

Chatham News + Record

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Chatham teachers, students excited to return to the classroom



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools

On his way to Virginia Cross Elementary School, Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson takes a selfie on the bus with kindergartener Seth Burnette.

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — An aura of excitement and anxiety was in the Chatham County air Monday morning as the first school bell tolled for the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Close to 9,000 students flooded the cafeterias and hallways in what felt like the start of school many were accustomed to in a pre-pandemic world. One of those students was Preston Sizemore, a 5th-grade

student at Virginia Cross Elementary.

"I'm kind of nervous," Sizemore said. "There's new people to meet, new teachers and new friends and so much new stuff to learn."

Despite his anxieties and lack of sleep the night before his first day, Sizemore said he also had a lot to look forward to — like math class and meeting his new classmates.

"I have a few people I recognize from 4th grade," he said. "I hope we get to go on field

trips together this year."

For his first activity of the day, Sizemore quickly finished a number-finding activity and began chatting with his classmates, some of whom were also eager to jump into math class. His principal, Sarah Estes said it was impressive to see how much he and other students had grown during their time at VCE. Estes said Sizemore was once a shy child, but on the first day of a new

See **SCHOOL**, page A9

ANOTHER RECORD FOR WINS

CN+R takes home 31 awards at state press contest

CN+R Staff Reports

RALEIGH — The Chatham News + Record was awarded 31 prizes for its news coverage — the most of any community newspaper in the state — at the N.C. Press Association's annual editorial and advertising contest ceremony, held Thursday at the Hilton North Hills in Raleigh.

In addition to 30 individual and staff awards in a variety of news, photography and special publication categories, the newspaper was also awarded first place in the General Excellence category in its division — the contest's "best newspaper" prize — following up its second place and third place finishes in the two prior years of the contest.

"North Carolinians are served across the state by more than 40 small weekly newspapers like ours," said Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III. "To be judged by our peers in the industry as the very best among those, and to win the more news awards than all but two of the state's 150 news organizations, is a testament to our staff's effort to bring Chatham County the very best newspaper and best news coverage available, whether in print or online."

The ceremony, held as a part of the NCPA's 149th annual convention, was the culmination in an 18-month-long competition (extended by the normal 12-month period because of COVID) that drew more than 4,000 contest entries. The News + Record won 30 of the 108 prizes awarded in its division. In its division, 29 newspapers won either news or advertising awards. Of the 23 which won news prizes, only one other newspaper — The State Port Pilot in Southport, with 20 — won more than 10 awards. Excluding the News + Record's 30 awards, that meant the 22 other winning newspapers took home a total of 78 awards.

"Factoring out our 30 wins, those newspapers averaged about 3.5 news awards each," Horner said. "For us to have won 30 — plus that first place in General Excellence — demonstrates how strong of a newspaper the judges said we have. We won about 28% of all the prizes given out in our division."

See **AWARDS**, page A3

SIMPLE PLEASURES LEAD TO BIG RESULTS

Sera Cuni, owner of Café Root Cellar, makes finals of 'Chef Showdown'



Submitted Photo

Owner and chef of Cafe Root Cellar Sera Cuni poses for a portrait in front of her restaurant in Pittsboro. Cuni also manages the Root Cellar Café & Catering in Chapel Hill, a sister spin-off to the Pittsboro location.

BY TERI SAYLOR
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Sera Cuni rarely meets a competition she doesn't want to enter.

Whether it's Strong Man matches around the state or Guy Fieri's Grocery Games on the Food Network, Cuni will take her talents wherever she can compete.

Recently, Cuni made it to the

grand finale of the 2022 N.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association's Chef Showdown, where she showcased her smoked barbecue rubbed porchetta, southern Panzanella salad, grilled peaches, watermelon, corn, pickled peanuts, cornbread croutons and

See **CHEF**, page A3



AMID CONCERNS ABOUT PARTISAN POLL WATCHERS

N.C. group connected to election deniers trains poll observers ahead of midterms

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

As the November election approaches, elections officials in Chatham County and across North Carolina are preparing to deal with the growing presence of partisan poll watchers, including some trained by a group with ties to 2020 election conspiracies.

The North Carolina State Board of Elections had unanimously approved temporary rule changes for poll observers and precinct officials in response

to reports of conduct violations during the May primaries, but another state agency rejected the changes last week.

Chatham County's Director of Elections Pandora Paschal told the News + Record that county poll workers haven't faced direct threats yet, but the board of elections is being cautious that it could happen.

"There's a lot of moving parts to this job," Paschal said. "And then to have it threatened, and, I guess, I don't know if it's to cause us to be afraid and to distract us from doing what we're

supposed to be doing, but we can't allow that to happen. We have to keep moving forward to make sure that we have free and fair elections."

The Rules Review Commission, a 10-member commission appointed by the Republican-controlled General Assembly, reviews and approves rules adopted by N.C. agencies. The RRC unanimously rejected the amendments proposed by the NCSBE on Thursday, arguing that the temporary rules were "unclear and ambiguous" and "not reasonably necessary."

Among the opponents to the amendments was Jim Womack, chairperson of the Lee County Republican Party. Womack also serves as a president of an organization called North Carolina Election Integrity Team, which has been holding summits this summer to train and recruit poll observers.

Though Womack described NCEIT a nonpartisan organization at a training summit held last week in Sanford, he also said the group is directly affiliated with

See **WATCH**, page A7

IN THE KNOW

Chargers lose Fortunes to injury in blowout win over Jets. **PAGE B1**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

• Events are subject to change based on closures related to the coronavirus pandemic. Verify with organizers prior to events.

ON THE AGENDA

- The **Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors** will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 U.S. 64 W. Business, Pittsboro (west side entrance) in the conference room. All meetings are open to the public. To be added to the agenda or for more information, please call 919-545-8440.
- The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Sept. 12 in a regular session at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

OTHER

- On Sunday, Sept. 4, the **Pittsboro Business Association's** monthly First Sunday Street Fair will be featuring arts and crafts vendors, other businesses and civic organizations, music, food, and children's activities. Many downtown businesses will also be open, along with the Historical Museum. Come enjoy this family-friendly event from 12 to 4 p.m.! More information about attending or becoming a vendor is available on our Pittsboro Business Association Facebook page, at www.shoppittsboro.com, and via email to the event coordinator at pittsborofirstsunday@gmail.com.
- **Siler City Lions Club's** special emphasis is on helping visually impaired and children with childhood diabetes. The club will be at Old Fashion Farmer's Day on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3 and 4. Vision and hearing tests will be held Saturday, and they'll be collecting used children's books, eyeglasses and hosting other fundraising projects both days.
- **Siler City Lions Club meetings** for the month will be held on Tuesdays, Sept. 13 and 27, at Dry Dock Restaurant, 408 North Second Avenue.
- The **Latino Coalition Against Covid-11** holds a new member virtual Meet and Greet every 2nd Thursday (Sept. 8) from 6 p.m. PT/9/9 p.m. ET. Stop by and introduce yourself to everyone at the table. Get connected with other like-minded gente. Long-time members are encouraged to join in as well.

- **Chatham County Democratic Party** will host a "Chatham Dems Together" fundraiser on Friday, Sept. 9, at the C. C. Agricultural and Conference Center in Pittsboro. The evening's guest speakers include N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, N.C. House Democratic Leader Robert Reives, and Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock, a local anti-racist educational specialist. The festivities kick off at 6 p.m. with a gumbo meal prepared by 401 Main in Carrboro, guided by Melton, who besides being a musician

is also a local celebrity Cajun chef. Vegan options are available. Ticket options include event only, event/dinner, or event/dessert. All proceeds will go to support Chatham County Democratic Party's 2022 Get Out the Vote activities. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: ccdpc.org/event.

- Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge #143 has its Stated Communication the 3rd Tuesday of each month with the meal at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30. All Master Mason's are welcome. Our address is 185 Bonlee/Bennett Road, Bonlee.

- The **Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department** invites community members of all ages to create a masterpiece at the second annual Sidewalk Chalk Festival on Saturday, Sept. 10, (rain date September 11th) at The Park at Briar Chapel, located at 1015 Andrews Store Road, Pittsboro. For more information, visit the Chatham County Parks and Recreation website at www.chathamcountync.gov/parks-rec, or contact Mallory Peterson at the Parks and Recreation Department at 919-545-8553 or mallory.peterson@chathamcountync.gov

chathamcountync.gov.

- **Chatham Community Library** will host a virtual film screening of "Ways of Being Home." This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available Thursday, Sept. 8 through 15 by visiting: <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/ways-of-being-home-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window. Residents may also visit the libraries' website www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for information.

• ONGOING

- **Siler City's City Hall** is currently under renovation. The 1st and 2nd floors are closed to the public. The Planning and Community Development Department is

located in the basement and can be accessed

through the far left door facing E. 3rd St. Parking

available at the 100 block of E. 3rd St.

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- 0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)
- 218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)
- 323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)
- 106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)
- 0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)
- 180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)
- 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)
- 0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)
- 1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
- 1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)
- 0 Chicken Bridge Road (10.051 Acres)
- 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
- 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
- 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
- 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
- 4831 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres)
- 1571 Lydia Perry Road (3.007 Acres)
- 208 Stonewall Road (3.810 Acres)
- 1456 Hadley Mill Road (28.353 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)

LAND (Representing Buyers) 9 Units

- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
- 388 Wade Bright Road (10 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.204 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
- 685 Revmont (3.893 Acres)
- 0 Mays Chapel Road (365 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

COMMERCIAL (Representing Seller) 1 Units

175 East Salisbury Street (Pittsboro)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 26 Units

- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 52 Gentle Winds Drive (Pittsboro)
- 1475 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 550 Callie Lane (Bear Creek)
- 3871 S. Plank Road (Sanford)
- 76 Millbrook Drive (Pittsboro)
- 5144 Rives Chapel Church Road (Slier City)
- 200 Valley View Lane (Pittsboro)
- 1822 Chandellay Drive (Durham)
- 5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)
- 4233 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)
- 130 Estes Drive (Chapel Hill)
- 117 Foxwood (Chapel)
- 1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Slier City)
- 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
- 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 745 Merl McManus Road (Bear Creek)
- 2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)
- 206 Olympia Street (Slier City)
- 8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)
- 488 NC 87 N (Pittsboro)
- 76 Fox Chapel Lane (Pittsboro)
- 354 A Mountain View (Pittsboro)
- 138 Oakwood Lane (Pittsboro)
- 218 A Poplar Street (Chapel Hill)
- 58 Lily McCoy Lane (Pittsboro)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 6 Units

- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 4513 Bumphus Road (Chapel Hill)
- 107 Hawks Spiral Way (Pittsboro)
- 85 Herndon Creek Way (Chapel Hill)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Slier City)
- 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

LAND (Representing Sellers) 6 Units

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 0 Old Graham Road (161.97 Acres)
- 0 Moons Chapt Road (86.599 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague Road (23.1 Acres)
- 0 Alston Chapel Road (10.23 Acres)
- 10681 E US 64 Hwy (3.97 Acres)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 3 Units

- 298 CD Thomas Road (Siler City)
- 1637 Briar Chapel Parkway (Chapel Hill)
- 390 New Salem Church Road (Pittsboro)

Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week:
<https://youtu.be/Tff0AivLh70>



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Bandas ~ Music:
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Chatham News + Record

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AWARDS

Continued from page A1

Aside from the News + Record, only five newspapers in the division won more than four awards. The CN+R's list includes 11 first place prizes, 11 second place prizes and nine third place prizes.

