19) test,” said Bill Kilgore, a physician assistant at Avance Care.

2. Most centers want you to make an appointment before arriving.

To get tested by Chatham Hospital, Hannapel told the News + Record that patients need to schedule an appointment by calling 919-799-4050 and selecting “1” on the keypad. “It’s a number you call to get into and speak to one of our front desk personnel,” he said, adding, “They will ask for basic information (and) demographic information.” Likewise, all testing sites save Central Piedmont Urgent Care require patients to make testing appointments by phone or online. “We’re a walk-in clinic, but we can also do appointments if needed,” said Central Piedmont’s Galvan. “All you would do is you would walk in (and) let us know that you’re here for a COVID test.” The CVS on Hwy. 15-501 requires patients to schedule appointments online. They are not taking appointment requests by phone, and patients must be North Carolina residents over 18 years old. “Patients will need to pre-register, provide their insurance information as appropriate and verify their eligibility for testing,” CVS Health spokesperson Tara Burke told the News + Record. “Once they have registered, the patient will be provided with an appointment window for that same day or



Photo courtesy of Chatham Hospital's Andrew Hannapel

Chatham Hospital's Respiratory Diagnostic Center offers COVID-19 testing to residents. To get tested, people need to drive to the Medical Building Office parking lot, where they'll see a tent set up for drive-thru testing.

up to two days out.” Avance Care’s Kilgore said patients can schedule a telemedicine visit to determine whether they should get tested. If care providers determine they should, he said, then patients can schedule a time to do the test. “A lot of times, we can go the same day or very next day,” he said. “If you’re going online, you can actually see any available openings in the schedule, and you can actually schedule yourself.” Patients can’t just walk in, Kilgore said. “We’re doing all telemedicine visits for (anyone who potentially has COVID-19) so that we can still see our other patients with chronic illnesses in the clinic and keep them healthy,” he added. People need to call ahead to schedule testing appointments, said Pine Ridge office manager, Gail Collins, and no one can walk in unannounced. “We ask that you call into our office — 919-542-4450,” she said. “Don’t come to the door. We’ll come out to you. We do everything over the phone. That way there’s not any undue exposure.” Before getting testing, Collins also said patients must complete telemedicine visits, which they can do from their cars in the urgent care’s parking lot. The clinic is still seeing patients on “an urgent-care basis,” so patients may have to wait for testing. “Say you had an appointment at 2 o’clock,” Collins said. “If I have every room full of Urgent Care patients, we’re going to try to call you and move your appointment back so you’re not having to sit out there and wait. We want everybody

to be as safe as possible, and we want to do this as efficiently as possible.”

3. Testing methods vary, but most centers offer drive-thru testing.

Chatham Hospital doesn’t actually administer tests in the hospital, said Chief Medical Officer Andrew Hannapel. “While (the testing is) on hospital grounds, it’s actually behind the hospital in the Medical Office Building parking lot,” he said. “There’s a tent set up.” Patients will drive up, stay inside their cars and wait to be seen by medical personnel. After asking for the patient’s information, staff will administer the test — pushing a long swab deep into one nostril. Likewise, Toomey told the News + Record that Piedmont Health clinics all carry out drive-thru testing. “You should come a little bit early just to make sure you’re there and all set,” he said. “Sometimes people miss their appointments, and so sometimes you get in sooner rather than later.” Upon arriving, he said patients should see a tent with medical staff wearing masks, gloves, face shields and some kind of body covering. Staff members will ask patients questions about symptoms and make sure they’re wearing masks. Then staff swab patients, which Toomey called “a lot easier” now than in the past. “You’d have a little Q-tip put up one nostril and a Q-tip put up the other nostril,” he said, adding that staff would “put it in a little plastic bag,” thank the patient and then verify contact information. “The best way to make

sure that people can get in touch with us is if you leave a cell phone number that people can text the results,” he said, “because what takes a lot of time for results sometimes is us trying to track people to be able to talk to them because we’re not sure. We don’t necessarily want to leave a message.” Most other centers have patients follow similar procedures. CVS notes on its website that patients will follow instructions set up on-site, and others ask that patients call upon arrival. As a walk-in clinic, Central Piedmont Urgent Care brings patients inside to be tested, Galvan said. After registering them, she said staff would bring patients back, measure their vitals, go through their medical history and then administer the test. The center has two different tests for adults and children. While staff use long, nasal swabs for adults, Galvan said they used “little Q-tips” for babies and children. They do not test babies younger than six months. The entire appointment, she said, should take between 15 and 20 minutes but no longer than half an hour.

4. Most insured residents won't pay out of pocket for the tests, and only Chatham Hospital and Piedmont Health offer free tests to the uninsured without state or federal identification.

Most insurance companies cover the cost of a COVID-19 test, and those who bring their insurance cards won’t be responsible for any out-of-pocket costs. “If you are using insurance, you will be asked to provide an image of your insurance card and will need to verify your identity when you arrive for your test,” CVS Health’s Burke told the News + Record. Likewise, most, if not all, other testing centers will bill patients’ insurance for the test and require them to bring some form of identification. It’s a bit more complicated for uninsured residents. Thanks to federal coronavirus aid legislation, most uninsured patients won’t have to pay for a test. Congress allocated billions of dollars to reimburse providers who offered COVID-19 testing or treatment to uninsured residents. But according to CVS Health and Central Piedmont Urgent Care representatives, COVID-19 tests are only free for uninsured patients who present social security cards, drivers’ licenses or state IDs. “If you do not have insurance, we will submit the cost of your test to a COVID-19 program funded by the Department of Health and Human Services for the uninsured,” Burke said. “In accordance with the uninsured program rules, you will be asked to provide either a driver’s license, State ID or social security number.” Central Piedmont’s Galvan said they can’t accept passports or other forms of ID. Without a social security number, driver’s license or state ID, she said patients tested at Central Piedmont Urgent Care have to pay a service fee of \$120. On Sept. 1, that fee will go up to \$125. At Pine Ridge Urgent Care, Collins said uninsured patients would have to pay a \$100 self-pay rate for the test itself but other charges may be added on as part of the patient’s visit. Like-

wise, Avance Care charges uninsured patients for the COVID-19 test, but Kilgore said the amount varies. “It depends on whether you’re coming in or doing telehealth,” he said. “The test itself is around \$50, and then an office visit for self-pay is \$100 for telemedicine and \$150 for an in-office visit.” Only Piedmont Health clinics and Chatham Hospital offer uninsured residents free COVID-19 testing without requiring identification. “Whereas you pay a fee to see a doctor, for the testing there’s not a charge” for either insured or uninsured patients, Toomey said, adding that just over half of the clinic’s patients are uninsured. But if you have an insurance card and picture ID, bring both, Toomey said. “We will need to see what insurance people have or don’t have,” he said. “Your insurance really should pay before your tax dollars pay because your tax dollars should be the last resort and only resort, but if that is the only resort, then your tax dollars will pay.” Likewise, Chatham Hospital’s Hannapel said uninsured residents will not receive a bill for a COVID-19 test, but residents may face other charges if they elect to see the drive-thru’s on-site doctors or check into the Emergency Department. The hospital’s drive-thru testing center has doctors on site whom residents can see if “they are sicker than just needing a test,” Hannapel said, and if uninsured residents choose to see these providers, they would be charged as in any other doctor’s appointment. He also said patients will automatically incur a cost of care if they check into the Emergency Department, or ED. “You don’t need that if you’re just coming for testing,” he said. But if patients avoid the ED and don’t see on-site doctors, they will not be charged. Hannapel said the hospital does ask patients to bring some form of state or federal ID but will not deny free testing to those without it. “If you do not have it, we will still see you,” he said. “We will take people on their word. (We would like to) collect their social security number and provide it so that later on we can get reimbursed to HRSA and (the) federal government, but we will not deny people testing if they do not have a social security number.”

7. All Chatham testing centers say they follow CDC and state guidelines, and some say they won't turn anyone away.

All Chatham testing centers say they follow state and CDC testing criteria, which have since expanded to include a broader swath of people. Beyond essential workers and those exposed to the virus, people with or without symptoms can get tested if they belong to populations at higher risk of exposure or severe cases, like those from historically marginalized populations, protesters and individuals with underlying health conditions. “We always find the reason within those parameters to test because people have a right to know and right to be tested with all of the stuff that’s going on,” Chatham Hospital’s Hannapel said, adding, “We’re swabbing everybody because that’s the right thing to do.” Central Piedmont’s Galvan said they also swab people whose jobs require them to be tested. “(If) somebody just hasn’t had any symptoms, (was) not around anybody, and they just want to be swabbed because they want to be swabbed, we do that as well,” she said. Galvan and others also told the News + Record that they don’t share any health information with governmental agencies. “We don’t check documentation status,” the Health Department’s Zelek said. “That’s something important for our community to know. That’s not part of what we do. Our concern is to look out for the health of individuals, their families and our community, and that’s what public health does.” Galvan said they only alert the Health Department about new positive cases to allow them to reach out to people diagnosed with the virus. “Everything here is confidential,” she said. “Once you come in these doors, that’s it. Everything stays in between the four walls of this facility.”

ish-speaking employees, spokesperson Tara Burke said, but there’s one at a CVS in Durham.

6. The time it takes to receive your test results depends on the testing center you visit.

Since UNC Health took over testing from LabCorp, Chatham Hospital’s Hannapel said patients should get test results back between 24 and 72 hours. In North Carolina, three labs — Quest Diagnostics, LabCorp and the state lab — complete the majority of the testing, said Toomey, and when demand ramps up, the time it takes to turn around results increases. Misty Drake, Piedmont Health’s chief operating officer, said lately people tested in their clinics have been receiving their results in about three to five business days. Central Piedmont’s Galvan, Pine Ridge’s Collins and Avance Care’s Kilgore said patients should expect to receive their results in three to four days as of right now. People might also receive results the same day if they undergo Avance Care’s rapid antigen test, which Avance rolled out on Aug. 3.

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

Central Electric is awarding up to \$15,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to local educators in K-12 classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year.

The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 15, but don’t wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa® gift cards. For more information or to submit an application, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.

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WELCOME

Continued from page A1

to share more. The entire exchange lasted at least 15 minutes. “Well, I sure feel welcome,” Czerwinski said with a laugh, noting the serendipity of the moment. He got the Chatham Concierge experience, something the Welcome Center hopes to duplicate time and time again.