Among them was a first place for "Chatham 411," the newspaper's "community almanac" magazine. Chip Pate, who produces the News + Record's two magazines, and part-time photographer Kim Hawks teamed up for the top prize in the Magazine/Niche Publication category.

Pate, who lives in Pittsboro, compiled, wrote and designed the publication.

The newspaper's individual winners:

Lars Dolder

Dolder, who now works as editor of the Raleigh News & Observer's "N.C. Insider," won a total of seven awards, including three first place prizes.

In addition to sharing the first place prize for Investigative Reporting with Bill Horner III and Hannah McClellan for the newspaper's coverage of Chatham County's cyberattack, he won first place for Profile Feature and News Enterprise Reporting. Dolder's other prizes included second place awards for Profile Feature, Lighter Columns and Beat News Reporting, and a third place for Business Reporting. Dolder also won awards for his work at the Durham Herald-Sun and the



Dolder

News & Observer.

Victoria Johnson

Johnson, the newspaper's former La Voz de Chatham lead reporter, won six awards, including first place for Election/Political Reporting. She won second place prizes

for Religion & Faith Reporting, News Feature Writing, and Education Reporting, and third place prizes for Profile Feature Writing and — teaming with former reporter Hannah McClellan — in News Enterprise Reporting. Johnson now works as a paralegal in Raleigh.

Bill Horner III

Horner, the newspaper's publisher and editor, won five awards — two firsts, a second, and two thirds. For the second straight year, he won first place in the

"Serious Columns" category, and shared first place award — with McClellan and Dolder — for Investigative Reporting. He won second place for Editorials and third place awards for Sports Feature Writing and for Email Newsletter, for his Wednesday "Chatham Brew," which is delivered to more than 5,400 readers weekly.

Hannah McClellan

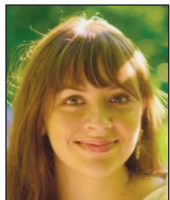
McClellan, the newspaper's former education reporter and web editor, won four awards. In addition to sharing the first place prize for Investigative Reporting and third place in



Johnson



Horner



McClellan

as the newspaper's web editor until leaving earlier this year to take a position with Education NC, an online news organization that covers the state's community colleges and other education issues. McClellan's work largely contributed to the newspaper winning second place in General Excellence for Websites.

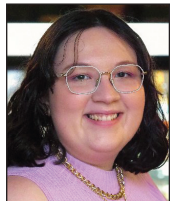
Victor Hensley

Hensley, the News + Record's sports editor until a few weeks ago, won three first place awards, including Best Community Sports Coverage — meaning that the

News + Record's sports pages were judged best among all small community newspapers in the state. Hensley also won first place for Sports Columns and for "Ledes," the newspaper term for opening lines of a story. Hensley recently moved to Maryland to be closer to his fiancée.

Taylor Heeden

The News + Record's senior reporter and web editor, Heeden won two individual awards. She won first place in Business Writing and third place



Heeden

in Feature Writing. She's been the newspaper's web editor since McClellan's departure and shared in the newspaper's website award.

Peyton Sickles

Part-time photographer Peyton Sickles won two awards — first place for Spot Photography and second place for Sports Feature Photography.



Sickles

Chapel Fowler

Fowler, the newspaper's former sports editor, won second place for Sports Feature Writing. Fowler, who also won awards for work he did while a member of the Fayetteville Observer, now covers Clemson football and other sports for The State newspaper in Columbia, South Carolina.



Fowler

John McCann

McCann, a former sports-writer for The Herald-Sun in Durham and former public relations coordinator for Chatham County Schools, won a second place prize for Sports News Reporting.



McCann

James Kiefer

Kiefer, a part-time photographer for the CN+R, won a second place prize for Sports



Kiefer

Photography for his work with Davidson Local News. Only the Raleigh News & Observer, with 33 news awards, and The Fayetteville Observer — which won 36 awards after moving from division "E" to the smaller division "D" because of its circulation losses in the last two years — won more awards than the News + Record.

The top-winning newspapers in each division:

Division A: North State Journal, with 20 awards. General Excellence: The Watauga Democrat.

Division B: Chatham News + Record, with 31 awards. General Excellence: Chatham News + Record.

Division C: Wilson Times, with 23 awards. General Excellence: Southern Pines Pilot.

Division D: Fayetteville Observer, with 36 awards. General Excellence: Fayetteville Observer.

Division E: Raleigh News & Observer, with 33 awards. General Excellence: Charlotte Observer.

Division O (online only): North Carolina Health News, with 16 awards. General Excellence: Carolina Public Press.

Since Kirk Bradley, Chris Ehrenfeld and Horner acquired the Chatham News and the Chatham Record in 2018, the "new" News + Record has won more news awards — a combined 78 — than any weekly newspaper in the NCPA's annual contests.

CHEF

Continued from page A1

chow chow. She didn't win the top prize, but she

does have the distinction of being the only female finalist among the savory chefs.

"The Chef Showdown was so much fun," she

said while sitting in her café on a recent warm August day. "It was wonderful to see friends from all over the state who came out to cheer for me and to taste my food."

Cuni, co-owner and chef of The Root Cellar Cafe & Catering in Chapel Hill and the Café Root Cellar, a sister restaurant in Pittsboro, was also one of two Triangle area chefs to make it to the finals.

The Chef Showdown kicked off its sixth season last March with more than 60 participants vying for top awards. Savory chefs, pastry chefs, bartenders and distilleries competed in different categories, said Chris Mackey, chief strategy and communications officer for the NCRLA.

"They competed in front of a panel of industry experts and were judged based on the presentation and taste of their dishes," she said. "As well as the best use and number of North Carolina ingredients on each plate."

The 26 finalists made it to the live rounds at the Angus Barn on Aug. 8, where members of the food-loving public bought tickets to sample food and drinks and vote for their favorites.

Oscar Johnson, owner of Jimmy Pearls in Charlotte, won the Chef of the Year award. Lydia Green, of Machete in Greensboro, was named Pastry Chef of the Year, and David Bowen of the Ginger Fox, representing Broad Branch Distillery in Winston-Salem, took home the NCRLA Mixologist & Distillery of the Year award.

"While it is always great to win, it's even greater for the chefs to have fun and learn from each other," Cuni said. "There are a lot of us out here and we enjoy the camaraderie because we're all in it for the same reasons."

Cuni — who spent most of her growing-up years in Connecticut and Florida — settled down in Pittsboro to be closer to members of her family, who now live in Wake County.

She attended Green Mountain College in Vermont on a soccer scholarship before returning to Connecticut where she graduated from culinary school and embarked on her lifelong dream of becoming a chef.

A FAMILY OF SELF-TAUGHT COOKS

Some say our love affair with food often comes not simply from the food itself, but from the memories associated with it. Cuni can identify with that sentiment.

Growing up in a family of self-taught cooks who embraced their Italian and Czech heritage through food led her to embrace it too.

She recalls a childhood of spending long days in the kitchen with her Italian grandparents from her father's side and her maternal grandmother who was Czech.

"My grandfather worked at an Italian American club, where he ran the kitchen, and I loved to help him stir the sauces and cut up onions and do little things for him," she said. "I also tried to help make cannolis, but I mostly ate the filling."

Cuni also recalls dinner parties and cookouts with her family and everything was cooked fresh.

"My parents always cooked meals and we never ate pre-made food," she

said. "Every Friday night we went out for pizza as a family and we always went to a real Italian restaurant."

Breakfasts were never packaged brands or boxed cereals, instead, Cuni grew up with full, homemade morning meals of eggs, French toast, pancakes and all the fixings.

On Saturdays, she enjoyed watching Julia Child on PBS.

When Cuni started her career, she veered toward fine dining establishments like the Fearington House Inn where she could be found wearing a chef's jacket and making up perfect presentations. Then Sara Foster, owner of Foster's Market in Chapel Hill, hired her as chef and kitchen manager in 2006. She moved up to general manager in 2008. In 2013, Cuni and her wife, Susan White, purchased the Chapel Hill marketplace and re-branded it as The Root Cellar.

"We kept it pretty much the same," Cuni said. "We changed a few things, but we still serve breakfast and lunch."

The restaurant also caters meals and prepares family dinners for take-out.

The couple chose the restaurant's new name carefully, and it is laced with meaning.

"We chose 'Root Cellar' because everything comes from roots — my family's roots, and Susan's southern roots," she said.

And in New England, Cuni grew up around root cellars, underground structures used to store vegetables, fruits, nuts and other foods, particularly root crops, like carrots, potatoes, turnips and beets.

In 2018, Cuni and White opened Café Root Cellar as an anchor establishment at the new Penguin Place near Chatham Park at Russet Run and Suttles Road, where they hoped to take advantage of new development and projected residential growth.

Construction delays and the COVID-19 pandemic meant the café got off to a slow start, but that didn't slow the couple's dream. They simply became strategic with their plans. And it's paying off.

During the pandemic, the café only served take-out, but stayed busy the

entire time. For fun, Cuni staged pop-up events featuring foods from different U.S. regions and other countries.

While French cuisine was popular among customers, Cuni was not prepared for the sensation she created over Thai and Indian food, "which just goes to show that this town can use some food diversity," she said.

Today, the café has settled into a regular schedule and is open for supper Thursday through Saturday and for Sunday brunch.

From her pop-up experience, she created a system of offering different menus every week. A recent August offering featured a variety of entrées, including Caprese and prosciutto flatbread, Asian noodles, steak, crab cake, Cajun shrimp and andouille.

Despite her quest to mix it up each week, she caters to those who have their favorites and sometimes keeps favorite items on the menu for as long as a month. She describes her cuisine as "seasonal American."

"I've always said that I consider the restaurant an extension of my kitchen table," Cuni said. "We have regular customers and I feel like I need to keep it fresh because they're coming every week."

For customers, fresh means a new and different menu every week, but for Cuni, it also means the freshest of foods, from seafood to vegetables. If tomatoes are not in season, they won't be on the menu, she said. And while she visits area farmers' markets to buy as many local products as possible, she's not shy about going out of her way for something special.

"I was just down at the Outer Banks where I met a fisherwoman who sold me 20 pounds of shrimp," she said. "So, shrimp will be on the menu this weekend."

Despite her early career in fine dining, Cuni has learned to appreciate the beauty in simple pleasures and to find the fun in cooking and serving food from her kitchen.

"As long as food is fresh or in season, I've learned it doesn't have to be fancy to be good," she said.

Chatham Chamber of Commerce GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 26, 2022

A JACK NICKLAUS
SIGNATURE GOLF COURSE
"One of the nicest natural pieces of property I have ever designed."

Governors Club, 11000 Governors Dr, Chapel Hill
Check-in: 8:00a – 9:00a Shotgun Start: 9:00a

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Last Call for Street Fair Vendors!

Are YOU registered to be a vendor at this year's Street Fair? Over 100 vendors will have their items on display for the crowds to see, shop, and support our local community! If you are interested in being involved, don't delay!

VENDORS
WANTED

The deadline to register is September 30, so please visit:
<https://forms.gle/zBzWxJiqdbBRiSeL6>
 or email questions to:
pbrotarystreetfair@gmail.com

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VIEWPOINTS

THE CN+R EDITORIAL | OUR ELECTIONS COVERAGE

Chatham's elections season has begun. Here's how we'll cover it.

Chatham County's reputation as having a highly engaged electorate — and its consistent record of high voter turnout — says a lot about the people here and how we value the democratic process.

We care about governance and politics, and we pay attention to the people who serve the public trust. We hold them accountable and thrust high expectations upon them — and we let them know when we're not satisfied with how they handle the responsibility of public service.

We care here at the News + Record, too. With an important election cycle upon us, and a critical state legislative race and county-wide races among the items on November's ballot, we want to share with you, as we begin our coverage, how we'll approach bringing you the best and most comprehensive information about the candidates and the issues.

You can get lots of information through a web search and maybe even on some candidates' Facebook pages. But we take pride in advocating for one main thing: Solid, nonpartisan information about the candidates and the issues that'll guide you in making your voting decisions.

So here's how we'll cover the 2022 elections:

Candidate profiles, questionnaires

Our candidate questionnaires will be sent via email to party chairpersons and candidates this week. We're giving candidates a short window to complete the relatively short questionnaire; we'll post full responses to questions online and highlight key questions and responses in print.

We've designed the questionnaires to be as comprehensive as possible. We know that written responses to a set of questions aren't always enough to judge candidates, but it's a good representative snapshot and puts candidates and their responses "on the record." We're giving candidates a fairly tight window to respond, but still plenty of time; if a candidate doesn't return the questionnaire by the deadline, he or she will be on record as "did not respond" in both our online and print presentation of questions and answers.

Candidate interviews/podcasts

In addition to the questionnaires, we'll be interviewing individual candidates for our coverage, which will include short individual profiles and office- and issue-based stories. As frequently as possible, we'll bring candidates in for recorded interviews on "The Chatcast," our free podcast, to which you can listen on the go. (Our hope is to also bring opposing candidates in together for those conversations, as much as possible.)

We're working on planning two candidate forums in partnership with the Chatham Chamber of Commerce and Central Carolina Community College. One is set for Thursday, Oct. 20; we'll be announcing the other date soon. The public forums will be a highly-structured Q&A with the candidates and also give those in contested races a chance to ask each other questions.

The voting process

We'll also promote transparency in the process, and by extension, provide stories about how voting in Chatham County works — as well as a look at the people who are responsible for ensuring a smooth, integrity-based

voting experience. (Related to that, this week we have a report from a regional event in Lee County held last week focusing on a new kind of poll observer training.)

What we won't do

There are some things we're not going to do. For example: We won't cover candidate events (particularly fundraisers) or party-specific events. A number of small candidate forums are also planned by other organizations; it's highly likely we won't cover those but instead focus on our forums and our own conversations with candidates.

We won't be a party to misinformation or disinformation. If a candidate speaks untruths or shares incorrect information, we'll point that out and provide details about why. As a part of that, we'll be asking each candidate his or her opinion on the stubbornly persistent, but factually incorrect, claim that the 2020 presidential election was "stolen" from then-President Donald Trump, and that Joe Biden in fact did not win that election.

We don't plan to do write candidate endorsement editorials. There may be a rare

case — as with the "Unity 2022" candidates in Siler City's municipal races this past spring — where an editorial endorsement is warranted, but we don't anticipate that this go-round.

Rather, it's our sincere hope that full and complete coverage — in print, and online, in front of our website's "paywall" — will give you the information you need to do your duty: make an informed, intelligent choice when you cast your ballot.

We appreciate the trust our readers show in us. And we recognize there's a lot of bias against the media when it comes to elections and politics because we've all seen biased reporting. It's our goal to be comprehensive and factual and without bias toward any candidate or party — and to give you the best information possible to help you decide your votes.

Your votes count. We hope you'll count on us as we head toward November. Let us know how we're doing by writing me at bhorner3@chathamnr.com.

Bill Horner III is the publisher and editor of the News + Record.

A walk in the 'hood ...

7 a.m. Dragging myself out for an early morning walk to avoid the heat and humidity, already 99%. This may be a lost cause despite my healthy intentions. Wait, I'll just do 15 minutes, as I argue with myself about actually continuing. My knee hurts, and isn't that a twinge of sciatica pain? (My inner hypochondriac has a strong work ethic, putting in considerable overtime.) As I continue to bicker with myself, I'm interrupted — thank heavens — by the appearance of another walker.

This walker is being hauled along by two leashed schnauzers, one of whom has already identified me as public enemy No. 1. Frenzied barking ensues and frantic pulling of the leash held by the owner. The walker leans down, clearly trying to have a conversation with the pup who is distraught by my very presence. (Ouch, I love dogs!) I notice that the owner also looks distressed, shaking her head from side to side.

Ah, the "intervention" lightbulb goes on. A humor opportunity! I stick both my arms high above my head — as in the old TV westerns — and say "I give up," smiling while doing so. This disarmed — pun intended — an uncomfortable situation. The walker smiled at me and for whatever reason, the barking dog decided I was chopped liver and began to sniff the grass growing at the curb. We four parted happy campers.

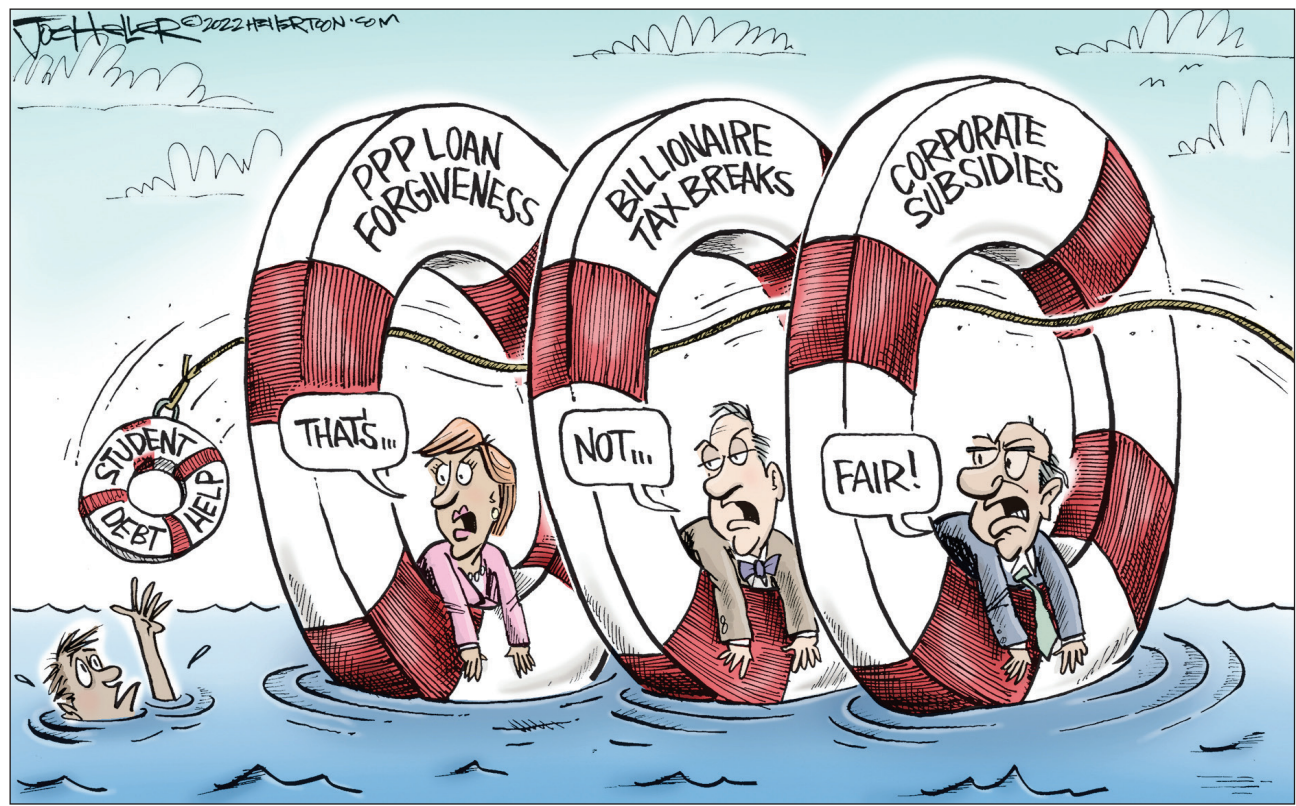
About five minutes have passed on my walking timer. I still have a twinge of sciatica pain, but yay, I've yet to melt in the heat and humidity. It's amazing how the word melt transports me back to the image of the cackling Wicked Witch of the West in "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

"I'm melting, I'm melting!" There's something about this image that always brings out the joyful child in me. (Dorothy's winning! The witch is m-e-l-t-i-n-g!)