Main Street

Main Street Pittsboro and the welcome center are part of a federal program, implemented through state governments called Main Street America. Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 35 years. Today it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, which share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In North Carolina, the Main Street program is administered by N.C Dept. of Commerce. “The idea of ‘Main Streeting’ municipalities in Chatham County was something the Chatham County EDC first became interested in when Diane Reid was its president,” said former Pittsboro mayor Randy Voller, a Main Street board member. Pittsboro began its program in 2011 and was initially administered by the Town of Pittsboro through the Parks and Recreation department headed by former parks planner Paul Horne. At that time, the organization was mostly focused on administering facade grants for downtown properties. This is still a strong component of the agency’s mission: it has granted about 15 facade grants since its inception. Main Street Pittsboro has also helped make downtown more attractive by installing benches, garbage and recycling containers and increasing accessibility by installing handrails that featuring the birds of Pittsboro that help people navigate the stairs on both sides of Hillsboro Street. The agency has produced street banners and collaborated with the Pittsboro Business Association, the Chatham Historical Association and Abundance NC and to host downtown events. Main Street Pittsboro picked up new steam when a number of new board members joined, including Doug Emons (a board member of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation), Michael Fiocco (a Pittsboro town board commissioner) Landis (a Chatham Arts Council board member), business owners Greg Lewis and Maria Parker-Lewis, artist Kitty Meacham, Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass and former mayor Voller. County Commissioner Mike Dasher and a number of community members serve on advisory boards. Mayor Nass and

Kitty Meacham have since rotated off the board. The board is currently evaluating new board members to fill those seats. In March 2017 Main Street Pittsboro was officially incorporated. It achieved non-profit status in February 2018, which is something Voller said many of these organizations across the state do “in order to work with state, county and municipal governments, as an interlocutor, to administer grants and take in funding to improve the community.” The group also approached Chatham County to partner with Pittsboro for support. Voller recalls former county manager Renee Paschal meeting with leaders of the organization and informing them that they would need a “shovel ready” project that impacts the greater good of Chatham before making a request of the county board for funding. That’s when Voller broached the idea of a “Welcome Center” at 37 Hillsboro to the Main Street Pittsboro board, which aligned with the general concept that other board members had been discussing for quite some time.

The Concierge experience

To be fair, the title “Chatham Concierge” was conceived during an interview for this story. But the sentiment seems to fit, at least based on Czerwinski’s experience. When you enter the building, you will be greeted by Chatham County locals on the Welcome Center’s staff who have knowledge and experience of the town and county. “We want people who are extremely knowledgeable, with the inside scoop on Chatham County,” Fiocco said. “They can confirm information for people and maybe provide new insights.” This includes members from the Siler City Merchants Association who are teaming up for the effort. Parker-Lewis said the goal is to create a “comfortable place to relax and plan your trip.” One wall will host a giant screen which will “highlight” Chatham’s businesses and attractions, including some five-minute snippets that “share the Chatham experience” with guests. There will also be a “big illustrated map” on a magnetic white board that is being created by local artist and arts educator Stacye Leanza. Leanza lives just north of Pittsboro and is known for her drawing classes and illustrations of PepperFest. The map will include the main roads and physical features, but will include attractions to help visitors get oriented to the region. Main Street Pittsboro will also use magnets to highlight current happenings across the county. For example, if it’s the weekend of the Chicken Fest in Siler City, the map will have a magnet showing that special event, with all the information. “You may even find things you didn’t even know you’d be interested in,” Parker-Lewis said.

The building

Originally constructed in 1930 as a filling station and auto repair garage, the

building at 37 Hillsboro St. was at one point in the 1990s called Sweet Sixteen which was a diner and ice cream shop owned and run by the long-time Chathamite Frank Foushee. The property had been vacant for about a year after the Capital Bank moved to Siler City and was sold in March of 2020 by Emily Foushee, Frank Foushee’s widow, to ML & M Ventures LLC, a company owned by Orange County residents Mindy and Travis Kososki. That’s when Voller suggested the idea of securing a Welcome Center at 37 Hillsboro. The board agreed and began work in earnest to make the project a reality. Last year, both the county and Pittsboro provided funds for the project with the backing of numerous organizations and private donors including the building’s owner. The original goal was to strip the outer facade in the hope that brick was underneath to coordinate with other nearby buildings. But when the facade came off and revealed several large areas of cinder block, a new course of action had to be undertaken. Kerry Finley, the lead architect for the Mosaic project on Russett Run, agreed to help Main Street Pittsboro design a new exterior, resulting in the use of both original brick and a painted brick red exterior. The Welcome Center will also be the office of Main Street Pittsboro, something Parker-Lewis said will allow residents to “get to know us” and for the organization to “hear from the residents.” The space has two other offices that the group hopes one day soon will be the Pittsboro home to the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau and/or similarly aligned entities to help promote the county. Until that time, the unoccupied offices may be used to highlight the works of local artists from throughout the county as well as businesses. The group is also considering installing a kind of audio recording station, where Chatham County residents can share their Chatham story. This would be similar to NPR’s “StoryCorps” And it would be available for use for volunteers during special events such as Local on Main, PepperFest, the Street Fair and Holiday events. “That’s why we call it a welcome center and not a visitors center,” Parker-Lewis said. “It’s for residents of the community, to build the community.”

And then there’s the mural

A new mural actually spans two different buildings, one north facing and the other east. Fiocco noted that the east-facing portion is owned by Eddie Thomas who agreed to let Main Street Pittsboro include his wall in the project, for which all members voiced gratitude. The Main Street Pittsboro Design sub-committee sent out requests for



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The mural by Micheal Brown features things uniquely Chatham. Here we see a tiger, an American Bald Eagle and a sailboat on Jordan Lake.

concepts from muralists this spring. The committee unanimously chose Micheal Brown, an acclaimed regional muralist. Fiocco noted that from the beginning Brown’s initial concept captured what the committee was thinking, saying, “it was obvious.” The design sub-committee wanted content that reflects Chatham’s unique flora and fauna and the county’s agricultural present and past. With the help of Chatham Agricultural Extension Debbie Roos, the sub-committee pulled together very specific elements to be included in the mural. There is a Chatham rabbit, a delightful cow, a sweet horse, an angry chicken with an inquisitive rooster, with a plump pig looking over them all. But there’s also a tiger, a heron, a butterfly and more. Both Jordan Lake and the Haw River are featured, with a sail boat and kayaks to boot. The organization is also in the midst of designing an outdoor patio in the shade of the mural. Landis said she hopes people use the mural as a backdrop for pictures, sharing their own Chatham stories and posting to social media to help promote downtown and Chatham County as a destination for day trippers and people passing through which in turn will help local businesses. Parker-Lewis hopes the Welcome Center will be ready for its grand opening this fall, but with COVID, the organization is trying to be flexible. With or without a “grand opening” celebration, the Welcome Center may soon be providing a respite for travelers and residents alike.

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

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AS MORE PEOPLE MOVE
TO THE SUBURBS

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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Chatham County Senior Games wrap up with socially distanced celebrations

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The venue was smaller. The conversations came through car windows. And the announcements were broadcast on an empty radio frequency, 88.3 FM, so those parked at the back of the Eastern Chatham Senior Center lot on Thursday could hear them.

But it was still a safe, in-person and socially distanced ceremony — and for that, Liz Lahti, the head coordinator of the Chatham County Senior Games, was proud.

“We wanted to have your back,” she told an audience of participants, who sat facing her in Hondas and Hyundais and Buicks. “You trusted us and did your part, and here we are today.”

And a slew of elderly athletes and artists, who in any other year would have competed and caught up in-person, honked their horns back in celebration.

The event marked the end of a months-long adjustment period by the Chatham County Council on Aging, which puts on the local games with the help of sponsors.

The organization canceled in-person events, including all athletics, on May 1, and held its first ever online SilverArts contest in the month of June. And after weeks of preparation, it captured some semblance of normalcy with drive-by events at both its Western Center in Siler City (on July 22) and East-

ern Center in Pittsboro (last Thursday).

At the latter of the two events, around 35 cars (and about 50 total participants) were on scene. They heard from Lahti and other speakers, who announced the winners of the SilverArts competitions, and picked up gift packages consisting of a Senior Games-branded T-shirt, water bottle and facemask.

“It’s about fun and fellowship, and I can still feel that fellowship even though we’re farther away than we’d usually be,” Dennis Streets, the Council on Aging’s executive director, told the crowd.

The Senior Games added a “Honoring Frontline Heroes: We’ve Got Your Back” theme to the 2020 ceremonies, applauding the Pittsboro police officers and Chatham County sheriff’s deputies who helped with logistics and parking. Jeff Strickler, the president of Chatham Hospital, also spoke at the event.

“Our focus is on wellness,” Strickler said, “and I can’t think of anything that represents wellness more than the Senior Games and SilverArts.”

After a recognition of sponsors, the morning transitioned to its most suspenseful segment. Don Lein, a Senior Games steering committee member, and Neriah Edwards-Boone, a Council on Aging board member, split duties in announcing winners

See **GAMES**, page B2



Speakers at the Chatham County Senior Games’ second drive-by event included Dennis Streets, the Chatham Council on Aging’s executive director, left, and Liz Lahti, the head coordinator of the games and the Eastern Chatham Senior Center manager.



Staff photos by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Around 35 cars of participants came to the Chatham County Senior Games drive-by celebration at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro on July 30.

After J-M, UNC and NFL careers, Siler City’s Eddie Mason gives back through training

Eddie Mason, 48, grew up in Siler City and played four years of varsity football for Jordan-Matthew High from 1986 to 1990.

Submitted photo



BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Eddie Mason was more of a bookworm. But there he was, on the practice field at Jordan-Matthews in the summer of 1986, about to take his first handoff as a high school running back.

“And I got my bell rung,” Mason said. “I mean, seriously. I was like, ‘Dude, I don’t want no parts of this.’”

Dazed from the hit, he looked up and locked eyes with Phil Senter, the Jets’ head coach.

Just days earlier, Mason, a rising freshman, had been riding his bike around town when Senter saw him and convinced him to try out for the football team. Mason’s older brother, Bucky, was a star for Jordan-Matthews. But his younger brother had but a year of youth ball experience.

On his first carry, it showed. And Mason felt ready to quit, right then and there, until Senter approached.

“Eddie, listen,” Senter said. “When you get knocked down, get back up. Get back up.”

“He gave me the next play, a toss to the right, and I took it to the house” Mason recalled. “It was one of those situations where I didn’t look back.”