Soon, I hear a rhythmic pounding on the pavement behind me and turn around to look. It's a nearby neighbor and his chocolate lab. I have no idea why, but my neighbor has a red balloon in one hand and a leash in the other. Whooshing by me, he raises his leash hand to give a wave and a slightly out-of-breath, "Howdy." For those of you who remember Winnie the Pooh, "Nobody can be uncheered with a balloon," springs to mind and I find my lips gently curling into a smile. Nice, very nice.

I'm beginning to really feel as if I'm wilting in the humidity. Whew! The cars of several other neighbors pass by with energetic waves and smiles. I feel perked up by their waves, almost as if I'm standing straighter and breathing more deeply. OMG, my house is in sight! Yes! Made it! I checked my walking timer only to discover that I'd been walking for almost 30 minutes, not 15. No sciatic twinges and my knee feels fine. (Ms. Hypochondriac, are you paying attention?)

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



Jesus' teaching on forgiving debt

With the controversy surrounding President Joe Biden's effort to forgive up to \$20,000 of individual student loans, I first thought of the Presbyterian version of the Lord's Prayer — "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." It's true one could interpret this ancient prayer as using "debt" as a metaphor for sin and not in a literal sense.

But other teachings of Jesus relate explicitly to the forgiveness of actual debt: "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14:13-14.)

I do not cite this passage to equate college graduates with debt to "the crippled, the lame, the blind," but to emphasize that Jesus understood that an investment in people in need of assistance would result in a "blessing."

How do we receive a blessing by giving, specifically, to those who cannot repay us?

Last week, Bharat Ramamurti,

deputy director of the U.S. National Economic Council, argued that the student loan forgiveness program is an investment in securing America's future: "This plan will lift a large weight off of tens of millions of middle-class Americans. ... By lifting this weight, we are not only benefiting them and their families, we are benefiting the communities that they live in and the economy as a whole."

Ramamurti noted that forgiving student debt allows individuals to stimulate the economy by starting small businesses, thereby creating more jobs, or by buying first homes. This then creates stability and the opportunity to pass wealth to children.

In response, certain columnists, politicians and pastors have raised the issue of fairness. What about those of us who worked hard and sacrificed to pay our own debts? Having paid on my own loans for over a decade, I am sympathetic to the argument of fairness.

But Jesus had a different understanding of fairness! "Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." This may seem like an otherworldly payoff in a future heavenly kingdom, but Jesus taught that this kingdom is among us right now. (Luke 17:21.)

What I have no time for are those

who belittle college students and graduates with blanket statements claiming their debts are their fault or that money from loan forgiveness will be spent on frivolous, exotic things.

This is unfair and a gross mischaracterization.

Over the past week, I have spoken with a number of young people in service professions — teachers, nurses and social workers — who told me that the loan forgiveness will change their lives. I've seen their tears of gratitude as they spoke of the relief and excitement they have for their future. I imagine the ways these individuals will "pay forward" their forgiven loans. They will offer creative work and life-giving service to our community long into the future. The positive difference they make will be priceless. That's what I believe Jesus had in mind.

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" is not only for churchgoers on Sunday morning. I believe forgiving student loans is an investment of our faith in the larger community.

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

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | HALFORD HOUSE

Access to clean water is a basic human right

The United Nations declared access to clean water is a basic human right in 2010. The Commonwealth of Virginia did the same in 2021. Chatham County and the surrounding region have a finite and substantially polluted water supply which is putting this basic right into question here. Chatham is poised to exceed the capacity and already decreasing the quality of our critical water supply resources. These actions should be central to every decision made about our daily lives and economic development.

Our region has experienced periodic droughts seven times since the early 1900s, with the most recent from 1998-2002. Climate change continues to add to the unpredictability of drought and therefore, the uncertainty of adequate clean water. Because the assurance of adequate clean water is unpredictable, our ability to accurately assess viable extent of growth and development for the region is a challenge.

Jordan Lake, the Haw and Rocky rivers provide major water supply to our region. Jordan Lake collects runoff containing hazardous pollutants from upstream, residen-

tial, commercial and industrial sources. Lakes have less turbulence than rivers, so many pollutants typically remain stored in its sediments, water and in plants and animals within the surrounding area. Wastewater discharges and storm water runoff have continued their negative water quality impacts on Jordan Lake, in addition to sections of both the Haw and Rocky Rivers.

Our regulatory community has the necessary policy tools to protect and improve these critical water supply resources for us. The process defined within the Clean Water Act of 1972 (CWA) requires the state to define the use of its surface water bodies, such as recreation or water supply, and create a water quality assessment program. If the assessment indicates that the water body doesn't meet the water quality standard, it's listed as impaired. The state then establishes a strategy to lower pollutants through control of wastewater discharges and storm-water runoff.

Durham and Chapel Hill are permitted to discharge their partially treated wastewater into Jordan Lake by way of New Hope and Morgan

Creeks. Other cities and industries upstream discharge their partially treated wastewater into the Haw River that also receives runoff from bio-solids application to nearby agricultural fields. Siler City discharges its partially treated water into the Rocky River. We the citizens of Chatham County, Cary and Pittsboro therefore obtain our drinking water from diluted wastewater discharged into rivers, streams and basin. The need and management of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are well-established and effective, but it does require significant capital expenditures and careful planning. Politics and economics, along with science, play active roles in defining wastewater discharge limits.

When the CWA was created, pollution was obvious since water bodies caught fire from their industrial contaminants, and oil spills visibly damaged extensive areas of natural habitat and the animals within them. We now realize, even though our water bodies no longer burn, they receive and contain pollutants that are hazardous regardless of their very low concentration and dif-

iculty of detection. They often take a long time to damage our health, but they inevitably do. A few well-documented health conditions include various cancers, birth defects, disruption of hormonal systems and antibiotic resistance.

It's likely the removal of toxic chemicals that are in very small concentrations will be very expensive. At-the-source control through prevention or treating smaller volumes may prove effective. Once the toxic "forever chemicals" are removed from water, they also must be degraded, which is currently challenging.

Recent contamination within the Haw River by 1,4-Dioxane and chemicals of the PFAS family discharged from upstream drastically compromised the water supply for Pittsboro. These forever chemicals are also found in both inflow ends of Jordan Lake. Evidence that they increase from bottom living organisms to fish species as documented recently in the Pee Dee River provides additional food contamination concerns.

N.C. regulatory agencies have the needed policy tools through the CWA to protect and improve our critical re-

gional drinking water supplies. However, the N.C. legislature, as expressed in House Bill 74, 2013, has chosen to promote economic development through decreased regulation as a priority over environmental protection. This focus has resulted in delays in needed water quality compliance and controls. In addition, the state legislature has promoted alternative pollution control technologies that have very little scientific basis for their effectiveness.

If we are to realize our basic human right of access to clean water, the state and local leadership must rely on water quality professionals and the latest science for guidance. They must realize that reliable supplies of clean water are critical to economic development and the quality of our lives. We have over 50 years of knowledge to provide a clear vision to support compliance with both the letter and intent of the CWA's mandate to insure clean water for us all.

Halford "Hal" House, PhD, is a Chatham County environmental scientist and a member of the Chatham County Wastewater Study Commission.

GUEST COLUMN | DENNIS STREETS

A few reflections on Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers

It has been several months since I've visited Chatham County's first Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers park area at Northeast District Park in Chapel Hill.

So after church one Sunday in August, I decided to see how it looks. I was hoping to meet a caregiver and their loved one so I could get their perspective.

On this beautiful, but hot summer day, I was the only person in the park at about 12:20 p.m. — other than two tennis players. There was no one fishing in the pond, walking the trails, playing soccer or softball.

It truly was very peaceful, and as I walked through the woods along the caregiver path and read each inspirational and attractive sign, I could easily imagine how this beautiful, serene area is a blessing to caregivers and their loved ones.

The flowers planted to represent the GEMS Model, articulated by Teepa Snow, are serving as a welcome respite and source of nourishment for the butterflies and bees adding to the beauty and wonderment of this place. The names on the river rocks in the garden tell their own story of how this place brings rest, reflection and loving remembrance.

I was also struck by how clean, fresh and well-maintained the entire area is. I only found one small piece of litter — the remains of a bag of Goldfish snack crackers, hidden under pine needles along the wooded path.

I wrote these observation notes while on the shelter's porch swing that I suspect has been well-used and appreciated.

When the two tennis players came by along the trail past the

shelter, I was able to ask about their impressions. It turns out that both of these young women (in their 20s) had grandparents who passed from Alzheimer's disease. They commented that this area is "amazing" and "lovely" and would have been a great source of relief for their families as they cared for their loved ones. One of the young women shared seeing a family with a senior — using the shelter — as she had visited the park several weeks before. All of this was the validation I hoped to hear — and it was voluntarily and excitedly given.

I personally want to thank again all those who supported our Chatham County Council on Aging in undertaking this innovative and worthy endeavor. I am confident that it is offering a blessing to many and that its

See **STREETS**, page A6

Are we ready for drone skyways?

In Ukraine and other armed conflicts across the globe, the drone has proven its worth as a gatherer of intelligence and a deliverer of destruction. What's coming next, however, is a vastly expanded role for the drone here at home: as the gatherer and deliverer of commercial goods and services.

You can't yet order flashlight batteries or casserole mixes and have them delivered to your door by a flying vehicle. But that's only because you live in North Carolina rather than in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Texas, Utah or Virginia. Walmart just launched a pilot program in those states to deliver consumer products by drone. Amazon will try out its new Prime Air service in select California communities later this year.

If such deliveries (and pickups) prove popular with consumers, our skies could soon be thick with drones. Are we truly ready for this?

In North Carolina, the answer is ... kinda. George Mason University's Mercatus Center recently ranked the states according to their preparedness for drone commerce. As it happens, North Carolina tied with Georgia and New Jersey for sixth-best in the country. On the other hand, North Carolina scored a 58 on a 100-point scale. Only because so many other states are so woefully underprepared does our state rank so highly.

Brent Skorup, a senior research fellow at Mercatus, authored the study. He identified six criteria for evaluating the states in prep work already completed for drone commerce. North Carolina fared quite well in four of the criteria. For example, we already have a law on the books that protects drone operators from nuisance and trespass laws as long as the drones don't disturb people on the ground. We also have staff members within the state's Department of Transportation who are tasked with making sure drone operators comply with various insurance, operational and safety rules.

What North Carolina doesn't have, though, is clear authority for states and localities to lease the space above public infrastructure for use by private firms as delivery paths — as "drone skyways," if you will. That creates a significant barrier to the development of the industry.

Among the most likely avenues for low-altitude delivery vehicles are the airspaces above our highways and streets. It will often make sense for drone operators to follow the contours of existing road networks, at least at first. That will ensure that the drones are "safely separated from airports, homes, schools and other sensitive locations," Skorup argues. "Leasing airspace above public roadways would accelerate drone services because creating flight paths over backyards and private lands raises difficult questions about the taking of private property."

Some states have already authorized private leasing of such spaces. North Carolina should follow their lead. Oregon's statute, for example, is clear and to the point: "Any political subdivision holding the easement or fee title to a street or highway may lease the space above or below that street or highway for private purposes."

Skorup also recommends that states create "regulatory sandboxes" where private firms can experiment with creative approaches to the new service. New York has designated a 50-mile corridor where companies can test their drone deliveries. In Oklahoma, the Choctaw nation did the same for more than a thousand square miles of tribal land. Ohio and Maryland made little-used rural airports available for the same purpose.

With the right legal and regulatory framework in place, North Carolina could become home to a thriving private industry that supplies convenient, affordable services while reducing traffic congestion. Drones are not, of course, going to replace all delivery trucks or drives to the store. But for a variety of lightweight items, delivery or pickup by drone is already feasible and economical.

A common criticism of public officials is that they're overly reactive and backward-looking. In this case, they have a great opportunity to get ahead of an issue without wasting tax dollars or curtailing anyone's freedoms. Why not add "first in skyways" to North Carolina's list of accolades?

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



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

When I learned of the death of Salisbury native and legendary investor Julian Robertson Jr. last week, I remembered a story his father told me.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

His father, the senior Robertson, told me not long before his death in 1995, about his connection to someone who knew a friend of George Washington.

When Robertson Sr. was a young man in South Carolina, he had a conversation about Washington with a retired Wofford college professor named Joseph Augustus Gamewell.

Robertson was so impressed with Gamewell's familiarity with Washington that he told the professor, "You know so

much about Washington that it sounds as if you knew him yourself."

"No," said Professor Gamewell, "I didn't know George Washington. But I had a friend who knew him very well."

But could this be true? Could Mr. Robertson really have had contact with a good friend of someone who knew George Washington?

"Not possible," I kept thinking to myself. George Washington is ancient history — like Adam and Eve. He is too far back for there to be anything like a personal connection.

But it is possible. Chart it out. Mr. Robertson had his conversation with Professor Gamewell back in the early 1930's.

Gamewell was born in 1850 and died in 1940. So as a young man, Gamewell could have met someone who was born in the

1770's or even a little earlier. Such a person would have had plenty of time to grow up and get to know Washington, who lived until 1799. Then that person could have lived long enough to know Gamewell.

So, yes, it's possible — easily.

Are you bored with all this? Are you asking what difference does it make that only three people separate me from the father of the country? If you are asking those questions, read no further. Read something else. You won't understand what is going on in my head.

I keep asking myself, "If I live longer, what things will I tell my young friends? What could I say that they would remember until they are 90 years old — and then tell their own young friends?"

Like George Washington's

See **MARTIN**, page A6

What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

'I WANT TO KEEP CARRYING HER WITH ME'

New business brings life back to Bonlee, honors owner's deceased daughter

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

BONLEE — Life can turn on its head instantly, something one Chatham County resident knows all too well.

Candace Beal is set to open her newest business, the Bonlee Trading Post, where people can sell their art, crafts and goods. The store is located next to Crafters HeART Studio, another one of Beal's passion projects.

She decided to open the business on Sept. 8, what would have been her daughter Caroline Beal's 30th birthday. Caroline loved creating art, especially using watercolor paints with her mother to create beautiful landscapes and scenes.

Caroline died in Jackson, Mississippi in 2017 under mysterious circumstances when she was just 24 years old.

"She was the sweetest girl," Beal said. "She just was so energetic and loving. She just loved people."

Beal has decided to take her grief and turn it into action. She bought the properties at 14 and 16 Bonlee Bennett Road and created the craft studio and the trading post, respectively, each to honor her daughter's legacy.

Artists and creators from Chatham County and neighboring areas will be able to sell goods at the Bonlee Trading Post. The venue is adjacent to the craft studio, so artists can also work in the neighboring space on new projects.

Beal said she's working on securing supplies to sell ice cream at the trading post, as well as other goodies for patrons.

"It's just sort of like an upper-scale country store," Beal said. "It's beautiful, it has beautiful brick walls, and I'm excited about it."

Beal said there are artists and crafters who've already given her goods to sell at the store, ranging



Contributed photo

The Bonlee Trading Post will open to honor Candace Beal's daughter, Caroline Hunter, who died under mysterious circumstances in Jackson, Mississippi.

from ceramic vases and dinnerware to crocheted baby clothes. In addition, she said there are people who already come to the craft studio to create new pieces, some of which may end up at the trading post.

"All the crafty people in the county and surrounding counties make the most beautiful things I've ever seen in my life," Beal said. "I've had children make bracelets and earrings ... it's so creative. It really blows my mind how creative people really are."

While her daughter's death spurred the creation of her businesses, honoring Caroline isn't the only reason Beal decided to pursue multiple ventures along Bonlee Bennett Road.

According to her, Bonlee isn't the place it used to be. Beal said over the last decade or so, the downtown area has slowly

become unrecognizable — the grass has overgrown and some buildings are abandoned and have been vandalized.

Beal said she hopes her businesses can help breathe some life back into the main street in downtown Bonlee.

"I want people to feel like they have their own hometown," she said. "I want them to have a place where they can take their children to have a Popsicle or a piece of bubblegum, and just stop in there and have their own little home-like place."

Beal said when she first bought the block the buildings were on, the windows had been broken into and the front was painted a blue-green color she felt did not suit her ideas for the businesses. Since then, Beal had the windows and doors replaced, as well as completely repainted and renovated the inside and



Contributed photo

Bonlee Trading Post is set to open on Sept. 8.

outside of the buildings.

People in the community have approached Beal several times throughout the trading post renovations. She said many have expressed excitement for the trading post's opening date, as well as expressed gratitude for her work on the previously dilapidated building.

"People have stepped in to see what I've done so far, and they said they can't wait to see how everything comes together," Beal said. "We have a general store in town, which sells mostly beer, and then we have a Dollar General that's good for buying milk and stuff, but this store is personal."

Others in the community have donated furniture for the shop, including a couch where customers can lounge while browsing the trading post's goods.

There are other personal

touches from Beal that have been added to the shop. One of the most important things to Beal in the trading post is the picture of her daughter, Caroline, hanging above the couch in the middle of the store.

"I want to keep carrying her with me," she said. "She would be in here everyday if she was still here. I can see her laughing and greeting people with a big, radiant smile, and I want to make sure I do that to carry her with me."

The Bonlee Trading Post will open on Sept. 8 at 16 Bonlee Bennett Rd. More details can be found on Beal's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CandaceDewBeal>.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Heeden-Taylor.

STREETS

Continued from page A5

value will only increase over the years as our population in Chatham County continues to age and more and more of us will need caregiving and be caregivers.

I see this as a work in progress — one that will remain so. More such parks are needed. This area can serve not only individual caregivers and their loved ones, but also as a site for caregiver support groups and celebrations, as a location for the training of caregivers and students learning about aging, and as an important way to raise awareness among the general community about dementia and caregiving.

Here, for example, are just a few of the messages from the signage posted along the Peaceful Pathways upon which all visitors can reflect:

The GEM Model focuses "on the skills and abilities a person still has, not what they have lost. Instead of looking at people as less, Teepa's model encourages care partners to see what the person with dementia is still able to do."

"To care for those who once cared for us is one of the highest honors," — Tia Walker

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless," — Mother Teresa

"Be helpful. When you see a person without a smile, give them yours,"

— Zig Ziglar
"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain," — Vivian Greene
Rain or shine, summer, fall, winter or spring — we are blessed to have Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers here in Chatham County.

Dennis Streets is the former director of the Chatham County Council on Aging, having retired in February. He is the current co-chairperson of the N.C. Institute of Medicine's Task Force on Healthy Aging.

MARTIN

Continued from page A5

friend, Professor Gamewell, and Mr. Robertson, I can reach out and send my stories into the future, all the way into the 22nd century. I can, that is, if I have anything to say that is worth remembering that long.

I could also pass on the stories from the Civil War that my grandmother heard from her mother-in-law. Civil War soldiers broke everything in the house — except for one cup. It lost

its handle but survived. We still have the cup to "prove" the story. With the cup's help, could I send stories of the 1860's all the way to 2100 and beyond?

Would they want to know where I was when President Kennedy was killed—and how my friends reacted?

Would they care that I knew Julian Robertson Sr., who learned about George Washington from Professor Gamewell, and also knew Julian Robertson Jr. who reshaped Wall Street and so generously funded projects

in his native North Carolina?

Rightly told, those stories might be remembered through the years.

But why do I care if my stories get passed on? And why do I rejoice in personal links to the past? Why do we sometimes battle hard just to lift ourselves somehow up, above, and out of the present?

Without a past to look back at and without some future hope to hold on to, we are unconnected. We drift on an ocean out of sight from shore. We are lost on a desert wasteland without the

stars or a compass to guide us.

History — not just book history, but our own extended personal experience — can lift us above our everyday boundaries. It can give us the context and the comfort to live in what could, but for these personal connections from our own times, be irrelevant and painful lives.

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



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Keeping '22 elections safe is a constant battle for N.C. against adversaries

BY BUCK RYAN
News + Record
Correspondent

A prize up to \$10 million — no, that's not lottery winnings. You can hit the jackpot by submitting a tip to expose foreign influence in U.S. elections.

The money posted by the U.S. Dept. of State is part of a new Rewards for Justice program to also combat malicious cyber activities against the U.S., among other threats.

News about the reward came from Marie Harf, a former Department of State official who is now an international elections analyst for the USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative.

Harf joined several speakers, including two state officials — the chairperson of the North Carolina State Board of Elections and a 10th District

Republican congressman — for a multistate webinar on election integrity on Aug. 18.



Powell

It was a virtual return visit for Adam Clayton Powell III, executive director of the nonpartisan cybersecurity initiative, organized by the University of Southern California and funded with generous support from Google.

Nearly 6,000 people in all 50 states have attended USC's workshops in 2020 and 2021 for candidates, campaign aides, political parties, academics and state and local election workers. The North Carolina workshop also invited representatives from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West

Virginia.