Get knocked down. Get back up. Mason found that to be a common theme as his football career progressed from Jordan-Matthews to the University of North Carolina to the NFL, where he played five

years and 80 games as a linebacker, primarily on special teams.

He wouldn’t change his path, though, because it brought him to where he is today: happily married with three children, strong in his Christian faith and the owner of MASE Training, a gym in northern Virginia that works out professionals, high schoolers and everyone in between.

“You know the saying,” he said. “You may not win the battle, but you can always win the war if you just keep fighting.”

A Siler City native, Mason grew up baling hay, chopping wood and tilling gardens for his grandfather, Walter Cheek, whom he called “his greatest motivation” to this day.

The chores were a pain then, but Mason later realized they helped him get a boost on strength training: his arms, legs and back got an unintentional workout almost daily.

Although he swears he could have been a better running back, and he also gave defensive back a try, Mason found his niche playing linebacker at Jordan-Matthews. At a lean yet stocky 6 feet and 220 pounds, he earned a reputation for his big hits and a slew of all-conference and all-state honors.

He also caught the eye of UNC coach Mack Brown and defensive coordinator Carl Torbush. So Mason moved a county north in 1990 to play for the Tar Heels. He enjoyed football, but he didn’t see

it as the end goal — as a sociology major, he strived to serve as a Navy SEAL and later work for the CIA or FBI.

“I had no desire to go play pro,” Mason said. “That was not on my radar.”

He kept that plan in mind through his time at UNC, as he redshirted, spent two years as a reserve and started as a junior and senior in a hybrid linebacker/safety position for the Tar Heels. But his final game for UNC — the 1994 Sun Bowl — gave him a timely boost.

In a 35-31 loss to Texas, Mason finished with eight tackles, an interception and two pass break-ups. Four months later, the Jets drafted him 178th overall in the 1995 NFL Draft.

“God did that, man,” Mason said. “Honestly. How do you go from being a special teams guy to having a pretty good senior campaign and then get drafted in the sixth round? That’s stuff out of a movie.”

He logged 25 tackles as a rookie, all on kickoff and punt coverage, and was named the Jets’ special teams MVP. But a season-ending injury in 1996 training camp sent him on a three-year drought — he was teaching fourth graders at Windsor Park Elementary in Charlotte when the Jacksonville Jaguars called in 1998.

Mason spent his last four years, all productive, with the Washington

See **MASON**, page B2

A CHARGER IN THE BIG LEAGUES

Northwood’s Austin Brice logs his first MLB start for Red Sox

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

After 110 appearances in relief over five seasons, Northwood alum Austin Brice checked a major box off his baseball resume Sunday. And it came on a national stage.

Brice logged his first career start for the Boston Red Sox in a 7 p.m. game broadcast on ESPN.

In a 5-1 loss to the New York Yankees, Boston’s longtime rival, he pitched a scoreless first inning, striking out three batters and walking two on 29 pitches. It was a long time coming for the former Charger.

Brice, drafted as an 18-year-old by then-Florida Marlins in the ninth round of the 2010 MLB Draft, spent six years in the team’s farm system before debuting in 2016.

By virtue of his father’s frequent construction work, which moved the Brice frequently, that made him the first Hong Kong-born player to play in the MLB.

A 6-foot-4 righty, he spent his next four years working out of the bullpen for the Marlins and Cincinnati Reds. Last season, playing with Miami, Brice set career bests in appearances (36), innings pitched (44.2), strikeouts (46) and earned run average (3.43).

In January, Brice was traded to the Red Sox — and quickly caught on at spring training in Florida.

“I found my groove early this spring,” Brice told the News + Record in April. “We were less than two weeks away from packing our bags and heading to Boston when everything got shut down by the coronavirus outbreak.”



Brice Hemmelgarn/MLB Photos

Austin Brice, a 2010 Northwood High graduate, now pitches for the MLB’s Boston Red Sox.

The delay had a silver lining: for the first time since his senior year at Northwood, Brice spent the spring at home with family in Chatham County. He and his wife Krystin have a 4-year-old son, Bear, and their daughter, Noa, was born in April.

After the MLB and its players’ union negotiated a restart date, Brice, 28, reported to a second training camp July 1 and began playing late last month. He’s appeared in five games for the Red Sox (3-7 as of Tuesday afternoon) and logged a 6.35 ERA across 5.2 innings.

And on Sunday, 10 years after he was drafted out of Northwood, he became an MLB starting pitcher.

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@chapelfowler](https://twitter.com/chapelfowler).

MUDDOGS THRIVE AS UNDERDOGS

Deep River makes a run to summer baseball championship series

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

Playing outside their usual home stadium and in a season like no other, the Deep River Muddogs came up two games short of a championship last weekend.

The Muddogs, who usually play in Ram-seur but moved to High Point this season, won three straight elimination games in the 2020 Old North State League playoffs before falling to the Guilford Lumberkings in a best-of-three title series Thursday and Friday.

Deep River, the No. 6 seed in the league's aptly named "You Can Go Home Now Cup," entered the playoffs 10-16 before ripping off three straight wins against the Carolina Coyotes (8 to 3), Mocksville Muscadines (8 to 5) and the Swepsonville Sweepers (14 to 2).

But the Muddogs, who adopted the nickname Underdogs as last week's tournament played out, ran into a buzzsaw in the No. 1 seed Lumberkings. Guilford won the first game, 11-5, and eked out a 2-1 win in the second and deciding game to secure the championship on July 31.

"Special group of guys," Muddogs coach Riley Nelson tweeted after the game. "Proud to have grown with y'all this summer!"

Nelson, an assistant coach at Guilford Tech Community College, added in a follow-up tweet



Submitted photo

The Deep River Muddogs finished as runner-ups in the Old North State League's 2020 You Can Go Home Now Cup.

that the Old North State League "proved sports (baseball) can be playing during this 'pandemic' with ZERO issues."

Reggie Allred, who owns The Factory, a baseball facility in Siler City, has run the eight-team league as commissioner along with his son, Alec, since 2018.

The ONSL began its third season in June, adhering to a normal schedule with coronavirus-related restrictions such as no high fives after games. And each of the eight stadiums allowed either no fans or reduced-capacity

seating only.

The Muddogs, who played at the Truist Point stadium in High Point, featured two locals on their roster: former Chatham Central pitcher Caleb Staley and former Jordan-Matthews pitcher Kevin Cano Ramirez (both profiled in last week's News + Record).

Deep River's Cort Maynard, a former Guilford Tech player headed to N.C. Central, was also named the 2020 ONSL Player of the Year on Friday. He hit .425 with 20 runs batted in,

10 doubles, two triples and three homers, in 80 at-bats.

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GAMES

Continued from page B1

across the 19 SilverArts competitions.

Lahti said 70 people had voted online for the contest via Google Form in the month of June, awarding gold, silver and bronze medals along with a separate "crowd-pleaser" award to entries in everything from crocheting to poems to oil paintings to needlework.

As Lein and Edwards-Boone announced medalists across the heritage, literary, performing and visual arts categories, winners physically present in the parking lot honked and flashed their lights while the Chatham Charmers, a senior cheerleading group, waved purple pom-poms.

'I can still feel that fellowship.'

DENNIS STREETS, executive director of the Chatham County Council on Aging

After the hour-long event, cars filed out of the lot, one by one, and picked up any medals they'd won (along with the aforementioned gift packages) from a pop-up tent.

But before the riders disbanded from the official end of an ever-evolving and ultimately salvaged 2020 games, Lahti had one more message for Chatham County's seniors.

"Thank you, stay safe and see you at the games next year," she said.

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@chapelfowler](https://twitter.com/chapelfowler).

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MASON

Continued from page B1

football team, formerly known as the Redskins, in an area he now calls home. He retired in 2003 and established MASE Training in Sterling, Virginia, the same year.

Workdays begin at 6 a.m. — Mason's always up by 5 a.m., if not earlier — and before coronavirus-induced restrictions, he and his staff would work out 20 to 25 people an hour. A guided tour, conducted by Mason over Zoom, reveals saunas and squat racks and high-speed treadmills and weights galore.

"This right here is where I'd put you through the ringer," he said with a laugh, turning his iPhone

camera to 50 yards' worth of indoor turf tucked into one of the corners.

MASE Training, which Mason runs with Sonya, his wife of 23 years, is his way to give back to the same the football community that invested so much — in good times and bad, as he's quick to note.

Senter, his coach at Jordan-Matthews, didn't give up on Mason through his various high school slip-ups. Brown, his coach at UNC who recently described Mason as "like an adopted son," taught him etiquette and relationship tips in the 1990s he still uses today.

And so many others, he said, have helped along the way — like former NFL coach Tony Dungy, who spoke with Mason during "a very bad time in my life"

'You can always win the war if you just keep fighting.'

EDDIE MASON, former Jordan-Matthews line-backer

and later endorsed Mason's 2015 book, "Training for the Tough Game of Life."

"As much as so many coaches and people have poured into me, I would be far remiss if I didn't pour into that same community," Mason said. "You feel not an obligation but a calling to do it."

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@chapelfowler](https://twitter.com/chapelfowler).

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

'We screeched to a halt'

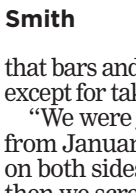
The Mod restaurant focuses on recovery during COVID-19 pandemic

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

As co-owner mother-and-son team Claudia and Dylan Perry watch restaurants in and around Pittsboro close due to the economic downturn caused by the restrictions brought by the coronavirus, they can't help but wonder if they might be next.



Perry



Smith

Like many in the industry, their restaurant, The Modern Life Deli & Drink — nicknamed "The Mod" — and the newly added the Other Side, temporarily closed after Gov. Roy Cooper announced March 17 that bars and restaurants would close except for takeout and delivery orders.

"We were just kicking butt, I mean from January we had killer months on both sides," Claudia said. "And then we screeched to a halt."

After being closed for about two weeks, the restaurant opened for takeout orders. At the end of May, both the Mod and the Other Side — two different spaces connected by their kitchen and the same menu — reopened for indoor and outdoor seating at half capacity. The restaurant, known for its deli selection, wood-fired pizza and large selection of craft beer, was hit especially hard financially during April and May.

The community has been very supportive, Dylan and Claudia said, but with the already thin profit margins typical of a restaurant, the health restrictions and public caution in going out certainly haven't helped with profitability.