"Many who attend our workshops report that they have changed to stronger passwords, have begun using multi-factor authentication and have been more careful to avoid social engineering attacks," he said.

Phishing scams, such as email and text messages to create urgency, curiosity or fear, are a popular social engineering attack to gain access to your personal or financial data.

Powell noted that this is the busiest time of year for election officials, headed now for the Nov. 8 general election. Oct. 14 is the deadline for voter registration, though same-day registration is available for one-stop, in-person early voting, which begins Oct. 20 and ends at 3 p.m. Nov. 5.

"It's like Santa Claus," Pow-

ell said, quoting an election official, who observed that while voters and journalists tend to focus on one date, election workers, like Santa's elves, are especially busy in the months leading up to Election Day.

Among the contests on the North Carolina ballot are 14 U.S. House seats, several posts in the General Assembly and on the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, as well as races for sheriff, county commissioners, local judges and prosecutors.

The most closely watched race nationally is for the U.S. Senate between U.S. Rep. Ted Budd, a Republican representing the newly drawn 13th District, and his Democratic challenger, Cheri Beasley, former chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

"Our voting equipment is never connected to a network

of any kind, eliminating the possibility of cyber interference in the vote count," said Damon Circosta, chair of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, who is entrusted with protecting the vote of 7.3 million citizens. "If something nefarious were to occur, we would detect it and be prepared to respond."

Absentee ballots must be requested by Nov. 1 and delivered by Nov. 8. In 2020, a flood of lawsuits was filed over extending the deadline to receive mail-in ballots and modifying requirements for postmarking and third-party collection of them.

U.S. Rep. Patrick McHenry, representing the 10th District, is the top Republican on the House Financial Services Committee. He sees cyber-

See **SAFETY**, page A9

WATCH

Continued from page A1

the Conservative Partnership Institute of Washington and is partnered with the N.C. GOP and Republican National Committee.

A blog post on right-wing group Voter Integrity Project's website about NCEIT said the coalition's purpose is "to develop both a long-term and a hyper-local presence that alerts others when rogue election boards try to undermine the democratic process."

In a video interview on CPI's website, Womack said he, Voter Integrity Project Founder Jay DeLancy and conservative activist groups drew inspiration for NCEIT from a guide published by the Election Integrity Network.

The Election Integrity Network was founded by Cleta Mitchell, an elections lawyer who helped former President Donald Trump to try to overturn the 2020 election, and, according to the Raleigh News & Observer, was present at the Rules Review Commission's meeting to advocate for the agency to block the rule amendments. Mitchell and Mark Meadows, Trump's former chief of staff who also spread false claims of voter fraud in the 2020 election, are among CPI staff.

Now, with the midterms looming and as groups with connections to election deniers implement trainings of their own, bolstered with terminology like "election integrity," conduct of poll observers remains a concern.

Partisan poll observer duties and trainings

Womack told the News

+ Record that the group has around 650 members across more than 50 counties, and aims to expand representation in all 100 counties by October.

"We recruit people, and we advertise the work that we're doing and invite people to get involved," he said at the group's summit last Wednesday in Sanford.

Around 25 people from across central N.C. attended the Aug. 24 summit at the Lee County GOP Headquarters; some expressed that they believed the results of the 2020 election were fraudulent — a claim that has failed in dozens of court challenges, before and after the results were certified. Other summit attendees decried the use of voting machines and early voting.

At the Rules Review Commission's Thursday meeting, Womack said NCEIT has trained more than 1,000 people to serve as poll observers, the Raleigh News & Observer previously reported.

Womack led the poll observer training during the Aug. 24 summit; referencing N.C. General Statute 163-45, he went through a list of behaviors that are prohibited for poll observers and reiterated that the point of contact for observers should be with the polling site's chief judge.

Poll observers are typically appointed by the chairperson of each political party in a county; they can designate two people to each voting site, the statutes states. The chairperson of each political party in the county can also designate 10 additional at-large observers and residents of the county to attend any voting place in that

county.

In the case that an unaffiliated candidate is named on the ballot for an election, the candidate or candidate's campaign manager can appoint two observers for each voting place. Observers themselves cannot be candidates and can take no oath of office.

According to the NCSBE, activities that poll observers are prohibited from doing based on the current statute include:

- Participating in electioneering at the voting site
- Impeding on the voting process or communicating or interfering with a voter casting a ballot
- Positioning oneself to see confidential voter information or contents of voted ballots
- Going behind registration, ballot or help desks
- Recording or photographing a voter without the consent of a chief judge or one-stop manager and the voter

During the NCEIT summit, Womack recommended that poll observers roam the voting facilities, even near a help desk if they believe they've identified an issue, and to "politely challenge" judges if they ask observers not to do so.

One attendee also asked if there was any linkage between a greeter who may be electioneering beyond the 50-foot buffer zone outside a voting site and a poll observer inside the voting enclosure. In response, Womack said he believed it would be "very helpful and useful" to coordinate between poll greeters and observers.

"I will tell you that if mischief is occurring outside, if someone's breaking the rules outside of

the voting enclosure, that greeter can be a great set of eyes to communicate by text message or whatever to the poll observer on the inside, who can then report it into the SEIRS application and document what's going on," he said.

SEIRS, or the Statewide Election Integrity Reporting System, was developed by Harnett County GOP Chairperson Jesse Burger, and is intended to be used by NCEIT members who work as poll observers when they see something they believe is election fraud. During a demonstration of the system, Burger pointed to sections of the incident report where users could upload videos or images.

The reports are sent to "war rooms" organized by NCEIT in each county, Womack said. The war rooms could include lawyers, political operatives or board of election members affiliated with the coalition, he said, though it remains unclear how the report will be handled going forward.

The NCSBE has its own Investigations Division to examine potential cases of election law violations. When warranted, the cases are then referred to prosecutors. The state board of elections cannot prosecute cases itself. Lists of referred cases are available on the Investigations Division tab of the NCSBE website.

Safety concerns

According to an Aug. 17 press release on the temporary rule amendments, after the May 2022 primaries, county election officials reported instances of disruptive conduct on the part of partisan observers. The conduct ranged from talking to voters in the voting enclosure and repeatedly entering and leaving the polling place to following poll workers to their cars and asking to take photos of voter forms containing confidential information.

In July 2021, the U.S. Department of Justice also launched a task force to address a rise in threats against election workers.

"We have no indication that these sorts of

behaviors are routine in every county, and we have every reason to believe that most partisan observers are conducting themselves with dignity and are following the directions of county boards and chief judges," said Paul Cox, state board associate general counsel, in the NCSBE press release. "But, of course, we want to avoid any disruptive issues going forward, especially given how these incidents seem to have recently surfaced in significant enough numbers to cause our county directors concern."

Many of the rule amendments proposed by the NCSBE included clarifying or adding prohibited activities for precinct officials and observers. Precinct officials would not be allowed to permit unauthorized access to voting equipment or facilities, provide inaccurate information about the election process or provide confidential information on voters, voting equipment or voting facilities to non-election officials. Prohibited behaviors for poll observers included distributing or posting written material in the voting enclosure and using doors meant for one-stop workers or precinct officials, unless authorized by a chief judge.

Martha Kropf is a professor of political science and public administration at UNC-Charlotte whose research focuses include election administration and political participation. She said having sincere election observers isn't a bad thing; it's when conduct slides into intimidation and disruption that it becomes a problem and a worry among election officials and voters.

Kropf said she sees two distinct possibilities if people who are election deniers are inclined to become poll observers.

"One, it could be a good experience for people who are election deniers that they actually see there are procedures, they must be followed and they are followed. And at the polling place, things are far more regulated than they might

think," she said. "Or the other perspective could be that they're really disruptive. And if they think they know what the law is, then they're going to disrupt the rule of law in the polling place."

In Chatham County, some poll workers have expressed safety concerns to election officials, Paschal said. One person has chosen not to work, afraid and concerned about security procedures, she said.

Beyond an increase in physical safety concerns, the increased use of technology and threat of COVID-19 have posed challenges in retaining election workers — the majority of whom are over the age of 60, according to the Pew Research Center.

"It's hard enough to keep them as it is," Paschal said.

Still, county officials are working to ensure polling sites are secure and workers are kept safe, she said.

Democratic process

Kropf said among the general public, and not just election deniers, there is a general misunderstanding of election procedures. She cited the myth that ballots have been taken from one state and imported to another to become part of election results.

"It's just utter nonsense because every election is different," she said. "Every state is different. Every county is different, and the ballots are different, and the manufacturers are different. We've been saying since the 2000 election — I'm sure somebody was saying it before — elections are hyper decentralized."

Paschal also echoed this sentiment, saying the general public don't often realize how involved a process elections are. In the past couple of weeks, the county BOE has had people ask questions about the certification of the 2020 presidential election or for information that isn't public record, she said.

Her response has been to address their queries and to emphasize that processes including the board's meetings, testing of voting equipment and the audit held the day after Election Day are open to the public.

Paschal encourages people to come to open meetings and engage with the BOE, and said it's important to be as transparent as possible.

"Anything that you don't understand, ask [and] get the information from the source," Paschal said. "Don't just assume things because that's how disinformation gets out."

Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at mdevarajan@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @maydhadevarajan.

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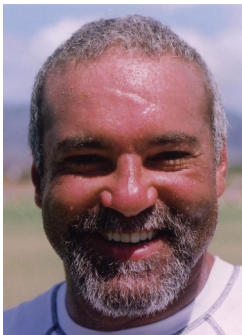
**Saturday & Sunday,
September 3 & 4**

See you in Silk Hope on Labor Day Weekend!



OBITUARIES

CEDRIC LOCKLEAR



June 24, 1962 ~ Aug. 25, 2022
Cedric Locklear, 60, of Chapel Hill, died Thursday, Aug. 25, at home from natural causes.

Cedric was born in Lumberton, Roberson County, N.C., on June 24, 1962, to Alvia Bolin Locklear and the late Howard Lee Locklear. In the service of the military, Cedric's family lived in Camp Legune and Fayetteville, and as well as Arlington, Virginia. Cedric was a proud member of the Lumbee American

Indian Tribe.

Cedric graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from North Carolina State University in 1982. After a short time in the military, Cedric worked for the North Carolina Forest Service, an environmental engineering company and the Army Corps of Engineers, all leveraging his forest science skills. Cedric volunteered as a forest fire fighter and helped to extinguish several big western fires. In 2004, Cedric pivoted his career towards computer network engineering. Driven and self-taught, he earned many credentials, along with a top-top-secret security clearance and spent over 15 years contracting as a Systems Architect for the Pentagon and other government agencies.

Cedric was a national and world level ultimate frisbee competitor. He was a long-time member of the ultimate frisbee community in North Carolina and Washington, D.C., starting in 1980. Cedric was a founding member of Ring of Fire, the current national champions. Through the sport, he created many friendships that lasted his entire adult life. While a fierce competitor, Cedric was sensitive, loving and always ready to give a big bear hug. He was a loyal, ideal teammate on and off the field, even as the actual playing became infrequent. As one of his teammates said, "Cedric filled up a room in such a bright and friendly way."

Surviving relatives include his son, Grady Locklear of Chapel Hill; one brother, Darryl Locklear of Fayetteville; his mother, Alvia Locklear of Chapel Hill; and many cousins and great friends. While not married at the time of his death, Cedric's ex-wife Theresa Locklear, whom he married twice (the first time at a Frisbee tournament in 1993), was an integral part of his life through to the end.

Cedric was very devoted to his family and mother.

The family received friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29, at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory Griffin Chapel, 396 West St., Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

The family received friends from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 30, at Revels Funeral Home, 3575 N. Roberts Ave., Lumberton, N.C. The funeral service followed at 2 p.m. with Rev. Rodney Hunt presiding. Burial followed in Oxendine Cemetery, 781 Rennert Road, Lumberton, N.C.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Cedric's memory to the Ring of Fire Foundation. This non-profit organization works to help people pay to play in ultimate frisbee tournaments that they otherwise would not be able to attend due to finances. Donations can be made online: <https://ringoffoundation.betterworld.org/campaigns/cedric-locklear>, or checks can be sent via mail to: Ring of Fire, 1210 Franklin Street, Durham, N.C., 27701.

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

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

ELLEN MORROW LIGHTSEY



Nov. 30, 1935 ~ Aug. 9, 2022
Ellen Lightsey died on Aug. 9 from Alzheimer's disease, heart failure and bladder cancer in Chapel Hill. She was 86.

Ellen was born in Sandersville, Mississippi to parents, William Theodore Lightsey, Sr. and Sarah Lewis Lightsey. Her siblings are Joan Brumfield, Charlie Lightsey (deceased), William Theodore Jr. (Ted) Lightsey, Judyth Parish, and James Arthur Lightsey (deceased).

She graduated from Sandersville High School as Valedictorian. She worked at Masonite in the front office. Later, she became a mother of two to Thomas Vance Knight and Kelley Lynn Knight. In Greensboro and Raleigh, she volunteered at the school's offices in her spare time. Ellen was a talented seamstress, making most of Kelley's childhood school dresses. She painted with acrylics, and enjoyed collecting pottery, and had pieces from the famous N.C. potter Ben Owen. Ellen loved animals, and lost animals were attracted to her. She hand-raised a baby Robin teaching it to scratch for worms. The bird would land on her head, and returned to our yard for years. After her son Vance graduated Dental School, she began working in his office as a receptionist, and worked there for 15 years. After retirement, she enjoyed meeting with her church group at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church. She then moved to Chapel Hill to be closer to her daughter Kelley, and lived at Chatham Ridge Assisted Living until her death.

Instead of flowers, donations can be sent to CLAWS, Inc., wild animal rescue and rehabilitation: NC-CLAWS.ORG.

SHANNON 'BO' GRUBBS

June 21, 1977 ~ Aug. 11, 2022
Shannon "Bo" Heath Grubbs, 45, of Broadway, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 11, at Central Harnett Hospital in Lillington.

Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, at Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church with Rev. Doug Houston officiating. A private family interment will follow at a later date in Crestview Cemetery in Rural Hill.

He was the son of the late Harold Edwin Grubbs and Shelia Ann Goode Messick. Bo was preceded in death by his parents. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp.

Surviving is his wife, Patricia Grubbs; brothers, Shawn Grubbs of Broadway, and Christopher Shane Grubbs of Kernersville.

Online condolences can be

made at: www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

JOSHUA MICHAEL MATHEWSON

Joshua Michael Mathewson, 27, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 23, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28, at Smith Funeral Home with Rev. Garland Smith officiating.

He was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, son of Eric and Theresa Mathewson. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Jerry Ouellette.

Surviving are his parents, sisters, Chelsea Young and Amanda Young of Sanford; grandparents, David Mathewson of Colorado, Althea and Gary Scholl of New York and Priscilla Ouellette of New

MARTHA ANNA BOSTICK HOWLE



Oct. 29, 1946 ~ Aug. 25, 2022
Martha Anna Bostick Howle, 75, passed away peacefully to be with her Heavenly Father on Thursday, Aug. 25.

Martha was born on Oct. 29, 1946, to Chester Steadman and Martha Jones Bostick. She grew up in Ellerbe, N.C., and spent 46 years as a Licensed Practical Nurse, retiring at the age of 70. Martha met Larry Howle in 1977 and they were married on June 6, 1981. Their love story

continued on, as they were a very happy and devoted couple. Together, they raised Martha's son, Mark, and lived a life full of Harley rides and shag dancing. Martha and Larry belonged to two shag clubs, the Chatham Area Shag Association and Boppers Shag Club of Charlotte. They danced for over 30 years, with frequent trips to Myrtle Beach to dance and be with friends. During retirement, Martha continued to stay busy with her church, Pittsboro Presbyterian Church, volunteering to bring flowers to Hospice patients, and, of course, shag dancing. Martha was a generous and loving person with a quick wit and a ready smile. She always had fun with whatever she was doing.

Martha received amazing care during her illness, and her family would like to thank EVERYONE who cared for her at WakeMed, Cary Hospital in Cary, and at the Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care in Pittsboro. Martha's care could not have been any better, and she took her last breath with Larry by her side, holding her hand, as he always did.

Martha is survived by her beloved husband, Larry Howle of Pittsboro; stepdaughter, Kathern Gleaton; step-grandchildren, Kathy Grayson and Tristen Gleaton; brother, George (Ellie) Bostick of Charlotte; nieces, Cathy (Brian) Robinson and Tina Sauls; two step-great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and countless friends.

Martha was preceded in death by her son, Mark Keith Shaver; parents, Chester and Martha Bostick; sisters, Louise Godfrey, Dorothy "Dot" Brookshire, Sarah Gable, Joan Burton and Janie Sauls; brothers, Chester "Bubba" Bostick, William "Bill" Bostick, and Robert "Bob" Bostick.

A Celebration of Life was held on from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30 at Donaldson Funeral Home, 396 West Street, Pittsboro, N.C.

The funeral and burial will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at Lake Wateree Presbyterian Church, 3257 Old Windmill Road, Ridgeway, S.C., with visitation 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and funeral service at 1 p.m., immediately followed with burial at the nearby cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like memorial contributions be made to the Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care. Please make sure Martha Howle's name is on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to the address: Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Hampshire.

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

EDWARD W. 'EDDIE' CAULDER

Edward W. "Eddie" Caulder, 67, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 24.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, in the Chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Shirley Caulder; daughters, Lisa McPherson, Buffy Bourne; two granddaughters; brothers, Lacy and David Caulder; and sister, Leona Caulder.

Online condolences are available at www.bridgescameron-funeralhome.com.

KATHY SUE FREEMAN HEFNER

May 15, 1956 ~ Aug. 25, 2022
Kathy Sue Freeman Hefner, 66, of Bear Creek passed away on Thursday, Aug. 25.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Freeman Family Cemetery, with Rev. David Hicks, Rev. Darrell Garner and Rev. Bob Wachs officiating.

She was born in Chatham County, the daughter of Willie and Annie Mildred Brewer Freeman. She was preceded in death by her mother, and sister, Janice Lambert.

She is survived by her children, Matthew Beck, Jody Beck, Nikki Tavoada, Jasmine H. Packer, Andy Hefner, Matthew Hefner; father, Willie Freeman; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild; sisters, Ann Ray, Betty Stephens, and Tina Gaines.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

BETTY JO GARNER

Oct. 26, 1966 ~ Aug. 23, 2022
Betty Jo Garner, 55, of Cameron, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 23, at her home.

The funeral service was held at 12 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home on Aug. 29 with Bishop Alfred Marshall officiating. Burial will follow in Hillmon Grove Baptist Cemetery.

She was born in Lee County to the late Robert Odell McLean Jr. and Betty Ray Pickard.

She is survived by her husband, Pete Garner; daughter, Candice Nicole Dean of Fayetteville; brother, Robert McLean of Sanford; sister, Brandi Raines of Sanford; half-sister, Tammy Winchester of Garner and eight grandchildren.

Online condolences are available at www.bridgescameron-funeralhome.com.

BETTY LOU WILSON SANDERS

June 23, 1937 ~ Aug. 27, 2022
Betty Lou Wilson Sanders, 85, of Eagle Springs, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 27, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, at Bright Light Baptist Church with Rev. Sammy McNeill and Rev. Colton Moore presiding. Interment followed that service at Pine Grove Baptist Church.

Betty was born in Chatham County to Annie Belle Wilson Burns. She attended Bright Light Baptist Church and was formerly employed in the textile industry. In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer Sanders and brothers, J. Frank Burns and Earl Burns.

Betty is survived by her sons,

Danny Sanders of Lexington, S.C., and Gary Sanders of Eagle Springs; two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and one step-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105, Operation Smile, 3641 Faculty Blvd., Virginia Beach, Virginia 23453 or the charity of one's choice.

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

HELEN THOMAS HOLDER

May 14, 1929 ~ Aug. 28, 2022

Helen Thomas Holder, 93, of Sanford, passed away Sunday, Aug. 28, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

The family received friends at 1p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, in the Parlor of Shallow Well Church. The funeral service followed in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. with Rev. Eric Burmahl and Rev. Donald Thompson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Holder was born in Lee County on May 14, 1929, to the late Datus E. and Mary Alma Wicker Thomas. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Nolan Monroe Holder and a brother, Robert Ervin Thomas. A graduate of Jonesboro High School, she was a member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and retired from W. Koury Company.

She is survived by daughters, Linda H. Barber of Sanford and Patricia H. Gaster of Sanford; two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Jennie Rae Thomas Oldham of Georgia.

Online condolences are available at www.bridgescameron-funeralhome.com.

ROSA MICHELLE ANDREWS

Jan. 5, 1979 ~ Aug. 19, 2022

Rosa Michelle Andrews, 43, of Pittsboro, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 16, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

The memorial service was held Saturday, Aug. 27, at 3 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home.