"We'll see how things go with more regulations to follow," Dylan said, referencing Gov. Cooper's announcement last Tuesday that alcohol sales would be prohibited in bars and restaurants after 11 p.m., in an effort to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

For The Other Side, which opened in October last year as a bar but has recently added food to their menu, this likely means making less money — Dylan said late night food and drink sales on Fridays and Saturdays have helped make up for the restaurant's slower days of the week.

"It's been a pretty tough business to be in," he said. "We'll see what happens the next couple of months...these last few definitely

haven't been what I thought."

'Living his dream'

The Mod was started in 2016, in what Claudia describes as "a pretty quick turnaround." Her husband, Rick, who is also a co-owner of the restaurant, had always wanted to open up a restaurant or bar. So when Dylan mentioned the idea — a little over a year after Claudia retired as a nurse at UNC Hospitals — it seemed like a good opportunity for the family. Even if she did think her son was a little out of his mind at first.

"Yeah, I'm living his dream," Claudia said. "It's a lot more I think than we ever realized — but I like people. And that's really truly one of the best things about this is you do get to meet a lot of different people, find some really good friends and it's just a supportive community."

Though finances over the last few months have been stressful, Claudia said she's been thankful for the chance to slow down — a slight point of contention between her and her son, who is eager to find creative ways to be open and make money.

Always closed on Mondays for cleaning and paperwork days, the team decided to close on Sundays too. There just wasn't enough business after lunch hours for staying open to be worth it.

Claudia said some normally steady costs went down when they were doing takeout, like the water and electricity bill. And, she was able to spend more time with her grandchildren with the extra time too, which didn't hurt.

"The silver lining for me is I think people are really going to be able to have more flexibility — companies are going to get to see that people don't have to come in, they can work from home sometimes," she said. "I'm sure hoping there are a lot of good things, too, about staying at home."

'People really cared'

For Tequilla Smith, who lives in Pittsboro and has worked at the Mod for nearly five years, working during a pandemic has been a big adjustment.

To start with, it's not as busy as usual, and like Dylan and Claudia, she misses the regulars — many older people — who have stopped going out to eat in an effort to limit their exposure to the virus. She wears a mask for the duration of her shift and has to remind herself she can't hug anyone right now. (Sometimes she gives elbow bumps or blows air kisses to make up for it). Other parts of the job, like sanitation rules, haven't changed much, as most

Hours at The Mod and The Other Side:

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• Sunday and Monday: CLOSED

THE OTHER SIDE

• Tuesday - Saturday: 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

• Sunday and Monday: CLOSED

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of the practices were already a regular part of her duties.

"It's risky — it's very risky because we deal with a lot of the public and the scary thing is we don't know who actually has it because not everyone shows symptoms," she said. "It's a good thing I'm able to work, but it's also a scary thing that I have to work because you just never know."

Tequilla tries to take as many precautions as possible to prevent getting sick — she has Multiple Sclerosis and a daughter at home to worry about in regards to the virus.

"I don't want to go home and take it to her I don't want to do it and then I get hospitalized, because that's that what that's what would happen to me if I had it," she said.

Dylan said owning a restaurant right now is all about finding the balance in making smart health and business decisions. He hopes in upcoming months they'll be able to safely bring back live music to the Other Side, and maybe get back to hosting (socially-distanced) events.

Even as there are more tough decisions likely to be made down the road, he said the support from locals has meant so much to him and the team — affectionately dubbed "The Mod Squad." Just the other night, he said, one woman gave him \$50 after ordering a drink and mentioned she knew the restaurant was likely struggling.

When revenue was dwindling in May and Claudia realized takeout would not keep the restaurant afloat, prior to their reopening, it was the generosity of the community that kept her going.

"I just can't say enough good things about that people really cared and wanted to make sure we were okay," she said.

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

Chatham Food Hub to boost local families and businesses

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — This summer, the Chatham Food Hub will take mealtime to a new level, allowing families to pre-order delicious food from their favorite local businesses and pick it up at one location.

The Food Hub, which is comparable to a drive-through food court, has set up at Bray Park in Siler City and will operate every week beginning this week.

"The Chatham Food Hub is a one-stop shop to safely buy food from multiple local businesses that the community knows and loves," said Neha Shah, the director of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It's a win-win for so many hard-working people in our community as the purchases will support the local economy and create jobs for Chatham County residents."

How the Chatham Food Hub works

Businesses add special family-size meals and farm-fresh produce to the weekly Food Hub menu. CORA Food Pantry also provides up to 50 free emergency food boxes each week.

Residents order menu items online at toasttab.com/chathamfoodhub/v3. Items from multiple businesses may be ordered at once. Orders must be placed each Friday before midnight for pickup the following Wednesday. Businesses prepare and bring orders to Bray Park in Siler City every Wednesday.

Customers may drive or walk to Bray Park to get their order between 4 and 7 p.m. Drivers can stay in their car for pickup, as

local employees hand out orders while following COVID-19 safety precautions.

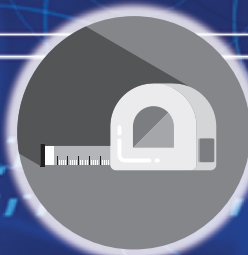
Families enjoy local food, and businesses enjoy more sales and job opportunities.

"After months of stay-at-home orders and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, my hope is that the Chatham Food Hub will provide a fun, safe way for people to support local business and enjoy a good meal," said Eleanor Wertman, the UNC Health Alliance Program Manager for Community Health. "We are excited that this effort will help feed Chatham County families and at the same time give local restaurants, farmers and caterers an economic lift."

"I am thrilled that our efforts over the past several weeks will allow the Chatham community to support these wonderful vendors and offer them new revenue streams during this uncertain time," said Hilary Pollan, a community partners analyst for Chatham County. "We hope that the Food Hub will help families experiencing food insecurity through free food boxes available from CORA and meals sponsored by local churches and organizations."

The Chatham Food Hub is made possible by a collaboration of more than a dozen local organizations and non-profits. More information about the Chatham Food Hub, including participating local vendors, can be found at visitpittsboro.com/location/chatham-food-hub or on Facebook: @chathamfoodhub. Vendors interested in participating may contact the Food Hub coordination team at chathamfoodhub@gmail.com.

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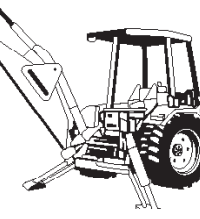


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Election workers, in short supply, safeguard democracy

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

Lynette Bagwell has worked at the polls during early voting and on election day in her home precinct in Bynum for more than a decade.

“It’s so important that we have honest elections,” Bagwell said. “It takes a lot of people to make that happen.”

Every year, the Chatham County Board of Elections holds recruitment campaigns to get local residents to help with its elections. In the age of COVID, many local elections offices are having a difficult time securing poll workers. The average age of a poll worker is in their 60s, an age group that is particularly vulnerable to the virus. Pandora Paschal, the executive director of the Chatham County Board of Elections, said her team had made a significant recruiting effort last year. In addition, she notes that the N.C. Board of Elections program “Democracy Heroes,” another recruitment project, has also helped.

But the county is still looking for workers.

For each election, poll workers greet voters at the door, check in voters on a computer, provide voters with the correct ballot, show them to a secure place to mark their ballot and stand at the ballot box to make sure the voter feels comfortable that their ballot is counted.

When Bagwell worked her first election, she described “huge books” that were used to check in voters. Poll workers had to find each voters name, confirm their address and have the voter sign in the book.

“It was crazy because everything was handwritten,” Bagwell said.

But the process has evolved since then.

“Then we had stickers and now we have computers,” Bagwell said. “Now it’s just really awesome for a poll worker. It’s so much more streamlined. It’s awesome.”

The next generation of poll worker

As elections become more dependent on computers, election offices have been trying to recruit the next generation of poll workers.

“Elections have gotten more technical,” Paschal said. “Younger poll workers, having grown up with technology their entire lives, can bring a different skill set to share with poll workers who have been doing it for years.”

For Chance Mashburn, his start with the Chatham County Board of Elections started with a discussion with a professor during his time at Guilford College. Mashburn is a Chatham County native who graduated in 2018 with a political science degree. After graduation, he began seeking out ways to serve his community. He saw on the county’s website that they were seeking poll workers and thought that a “great way to represent our county and serve our community was to be a poll worker.”

“It taught me that there’s a lot more that went into elections that I could have imagined,” Mashburn said. “And the hard work to put it together gave me enjoyment and the feeling of accomplishment of doing an important role.”

But for Mashburn, working during elections opened another door. Several months after the election was over, there was a job opening at the Chatham County Board of Elections. Mashburn applied and partially because of his experience as a poll worker, he was hired as a Chatham County Election Specialist.

“I would encourage younger voters to get the chance or opportunity to learn more about the election process,” Mashburn said. “They are truly wonderful people and working in the elections can open the door to a variety of opportunities and even careers serving our community.”

“But more importantly,” he said, “you get to be part of this democratic process of elections that as American we hold dear.”

For both Bagwell and Mashburn, working during elections boils down to a sense of duty and civic pride.

“It’s necessary for people to get involved because the poll workers are the front line to help people vote on election day,” Bagwell said. “It’s a community thing. I don’t know anyone who doesn’t aspire to do something good for their community.”

Poll workers are often asked to work in their own precinct. Bagwell said it’s a great way “to work with your neighbors.” She believes it puts voters at ease when they come into the precinct and “see people they know” and a “diverse group of people working together.” Poll workers are recruited from all political affiliations in order to create a non-partisan voting experience. Paschal said she tries to “have equal balance with the parties” when staffing polling sites.

“When they walk through those doors, it’s non-partisan,” Bagwell said. “It’s stripped when you walk in and we treat everybody the same. In my opinion, our main purpose is to make sure that the voter has a good and honest voting experience. We want everyone to have a good experience. That is my objective

when I walk in the polls during early voting.”

How do you apply to be a poll worker?

To be a poll worker, all an interested resident has to do is go to the Chatham County Board of Elections website and fill out a form. Those who work during early voting receive an hourly wage of \$12.50 and hour while those who work on election day have a range of daily rates depending on the individuals role. This may be an opportunity for someone who is currently out of work due to the pandemic as Gov. Roy Cooper announced that working during the elections will not change that person’s unemployment eligibility or benefits.

Poll workers are provided free training to ensure they know all the ins and outs of the voting process as well as have familiarity with the voting equipment. Mashburn recalled his training saying he wasn’t sure at first how he would be treated because he didn’t see anyone his age, but he said he fit right in of this group of all ages and shared a connection with them.

“They were all excited to see a young person, to see someone new getting into the process, and welcomed and shared their knowledge with me,” Mashburn said.

Mashburn and Bagwell each strongly urged residents to get involved in working during the elections.

“Elections are what we live by,” Bagwell said. “We gotta have them and we need people to make that happen. It’s just so important. Poll workers are the gateway to democracy.”

For more information on becoming a poll worker, contact the Chatham County Board of Elections at elections@chathamnr.org or by phone at 919-545-8500.

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

DMV adjusts road test waiver requirements for drivers 18 and over

RALEIGH — The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles is providing clarification for road test waiver requirements to help drivers better understand if they meet the criteria for issuance of a driving privilege under the recent emergency rule.

To qualify for the road test waiver, drivers 18 and older MUST have:

- Passed the N.C. Driver’s Education course consisting of 30 classroom and six “behind the wheel” hours within the previous 12 months, participated in the N.C. Graduated Licensing Program (having a Level 1 Limited Learner Permit, or a Level 2 Limited Provisional

License that has not been expired for more than one year); and not have been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation, seat belt infraction or unlawful use of a mobile phone. Details on the Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications and requirements are on the NCDMV website.

- Hold a N.C. Learners Permit for at least 90 days and successfully completed a driving log (the log is available on the NCDMV website), demonstrating 60 hours of behind the wheel driving. The log must show 10 hours of the required driving occurred during nighttime hours. The log must be signed by a supervised driver with a valid license of the same class license or higher, and it must be submitted to the division at the time the driver seeks to obtain a license. The driver

must not have been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation, seat belt infraction or unlawful use of a mobile phone.

Other people 18 and older who qualify include those who:

- Previously held a North Carolina driver’s license that has not been expired more than one renewal cycle. The individual’s driving privilege must have been in good standing at the time of expiration.
- For drivers who are 18-65 years old, the driver license must not have expired more than eight years.
- For drivers who are 66 or older, the driver license must not have expired more than five years.
- Are from any other state, district or territory that has North Carolina driver license reciprocity. They must provide their most re-

cent license and a certified five-year driving record.

These drivers must have an appointment at a license office, which can be made online on the NCDMV website. Once on the website, select “Driver License – First Time” as the type of appointment, then pick an office and select a date and time.

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 the documentation that verifies eligibility of the qualifications above. Also, per Gov. Cooper’s executive order, all customers must wear a facial covering or mask, and they are also subject to pre-screening health questions.

Drivers who qualify for the waiv-

er 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.

The waivers announced July 20 are allowed under emergency administrative rules language that states “during a pandemic where an executive order is in place, the requirement of a road test may be waived if previous driver training and/or safe driving records can be established.”

This waiver process 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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ELECTION SECURITY

Protect the vote: Listen to first responders battling for fair and accurate elections

BY BUCK RYAN
Special to the News + Record Staff

Are you worried about the integrity of Election 2020?



Powell

You're not alone. Whether it be cybersecurity or misinformation and disinformation or crisis communications, your public election officials are facing battles on multiple fronts to ensure fair and accurate vote counts.

Journalists are being warned not to expect to call winners on Election Night, Nov. 3, as they might do for a typical election. The pandemic has turned everything upside down.

According to the NC Watchdog Reporting Network, county boards of election, the state elections board and the General Assembly are working together to deal with "one of the most

difficult elections, administratively speaking, this state has ever seen."

Facing a shortage of poll workers, the county boards of election are scrambling to find registered voters to work the polls for the 17 days of early voting in October and on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Next week you can tune in to listen to how North Carolina officials are preparing to protect the integrity of the elections.

The virtual workshop, organized by the USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative with funding from Google, will be held on Zoom from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The session is for candidates and their campaigns, for state and local election officials, and for you, the voter.

The non-partisan, independent initiative is rolling through all 50 states, and the one for North Carolina will be the 39th workshop for executive director Adam Clayton Powell III and his team from the University of Southern California.

"Our candidate is Democracy," Powell said, echoing a line that came out of the original brainstorming for the initiative with managers of national campaigns.

"We don't really have a national election," he added. "We have on the order of 10,000 local elections, and then we add up the numbers."

Among the confirmed speakers, in addition to USC's national experts, is Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of North Carolina's State Board of Elections.

At a previous workshop, on the topic of cybersecurity, Powell showed a video from a late-night talk show host noting that the most popular password in America is "password123."

Citizen-on-the-street interviews revealed how willing people were to give up their passwords. One security tip was to use "pass-phrases," not words, such as "North-CarolinaIsGr8!"

The arrest in Tampa, Florida, of a 17-year-old "mastermind" in

the hacking of Twitter accounts of dozens of high-profile figures, including presidential candidate Joe Biden and former President Barack Obama, in a cryptocurrency fraud scam should be a wakeup call to everyone, Powell said.

Using two-factor or multi-factor authentication to secure accounts is highly recommended by Powell's team to guard against phishing attacks or malware attacks.

"My primary concern is actually not about cybersecurity," said Don Blevins Jr., the chief election official of Fayette County in Kentucky, which saw the fourth workshop of the 36 to date. (Workshops in Rhode Island (Aug. 4) and New Mexico (Aug. 6) will occur before North Carolina's workshop.) "My primary concern is that the public will lose confidence in elections through misinformation or other types of activities that might lead them to believe their vote doesn't count or that the election is rigged... I think that is a far greater

challenge we need to watch for."

In a session on crisis communication for campaigns, Powell said, "Get to know the people who are going to cover you when the bad thing happens before the bad thing happens. Someone said, 'Oh, I don't know, I don't think I trust the media.' It doesn't matter. You better get to know them, or you'll start out way behind."

The USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative offers resources to campaigns, election workers, elected officials, university scholars, news media and interested citizens. For more information, visit www.electionsecurity.usc.edu.

Buck Ryan, director of the Citizen Kentucky Project on civic engagement, is an associate professor in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky. He is conducting a case study of the Chatham News + Record, which he views as a model of success for community newspapers here and abroad.

Zoom into Aug. 11 election workshop

You can listen to how North Carolina officials are preparing to protect the integrity of the November elections in a virtual workshop from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11. Here's the link to sign up for the free event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/usc-election-cybersecurity-initiative-north-carolina-workshop-registration->

Zinnias, a favorite of summer weather

Zinnias are one of my favorite annuals, and a true herald



DOLLY R. SICKLES
The Optimistic Gardener

of hot, summer weather. Last summer my front garden bed was full of zinnias, but this year I skipped them in lieu of

lantana. Still lovely, still annual, but presenting a different wow factor.

schedule (and pocketbook) for one.

Fortunately, I put on my smarticles and reached out to Maggie Zwilling, who is a goddess among Mother Nature enthusiasts. Maggie is a perennial fan of this annual crowd pleaser that's adaptable to most soil conditions, prefers full sun and is deer-resistant.

"I'm not a tidy gardener," Maggie told me, "nor do I care if colors don't match."

If you know Maggie, then you know she does not take any crap from anybody ... or, as it seems, any flower. You also know she's got great taste and

an artistic eye. "I've been planting zinnias for a few years," she said. "I always throw a few seeds between my perennials and mark the area with plant markers."

Zinnias make great companion plants, which means they play nicely with others. Zinnias grow to be about eight to 12 inches tall, and fill in the space above lower plants with attractive height and a burst of color.

"If they grow too close to the perennials," she said, "I just thin them out."

Because she has a lush bounty of established perennials, Maggie's garden beds are always ready. "I usually

throw out some fertilizer in the spring and again a little later — even into the fall," she said. "But I don't think you have to throw out fertilizer just for the zinnias. They can take a lot of abuse. Trust me, I know!"

If you're an enterprising and patient gardener, you can harvest seeds for the following year. "Zinnias are great for reseeding themselves," she said, but if you're going to harvest them yourself, "make sure they're good and dry. Take a seed head and crumble it into your hand; if the seeds separate easily, they're good enough to store. I store mine in an envelope in a cool, dry

place."

Pay attention as the second half of the summer comes into focus, because the zinnias are in their element, waving their jazz hands and attracting all the right bugs.

"One of the reasons I love growing zinnias is because I love the wonderful colors and varieties they come in," Maggie told me. "When they're in full bloom there's nothing better than just watching the butterflies and moths fluttering around going from flower to flower."

What's flowering in your garden now? What are your favorite annuals?



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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Javier Jasso, 35, of Durham, was charged July 28 for assault on a female. Jasso was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and jailed on a domestic violence 48-hour hold with a Aug. 19 court date in Pittsboro. Jasso was also charged July 28 for assault on a female and assault inflicting serious injury with minor present. Jasso was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and jailed on a domestic violence 48-hour hold with a Aug. 19 court date in Pittsboro.

Brandon Sercy, 24, of Pittsboro, was charged July 28 for assault by strangulation. Sercy was jailed on a domestic violence 48-hour hold with a Aug. 12 court date in Pittsboro.

Christian Perez-Perez, 28, of Chapel Hill, was

charged July 28 for assault on a female. Perez-Perez was jailed on a domestic violence 48-hour hold with a Aug. 19 court date in Pittsboro.

Melva Cleary, 49, of Siler City, was charged July 28 for assault and battery. Cleary was jailed on a \$10,000 secured bond with Aug. 25 court date in Pittsboro.

Az'Hia Hackney, 22, of Staley, was charged July 29 for possess marijuana paraphernalia and simple possess Schedule VI controlled substance. Hackney was issued a written promise with a Aug. 12 court date in Pittsboro.

Brandon Hill, 27, of Siler City, was charged July 29 for assault on a female and communicating threats. Hill was jailed on a domestic violence 48-hour hold with a Aug. 12 court date in Pitts-

boro.

Melva Cleary, 49, of Siler City, was charged by July 29 for violation of conditions of release order. Cleary was jailed on a \$20,000 secured bond with a Aug. 18 court date in Pittsboro.

Tommy Joyce, 37, of Siler City, was charged July 29 for failure to appear. Joyce was jailed on a \$1,000 secured bond with Aug. 12 court date in Asheboro.

Carolyn Degraffenreidt, 69, of Goldston, was charged July 29 for larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. Degraffenreidt was issued a written promise with a Aug. 3 court date in Asheboro.

Christian Perez-Perez, 28, of Chapel Hill, was charged July 29 for failure to appear. Perez-Perez was jailed on a \$15,000 secured bond with a Aug. 24 court date in Pittsboro.

date in Asheboro.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Caleb McLaurin of Siler City was cited July 28 for failure to maintain lane

on SR 1346 near Pittsboro.

Daniel Lizana of Sanford was cited July 31 for exceeding posted speed/failure to maintain lane control on SR 1636 near Pittsboro.



Submitted photos

Moving on up

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office salutes two outstanding employees, Sgt. Amy Marris and Sgt. Ashley Ellington, for their commitment to serving residents with honor, professionalism, and compassion. Sgt. Marris serves as supervisor of the Civil Unit while Sgt. Ellington leads court security and operations at the Chatham County Justice Center. Both deputies were promoted to leadership positions in March. Pictured: Sgt. Amy Marris and Sheriff Mike Roberson (top), Sgt. Ashley Ellington with Sheriff Mike Roberson (bottom)



USDA - Farm Service Agency Notice of Availability Poultry Facility Construction Final Environmental Assessment

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces they will be completing an Environmental Assessment for the poultry facility construction located at Moore county Tax Parcel number 00003056 and Pin Number 865300184320. The primary objective of this activity is to construct 4 poultry houses on the 66-acre property.

FSA is accepting comments on the potential effects of the proposed project on protected resources and the human environment through August 29, 2020. Information regarding this project can be reviewed in person at the FSA office located at 3230A Presson Road, Monroe, NC 28112. Comments should be submitted to Suzanne Simpson at 3230 Presson Road, Monroe, NC 28112 or by email at suzanne.simpson@nc.usda.gov.

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In Alice in Wonderland, the Cheshire Cat tells Alice that everyone in Wonderland is mad.

The Cat doesn't mean that everyone is angry. In this Wonderland, **mad** means a little bit crazy.

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

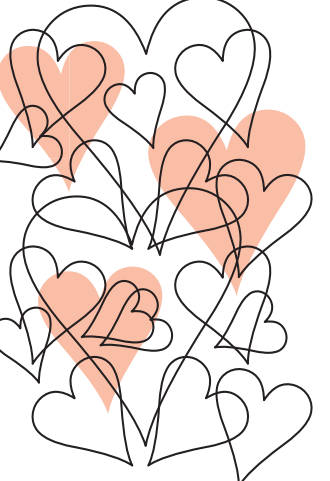
"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat. "We're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

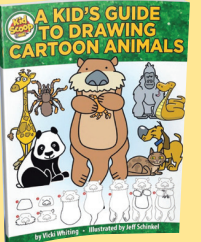
Mad has more than one meaning. It can mean angry and it can mean a bit crazy. With a family member, look through the newspaper for five more words that have more than one meaning. These are called **homonyms**.

How many hearts do you see below?



Drawing fun!

Step-by-step instructions show you how to draw more than two dozen animals in Kid Scoop's **A Kid's Guide to Drawing Cartoon Animals**. Available now on amazon.com, target.com or at foxchapelublishing.com





VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: FICTION

The noun **fiction** means stories that describe imaginary events and people.

The dragon movie was a work of **fiction**.

Try to use the word **fiction** in a sentence today when talking with friends and family members.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Alice's *Adventures in Wonderland* is one of the best-known books in English fiction. Written by Lewis Carroll nearly 160 years ago, it has been translated into 97 languages and has never been out of print. Lewis Carroll wrote a second book about Alice and Wonderland called *Through the Looking-Glass*.



Down the Rabbit Hole

Alice chases a white rabbit and falls down a rabbit hole! She enters a strange and wonderful land.

Lewis Carroll's books about Alice are sometimes called nonsense books. In the books, things happen that don't make sense. Characters say things that make little sense. Yet, this nonsense makes people think and sometimes learn something new. Lewis Carroll's "nonsense" quotes are some of the most thoughtful and memorable in the world of books.



I don't think ...

Then you shouldn't talk.

Alice met the Mad Hatter. Can you find the two tea cups that are the same?

Meeting the Queen

Alice met the grumpy Queen of Hearts in Wonderland. The Queen asked Alice her age.

"I'm seven and a half exactly," said Alice.

"You needn't say exactly," the Queen remarked. "I can believe it without that. Now I'll give you something to believe. I'm just one hundred and one, five months and a day."

"I can't believe that," said Alice. "One can't believe impossible things."

"I dare say you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

Find all the hearts on this page!

Write down six impossible things. What would need to happen to make them possible?

1. _____

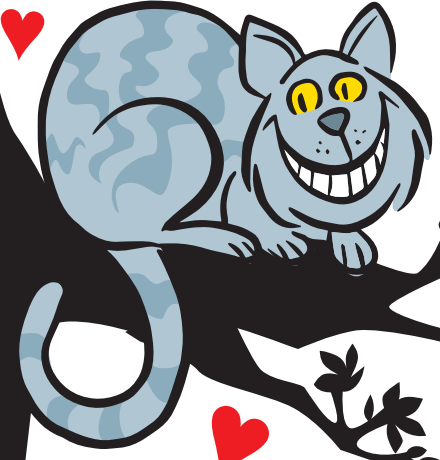
2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____



"Curiouser and Curiouser!"

Alice was so surprised by Wonderland and its strange characters, that Lewis Carroll made up a phrase to show her surprise. This phrase became so popular that it was added to the Oxford English Dictionary. It means something is getting more and more confounding.


The **Cheshire Cat** is one of the curious characters Alice meets in Wonderland. He has a large grin. Parts of his body appear and disappear while Alice talks with him. Soon Alice can see just one part of the Cheshire Cat. Circle every other letter to find out what she saw.

A H R I J S B S K M Y I U L V E

H _____

Extra! Extra! Smile!

Look through the newspaper and count the number of smiles you can find in photos, comics, etc. Have a parent try. Who found the most?



Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Lewis Carroll is a pen name. A pen name is a name some people use instead of their real name when they write a book. What was Lewis Carroll's real name? Unscramble each scrambled word below. The letters in the circles spell the answer to the question.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

TABRBI DMA RLIG

4 3 8 11

RSIEHECH CALIE

1 7 2 6 5

NESNOSEN

9 12 14

NDELROWDAN

13 10


Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

DISAPPEAR
NONSENSE
STRANGE
CARROLL
RABBIT
QUOTES
LEWIS
QUEEN
ALICE
WHITE
GRIN
TONE
HOLE
CAT

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

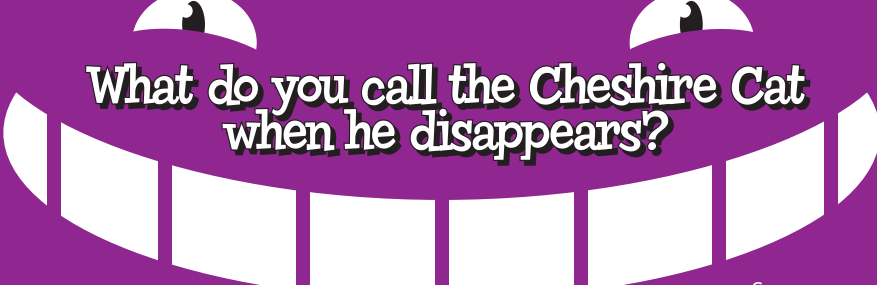


FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Impossible? Not Today!

Look through the newspaper for an article or picture showing something that people 100 years ago might have thought was impossible. Can you find more than one? How many?

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.



What do you call the Cheshire Cat when he disappears?


ANSWER: A magic kit!



Write On!

All That Glitters ...

Finish this sentence and then write a story with this as the first sentence.



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JOHN DEERE LAWNMOWERS, LX280, \$1,600; GT225, \$1,200. Both VGC, 919-663-4076. Jy16,23,30,Au6,4tp

YARD SALES

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE, Lily Pulitzer clothing, Grill, home goods, furniture, 316 S Third Ave, Siler City, 7-12, Saturday, August 8. Au6,1tp

AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call... We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, A2,tfn

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SERVICES

JHJ PAINTING & PRESSURE WASH - Interior/Exterior - Commercial/Residential, Staining Decks and Fences - Also home repairs. We specialize in all your home improvement needs! Call John Hayes, Jr., 919-548-0474, Jn25-S10,12tp

HENDRICK SERVICE, Lawn Care, mowing, small back hoe. Will dig up bushes, do storm drain pipes, drive way pipe, cut trees, clean up leaves. 919-548-4609, A2,tfn

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

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfn

CARPENTRY WORK - all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfn

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

HELP WANTED

ELDERLY CARE NEEDED IN HOME - Mature woman to care for elderly female's personal needs, light housekeeping duties included. Monday - Friday, Part-time, AM. Contact Jane, 919-605-8814, Au6,13,20,27,4tp

TOWN ENGINEER - TOWN OF PITTSBORO, NC. This position will assist the Town with all aspects of municipal engineering including technical reviews of site plans and development applications, inspection of utility infrastructure construction projects, capital projects management, preparation of the annual Powell Bill Report, stormwater program administration and engineering designs on small municipal projects. Serves as the Town Stormwater Program Administrator for the administration of the Jordan Lake Watershed New Development Stormwater Ordinance for the Town of Pittsboro. Some design of small-scale Public Works/Public Utilities projects including sewer and drain installations, streets, and parking lots. Reviews the assessment of access fees and capital recovery fees for connections to the Town's water and sewer systems. Coordinates and directs land survey work and preparation of utility easements, encroachment agreements and right-of-way acquisitions with the Planning Director and Town Attorney. Prepares project plans, specifications, and cost estimates for small capital projects; manages bid process; monitors expenses against budget; negotiates change orders. For large capital projects, serves as the Town's project manager and coordinates the activities of consulting architects and engineers. Assists the Planning Director and Finance Officer with preparation of the annual Capital Improvement Plan. Reviews and comments on subdivision proposals to ensure compliance with applicable Town, state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Participates in site plan review process and in reviewing new zoning regulations. Meets with applicants regarding submissions before the Planning Board and/or Board of Commissioners and provides advice and consultation to applicants. Inspects the installation of streets, water, sewer and storm sewers constructed by developers prior to acceptance of these facilities by the Town. Serves as the Town's representative on the Jordan Lake Partnership Technical Review Team. Prepares other engineering reports, documents and records as required. Performs traffic engineering duties such as traffic engineering studies, periodic review and revision of Town traffic regulations for approval by Town and submission to state for required permits. Attends public hearings to present technical information and to respond to citizen inquiries, requests and complaints. Assists citizens and other Town departments in resolution of engineering problems. Performs other engineering related duties as assigned. Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, registration as a Professional Engineer in North Carolina and 3-5 years of experience in municipal engineering. Salary is commensurate with training and exp. with excellent benefit package. Submit Town of Pittsboro Employment Application to Town Manager, P.O. Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Download application at: www.pittsboronc.org or call (919) 542-4621 ext. 1104 to ask for an application in the mail. Criminal background checks and verification of educational credentials will be done on final candidates. Pre-employment drug test req'd. EOE. Open until filled. For assured consideration apply by September 18, 2020. Au6,13,20,27,4tc

MOUNTAINE FARMS OF SILER CITY is seeking an OCCUPATIONAL NURSE, Hours 4:30pm - 1:00AM, to provide first aid and emergency care for occupational injuries and illness, performing required pre-employment physicals and drug screens and record-keeping and documentation of visits to health services. Seeking an LPN or RN with 2 years of practical experience preferably in a Manufacturing environment or Emergency Care. Knowledge of case management, workers' compensation and OSHA regulations preferred. Ability to work with limited supervision and high motivation. Ability to work well under pressure, meeting multiple and sometimes conflicting deadlines. Strong computer skills (MS Word, MS Excel and HRIS system)., Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. - Job Type: Full-time. Salary: \$18.00 to \$22.00/hour - https://mountairejobs.com, Au6,tfn

CHATHAM COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR Children seeks Program Director to ensure programmatic success and promote quality child care and early education through CCR&R. http://www.capabilitycompany.com/posprofiles/posccpcpd.shtm. Jy30,Au6,13,3tp

LEGALS

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 Robertintel.o@gmail.com Self-Represented Jy2-D24,25tp

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 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

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.

immediate payment. This the 16th day of July, 2020.

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

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

Mechanic/Dismantler Position Available Mecánico/Desmanteladore



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MARSH AUTO PARTS/TRUCK DIVISION 3700 SILER CITY SNOW CAMP RD. SILER CITY, NC 27344

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SCOTT L. HARRIS, AUCTIONEER - BROKER NCAL #8420 (919) 498-4077 WWW.JERRYHARRISAUCTION.COM AUCTION FIRM #8086

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

HOUSE & LAND FOR SALE Chatham County, NC Estate Property of Late Mrs. Ethel Buckner 6424 Siler City Snow Camp Rd., Siler City, NC

House, Barns & Shops on 43+/- Acres SPLIT INTO 5 PARCELS - BUY 1 OR ALL!



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(919) 545-0412 RogersAuction.com NCFL7360

Delphine Deloris Goines, Exec-
utrix
245 Patterson Dr
Chapel Hill, NC 27312
Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,Au6,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
12 E 139

**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
Having qualified as Administra-
tor of the Estate of **JON MAURICE
SHAMBURGER**, deceased, of Cha-
tham County, North Carolina, the
undersigned does hereby notify
all persons, firms, and corpo-
rations 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,Jy30,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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
All persons, firms and corpo-
rations 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 un-
dersigned or this notice will be
pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons, firms and corpora-
tions 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 Cha-
tham County, North Carolina, the
undersigned does hereby notify
all persons, firms, and corpo-
rations 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 338
**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
Having qualified as Executor
of the Estate of **RUBY LYNDAL
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 Broker,
Executor
156 Hermitage Lane
Moncure, NC 27559
Jy23,Jy30,Au6,Au13,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
ALL PERSONS, firms and corpo-
rations having claims against
GLORIA RUTH ROYS, deceased,
of Chatham County, N.C., are
notified to exhibit the same to
the undersigned on or before
October 30th, 2020, or this notice
will be pleaded in bar of recov-
ery. Debtors of the decedent
are asked to make immediate
payment.
This 30th day of July, 2020,
Lynda R. Heymen, Executor
Estate of Gloria Ruth Roys
c/o Roberson Law Firm
1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
The undersigned, Theresa
Brooks and Veronica Brooks,
having qualified as Co-Executors
of the Estate of **ROBERT HEAD-
EN**, 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 31st Day of October, 2020, or
this notice will be plead in bar
of their recovery. All persons in-
debted to said estate will please
make immediate payment to the
undersigned.
This 23rd day of July, 2020,
Co-Executors
1. Theresa Brooks
201 Elder Road
Siler City, NC 27344
919-742-4503
2. Veronica Brooks
1112 Stockyard Road
Staley, NC 27355
1-336-257-0431
W. Ben Atwater, Jr.
Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 629
Siler City, NC 27344
919-663-2850
batwater@pinehurst.net
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
The undersigned, Tracey S.
Wilkie, having qualified as
Administrator CTA of the Estate
of **SYLVIA ANN THAMES SCOTT**,
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 31st Day of October, 2020, or
this notice will be plead in bar
of their recovery. All persons in-
debted to said estate will please
make immediate payment to the
undersigned.
This 23rd day of July, 2020,
Tracey S. Wilkie, Administrator
204 Wall Road
Goldston, NC 27252
919-548-4982
W. Ben Atwater, Jr.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 629
Siler City, NC 27344
919-663-2850
batwater@pinehurst.net
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 146
**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
Having qualified as Executor of
the Estate of **BENJAMIN FRANK-
LIN WOMBLE**, deceased, of Cha-
tham County, North Carolina, the
undersigned does hereby notify
all persons, firms, and corpo-
rations having claims against
the estate of said decedent to
exhibit them to the undersigned
on or before October 30, 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.
The 30th day of July, 2020,
Sherrika Martin, Executor
710 Horton Road
Goldston, NC 27252
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tp

**NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE
SALE**
Under and by virtue of an order
of the District Court of Chatham
County, North Carolina, made
and entered in the action enti-
tled **COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs.**
KEVIN M. ARMFIELD and spouse,
PAULA ARMFIELD, and all
possible heirs and assignees of
KEVIN M. ARMFIELD and spouse,
PAULA ARMFIELD, or any other
person or entity claiming there-
under, et al, 17-CVD-819, the
undersigned Commissioner will
on the 12th day of August, 2020,
offer for sale and sell for cash,
to the last and highest bidder at
public auction at the court-
house door in Chatham County,
North Carolina, Pittsboro, North
Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon,
the following described real
property, lying and being in Had-
ley Township, State and County
aforesaid, and more particularly
described as follows:
All of Lot Numbered 13A, as
shown on the plat entitled,
"PLAT OF SUBDIVISION 'CHAPEL
RIDGE'-PHASE ONE," including
a Project Sheet, Sheets One
through Three and a Dimen-
sion Table, dated July 7, 2004,
by Absolute Land Surveying
and Mapping, P.C., recorded at
Plat Slides 2004-221 through
2004-225, Chatham County
Registry (the "Plat"); together
with all appurtenant rights and
privileges in the common areas
and roads, including the right
of ingress and egress along the
private roads, as shown on the
Plat and all other recorded plats
for Chapel Ridge, and described
in the Declaration of Covenants,
Conditions, and Restrictions for
Chapel Ridge recorded in Book
1116, Page 715, Chatham County
Registry, as amended.
Subject to restrictive covenants
and easements of record.
Parcel Identification Number:
0081385
The undersigned Commis-
sioner makes no warranties in
connection with this property
and specifically disclaims any
warranties as to title and hab-
itability. This property is being
sold as is, without opinion as to
title or any other matter.
This sale will be made subject to
all outstanding city and county
taxes and all local improvement
assessments against the above
described property not included
in the judgment in the above-en-
titled cause. A cash deposit of 20
percent of the successful bid will
be required. In addition, the suc-
cessful bidder will be required,
at the time the Deed is recorded
to pay for recording fees and
revenue stamps assessed by
the Chatham County Register of
Deeds.
This sale is subject to upset bid
as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section
1-339.25.
This the 16th day of July, 2020,
Mark D. Bardill, Commissioner
P.O. Box 25
Trenton, NC 28585
Jy30,Au6,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 354
**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
Having qualified as Executrix
of the Estate of **HAROLD STEVE
RIGGSBEE**, late of Apex, Chatham
County, North Carolina, the
undersigned does hereby notify
all persons, firms and corpo-
rations having claims against
the estate of said decedent to
exhibit them to the undersigned
C/O Stam Law Firm, PLLC at
510 W. Williams St. Apex, North
Carolina 27502, on or before the
30th day of October, 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.
This the 27th day of July 2020.
s/ Vickie Riggsbee Goodwin
Executor of the Estate of Harold
Steve Riggsbee
Lisa M. Schreiner
Stam Law Firm, PLLC
510 W. Williams St.
Apex, NC 27502
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tc

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Generic 100 mg blue pills or
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Get 45 plus 5 free \$99 + S/H.
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Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm
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Pittsboro Christian Village
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC



www.chathamnewsrecord.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 174
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against ESTATE of **EUNICE ANN POWERS**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on March 24, 2020, are hereby notified to present their claims to **JOSEPH LUNDY POWERS & DEIDRE POWERS DEAN**, CO-ADMINISTRATORS, at the address listed below, on or before October 30, 2020 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the deceased, please make immediate payment.
This 27th day of July, 2020.
Co-Administrators:
Joseph Lundy Powers
8551 North Douglas Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801
Deidre Powers Dean
326 Powers Country Lane
Bennett, NC 27208
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tp

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE
AGCO Finance LLC will offer the following repossessed equipment for sale to the highest bidder for Certified Funds, plus applicable sales tax. Equipment: MF GC1705L Tractor/Loader S/N MGC050FKH73431, MF 2326 60 in Mower Deck S/N M23260FJ815167, Woo RB60 blade S/N 255040500. **Date of sale: 08/11/2020. Time of Sale: 9:00 A.M. Place of sale: Black Tractor & Equipment, 607 East 3rd St., SILER CITY, NC 27344.** Equipment can be inspected at place of sale. The equipment will be sold AS IS, without warranty. Final sale of equipment will be contingent upon winning bidder meeting all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements. We reserve the right to bid. For further information please contact Dustin Smiley (470) 364-0732, Reference Number: 1673982.
Jy30,Au6,2tp

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE BEFORE THE CLERK 19 SP 145
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
IN RE: Foreclosure of a lien held by Harmony Hills Homeowners Association Inc. for past due assessments upon 1609 Duet Drive, Siler City, North Carolina, AKA being all of Lot 56 of Harmony Hills Subivision, as recorded in Book of Maps 2003, Page 10; Book of Maps 2003, Page 11, Book of Maps 2006, Page 295; Book of Maps 2006, Page 296 and Book of Maps 2006, Page 297 of the Chatham County Registry, which is titled to: **CHARLES K. KOBAN**
AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Foreclosure of Lien filed with the Clerk of Superior Court on April 29, 2019, file #19 M 188. Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in that certain Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Harmony Hills Homeowners Association, Inc, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Chatham County, North Carolina in Book 991, Page 124, and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and pursuant to the demand of the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by said Lien, and pursuant to the Order of the Clerk of Superior Court for Chatham County, North Carolina, entered in this foreclosure proceeding, Black, Slaughter & Black, PA, the appointed Trustee, will expose for sale at public auction on **August 11, 2020, at 2:00 PM at the usual place of sale of the Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro**, North Carolina, the following described real property (including the house, if any and any other improvements thereon): Being all of Lot 56 of Harmony Hills Subivision, as recorded in Book of Maps 2003, Page 10; Book of Maps 2003, Page 11, Book of Maps 2006, Page 295; Book of Maps 2006, Page 296 and Book of Maps 2006, Page 297 of the Chatham County Registry. Property address: 1609 Duet Drive, Siler City, NC 27344. Present Owner(s): Charles K Koban. The sale will be made subject to all prior sales and releases and to all deeds of trust, liens, unpaid taxes, restrictions, easements,

assessments, leases, and other matters of record, if any. Pursuant to N.C.G.S §45-21.10(b)), any successful bidder will be required to deposit with Black, Slaughter & Black, PA, the Trustee, immediately upon conclusion of the sale a cash deposit not to exceed the greater of Five Percent (5%) of the bid amount or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00). Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price in cash or certified check at the time Black, Slaughter & Black, PA, the Trustee, tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance of the purchase price so bid at the time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in N.C.G.S §45-21.30(d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. §45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. The notice shall also state that upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. **OF COUNSEL: BLACK, SLAUGHTER & BLACK, P.A.,** Post Office Box 41027 Greensboro, North Carolina 27404-1027. Telephone: (336) 378-1899. Signed: July 28, 2020. Michael C. Taliercio, Attorney for the Trustee
Jy30,Au6,2tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
OF NORTH CAROLINA
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
CHATHAM COUNTY
20 SP 20
IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY MICHAEL G. HILLIARD AND JULIA J. HILLIARD DATED DECEMBER 12, 2012 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 1657 AT PAGE 352 IN THE CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC REGISTRY, NORTH CAROLINA
NOTICE OF SALE
Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in the above-referenced deed of trust and because of default in the payment of the secured indebtedness and failure to perform the stipulation and agreements therein contained and, pursuant to demand of the owner and holder of the secured debt, the undersigned substitute trustee will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the **usual place of sale at the county courthouse of said county at 10:00AM on August 18, 2020** the following described real estate and any other improvements which may be situated thereon, in Chatham County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described in that certain Deed of Trust executed Michael G. Hilliard and Julia J. Hilliard, dated December 12, 2012 to secure the original principal amount of \$225,500.00, and recorded in Book 1657 at Page 352 of the Chatham County Public Registry. The terms of the said Deed of Trust may be modified by other instruments appearing in the public record. Additional identifying information regarding the collateral property is below and is believed to be accurate, but no representation or warranty is intended. Address of property: 379 John Deere Ln, Bear Creek, NC 27207 Tax Parcel ID: 0008966 Present Record Owners: Michael Gordon Hilliard and Julia Johnson Hilliard

And Being more commonly known as: **379 John Deere Ln, Bear Creek, NC 27207** The record owner(s) of the property, as reflected on the records of the Register of Deeds, is/are Michael Gordon Hilliard and Julia Johnson Hilliard. The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance “AS IS, WHERE IS.” Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale. Any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. This sale is made subject to all prior liens and encumbrances, and unpaid taxes and assessments including but not limited to any transfer tax associated with the foreclosure. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by law. Following the expiration of the statutory upset period, all remaining amounts are **IMMEDIATELY DUE AND OWING**. Failure to remit funds in a timely manner will result in a Declaration of Default and any deposit will be frozen pending the outcome of any re-sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Substitute Trustee or the attorney of any of the foregoing. **SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASE-HOLD TENANTS:** If you are a tenant residing in the property, be advised that an Order for Possession of the property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Also, if your lease began or was renewed on or after October 1, 2007, be advised that you may terminate the rental agreement upon written notice to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time notice of termination is provided. You may be liable for rent due under the agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. The date of this Notice is July 28, 2020. Grady I. Ingle or Elizabeth B. Ellis Substitute Trustee 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400 Charlotte, NC 28216 (704) 333-8107 20-108958
Au6,Au13,2tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, August 17, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 1192 US-64 W BUS. Due to the Governor's restrictions on mass gatherings, public seating at the meeting will be limited. There will also be an option to participate electronically and for more information about the meeting you can select the meeting date at the following link: <https://www.chathamnc.org/government/commissioner-meetings/calendar-with-agenda-minutes>. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at: www.chathamnc.org by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be

continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:
Legislative Request:
1. A legislative public hearing for a request from Bold Development Group, LLC for a conditional district rezoning on Parcels 18901, 18757, 18758, 80023, 65382, 76461, 60704, 18789, 18892, 18747, 18760, 18889, 18891, and 18748 collectively “William's Corner Commercial Development”, located on US 15-501 N and Lystra Rd, being approximately 118 total acres, to rezone from Conditional Use Business (CU-B1) with a Conditional Use Permit for a Planned Unit Development and R1, Residential, to Conditional District Mixed Use (CD-MU) zoning district containing retail, commercial, office, storage, and multi-family residential.
2. A legislative public hearing for a request from Bold Development Group, LLC for a Zoning Ordinance text amendment to Section 10.12.F Exterior Boundary Setbacks for mixed use developments. Testimony is required to be given under oath during the evidentiary hearing for the following item:
Quasi-Judicial Request:
1. A quasi-judicial public hearing for a request by Chatham County Emergency Management on a conditional use permit for a new proposed 350 foot communications tower to be located at the Moncure Volunteer Fire Department, 2389 Old US 1, Parcel 81087, being approximately 8.33 acres, Cape Fear Township.
2. A quasi-judicial public hearing for a request by Chatham County Emergency Management on a conditional use permit for a new proposed 300 foot communications tower to be located at the new proposed Emergency Operations Center, Parcel No. 12481, 188 Innovation Way, being approximately 272 acres, Hickory Mountain Township. Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions. Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.
Au6,Au13,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 319
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **DONALD**

GRAY BOYD, 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 **NOVEMBER 6, 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. The 30th day of July, 2020. Amanda Tillman Clack, Administrator
539 Ryder Lake Drive
Sanford, NC 27330
Au6,Au13,Au20,Au27,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 334
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **LARRY W. STEVENS**, 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 **NOVEMBER 6, 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. The 30th day of July, 2020
Larry Dale Stevens, Limited Personal Representative
4124 Chatham St
Bennett, NC 27208
Au6,Au13,Au20,Au27,4tp

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
In the District Court Division 19 CVD 943
EDMONDS v. MCMILLAN
To: Jonathan McMillan:
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:
Child Custody
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than September 15, 2020 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This, the 6th day of August, 2020.
D. Melissa Averett
Attorney for Plaintiff
50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Au6,Au13,Au20,3tp

TOWN OF SILER CITY, PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on August 17, 2020 at 7 pm in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following request: Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to §23 Appointment and Terms of Planning

Board Members of the UDO. The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced items. The Planning Board will meet on August 10 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Town Board. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
Au6,Au13,2tc

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED WASTEWATER
Old North State Water Company had a discharge of untreated wastewater on July 26, 2020 of an estimated 8,400 gallons near Great Ridge Parkway in the Briar Chapel Community. The discharge occurred from the result of a split in the force main pipe. According to Envirolink, Inc., the untreated wastewater entered an Unnamed Tributary to Pokeberry Creek which is in the Cape Fear River Basin. Envirolink's staff found that the spill impacted surface water in the Cape Fear River Basin. However, as required, Envirolink notified the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality on July 26, 2020, and the Division of Water Resources is reviewing the matter. Envirolink operates Old North State Water Company's wastewater collection system which provides service to the Briar Chapel Community. This notice is required by North Carolina General Statutes Article 21 Chapter 143.215.1C(a1). For more information please contact Envirolink at (252)235-4900.
Au6,1tc

Thursday, Aug. 27 | 1:30 p.m.

Sanford Golf Course

4-person Captain's Choice

\$60 entry fee / \$240/team

Lunch/driving range open noon-1:15 p.m.

Prizes on all par-3's/longest drive

Hole-in-one prizes:

a NEW CAR, courtesy Wilkinson Cadillac

Chevrolet Buick GMC & \$25,000

(50/50 split with The Salvation Army)

Lots of other great prizes!

HELP OTHERS while

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Chatham News + Record

NEWS BRIEFS

NCDMV expiration date extensions ended
RALEIGH — N.C. Division of Motor Vehicle customers are reminded that expiration dates that start Aug. 1 are not eligible for the five-month extension that was signed into law in May.
That law automatically extended expiration dates from March 1 through July 31. Those extra five months remain in effect for those customers. So, if your registration has a deadline of March 31, 2020, the new due date will be Aug. 31, 2020.
The credentials and other licenses and registrations that returned to their original expiration date as of Aug. 1 includes:
• Driver license
• Learner's permit
• Limited learner's permit
• Limited provisional license
• Full provisional license
• Commercial driver license
• Commercial learner's permit
• Temporary driving certificate
• Special identification card
• Handicapped placard
• Vehicle registration
• Temporary vehicle registration
• Dealer license plate
• Transporter plate
• Loaner/Dealer “LD” plate
• Vehicle inspection authorization
• Inspection station license
• Inspection mechanic license
• Transportation network company permit
• Motor vehicle dealer license
• Sales representative license
• Manufacturer license
• Distributor license
• Wholesaler license
• Driver training school license
• Driver training school instructor license

• Professional house-moving license
The end of the extension also means the due dates for motor vehicle taxes that are tied to vehicle registrations no longer get extended.
24 new badges for Girl Scouts
RALEIGH — North Carolina Coastal Pines and Girl Scouts of the USA has announced 24 new badges designed to help girls practice ambitious leadership in the crucial areas of automotive engineering, STEM career exploration, entrepreneurship and civics, many of which remain male-dominated.
The new Girl Scout badges include:
• Entrepreneurship
• STEM career exploration
• Automotive engineering
• Civics
— CN+R staff reports