ODESSA FREZZELL (HARRIS) PARTRIDGE

Dec. 5, 1920 ~ Aug. 20, 2022

Mrs. Odessa Harris Partridge, 101, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 20, at Sanford Health and Rehab.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25, at Ward Memorial Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

DESHAUN QUANTE BROOKS

DeShaun Quante Brooks, 28, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 13.

The funeral service was held Saturday, Aug. 27 at Knotts Funeral Home.

CHARLES LEE PERRY

Sept. 21, 1961 ~ Aug. 27, 2022

Charles Lee Perry, 60, of Pittsboro, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 27, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

JEAN LORRAINE (COVINGTON) BECTON

Nov. 27, 1947 ~ Aug. 26, 2022

Jean Lorraine Covington Becton, 74, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, Aug. 26, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

BILLY BAILEY LOCKLEAR

Mr. Billy Bailey Locklear, 85, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, Aug. 29, at First-Health Hospice in West End.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

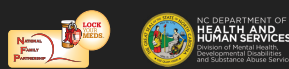
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Her eyes from her dad.

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SCHOOL

Continued from page A1

year, he was the first one in his class to volunteer to talk to a visitor from the News + Record.

Estes is entering her fifth year as VCE principal and she's hoping this year brings a sense of normalcy following a tumultuous three school years trying to handle leading and teaching in pandemic.

"All the kids are excited to be back and that's what gives us our energy," Estes said. "There's hopes of getting back to some more normalcy. This year just feels a little bit different because we are back to all the things that make a return to school exciting."

The principal added that academic focus areas for the school this year include improving literacy and proficiency scores for students and what she calls "teaching with urgency" to make up for learning loss due to COVID-19. That means utilizing every minute of the school day to help students grow academically, socially and emotionally to prepare them for the future.

them grow and push them to be their best," said Adriana Lopez, a 2nd grade international teacher at VCE from Colombia. "I love connecting with the kids here at VCE and once you connect with them you are able to push them."

'It's what we live for'

VCE students and their principal aren't the only ones excited to get the school year started. For the first day of class, Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson continued his annual tradition of riding the bus with a kindergarten, something he's done since before he came to Chatham County. This year, Jackson rode the bus with VCE kindergarten Seth Burnette.

"For us as administrators, the first day of school is our championship game, it's what we live for," Jackson said. "We build the momentum from the top-down. We feed it to the staff at convocation and now the staff invigorate the students inside the building."

Inside the classrooms of VCE, students were feeling that energy. Third-grader Hansel

Aguilar said he was happy to be back in school because he could see his old friends again after a long summer break and expand his knowledge in math and science.

"I think this year in science we are going to have fun outside," Aguilar said. "We are going to learn new things to experience and explore."

Aguilar also said he was really looking forward to swinging on the monkey bars during recess with his new classmates.

VCE was just the first stop in Jackson's tour. Throughout the first day of classes he visited about a third of Chatham's schools. He said his plan is to visit all 19 by Thursday of this week. He believes it's important to see the status of each school firsthand and get ready for the year ahead.

New challenges, new initiatives

The district is implementing several new initiatives this school year including a new app to help families track buses in the mornings and afternoons. The "Here Comes the Bus" app had minor glitches in early phases, but school officials said it is operating as planned for the first day of school.

This school year also marks the first for the One Chatham Strategic Plan, which sets five goals for the next five years: curriculum & innovation; student health & safety; faculty & staff; facilities & infrastructure; and communication & information sharing. The plan is meant to address equity concerns across the district and unite the district across socioeconomic and cultural boundaries.

"It's the power of one," Jackson said. "We are united as one, striving to provide the best academic, athletic and arts opportunities for our



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Mrs. Barrier's 1st grade class learns about hand signals they can use to ask questions. The lesson took place on the first day of school on Monday at Virginia Cross Elementary in Siler City.

children."

While the school year is off to a smooth start, according to Jackson and Estes, it isn't without its challenges. The district currently has 144 open staff positions, a vacancy rate of about 10%. That includes 36 teacher vacancies and more than 40 support-staff openings including bus drivers and instructional assistants. Jackson said the district is still hiring and anyone interested may apply by visiting www.applitrack.com/chathamnc/onlineapp.

Chatham County fares relatively well compared to vacancies in other counties including more than 950 openings in Wake County and more than 270 vacancies in Durham. Jackson previously told the News + Record he was not concerned about the vacancies because it is common to start the year without a full staff.

The most obvious change in the classroom this year is reduced COVID-19 protocols. Masking and social distancing requirements are optional in CCS, and this is the first time in three years there is no form of online learning



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Fifth grade teacher Ms. Baker helps one of her students with a worksheet on the first day of school on Monday at Virginia Cross Elementary in Pittsboro.

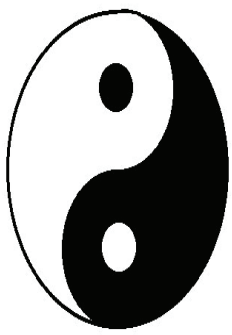
or some sort of masking requirement. In fact, walking around many CCS schools, those wearing masks are in the minority.

Even with changes and getting back into the swing of non-pandemic routine, the district says the first day went about as smooth as it possibly could have. Jackson said CCS is prepared for another great school year.

"I am pleased with how smoothly our first day went and was excited to see strong instruction taking place,"

Jackson said. "Everyone on staff did their part to ensure a great first day. Our buses got students to and from school safely, our custodial staff did a great job getting our buildings in good shape for our students to return and our cafeteria staff were making chicken and waffles for students. We are off to a great start."

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



Announcing:

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Tai Chi can...

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Contact Liz Lahti for more information:
liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org or 919.542.4512



SAFETY

Continued from page A7

security threats as not only endangering elections but also America's financial infrastructure, particularly through ransomware.

"These threats are quite real and can cause serious consequences," said McHenry, who has proposed legislation to counter the threats

The USC workshop outlined a four-part "roadmap" used by

adversaries, particularly from Russia, China and Iran, to disrupt elections: manipulate voters, discourage or prevent voting, manipulate vote totals and create distrust of the outcome.

That last threat focused on disruption from misinformation and disinformation, particularly through social media.

A 2021 study by the Pew Research Center showed the percentage of people who regularly get news that way: Twitter (55%), Facebook (47%), YouTube (30%), TikTok (29%) and Instagram (27%).

Two years earlier, a study by the Park Advisors consulting group, "Weapons of Mass Distraction: Foreign State-Sponsored Disinformation in the

Digital Age," confirmed a quote attributed to Mark Twain: "A lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth puts on its shoes."

The study found: "On average a false story reaches 1,500 people six times more quickly than a factual story. This is true of false stories about any topic, but stories about politics are most likely to go viral."

Stop before you share anything that makes you angry or outraged, as those are tell-tale signs of disinformation, said Sarah Mojarad, a lecturer at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering.

And be careful what you salute, Harf said. She showed a sponsored Facebook page, titled "Being Patriotic," which posted a

quote on patriotism from Calvin Coolidge and a tribute to American soldiers, among many other messages.

It was shut down after its payment method — Russian rubles — drew suspicion. The page came from a Russian disinformation playbook to sow division in American politics, Harf said.

"Most crises are unlikely but predictable," said Dave Quast, an expert on crisis responses for candidates, campaigns and corporations. He listed cybersecurity breaches, rumors and health issues among many examples.

"Get bad news out fast with your viewpoint," Quast said. "There's only one chance to get the initial response right."

HAVE YOU HEARD?

YOUR FAIR IS BACK!
SEPTEMBER 14-18, 2022

GATE 1
4:30 PM Weekdays,
Noon on Weekends
Rides Begin 30 Minutes
After Opening
REGIONAL FAIR
September, 14-18, 2022
This Is YOUR Fair!

ENTER ONLINE Fair Entry

FOR MORE INFORMATION
LeeRegionalFair.com

Lee REGIONAL FAIR
September, 14-18, 2022
This Is YOUR Fair!

ADMISSION
Wednesday, September 14 - Saturday 17 is \$5
Sunday September 18 - is \$5 or 5 cans of food.
Senior Citizens (65 & Better) and School Students, admitted FREE 4:30-7:30 PM on Wednesday.
Children under 36" tall admitted free all week.

CARNIVAL ARMBANDS
\$25 on Wednesday and Sunday;
\$30 on Thursday - Saturday \$30
BEFORE THE FAIR OPENS
Purchase armbands online at Big Rock Amusements for \$25.

MEGA PASS
\$65.00 up to September 8, 2022; \$70.00 after September 8, 2022. Purchase at the Sanford Lions Club on Thursday evenings 5-7pm.
Nontransferable and valid for one person for the entire week of the 2022 Lee Regional Fair. Gate admission is charged separately.

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REAL ESTATE

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

OFFICE SPACE RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, (919)-930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

RENTAL APARTMENTS

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

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

FOR SALE

TV ANTENNAS - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 North Third Avenue, Siler City. (919)-227-6698, Au4,tfnc

AUCTIONEERS

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

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

SERVICES

CASH PAID FOR JUNK CARS and pickups. Call (336)-581-3423, Jy28-S15,8tp

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

CHATHAM CARES COMMUNITY PHARMACY is hiring a part-time Executive Director/Pharmacy Manager. Must be a licensed pharmacist and located in the Piedmont region of the state. Bilingual English/Spanish skills a plus. For more info, or to apply: Chatham-Cares.com/executive-director. Au18-06,8tp

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

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified on the 28th day of July, 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **DONNA MARIA LLOYD** aka Donna M. Lloyd, 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 24th day of November, 2022, 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 11th day of August, 2022. Kelly D. Farrell, Executor
Donna Maria Lloyd aka Donna M. Lloyd
c/o J Alan Campbell LawcPO
Box 850
Hillsborough, NC 27278
Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Estate of Kearney Hill Andrews
FILE NO. 22 E 405
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **KEARNEY HILL ANDREWS**, deceased, Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 11th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 11th day of August, 2022.
Clara Perry, Executor
NC Estate Solutions
PO Box 3006
Raleigh, NC 27602
Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Estate of Thomas Elvin Hinton, Sr.
File No. 22 E 282
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **THOMAS ELVIN HINTON SR.**, deceased, Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 11th day of August, 2022.
Michelle Hinton, Administrator
NC Estate Solutions
PO Box 3006
Raleigh, NC 27602
Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 379
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **WILLIAM ROBISON**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her address, P.O. Box 1225, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 11th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 8th day of August, 2022.
Tunney Lee LeVac
P. O. Box 1225
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **LINDA MARIE LEE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of August, 2022.
Vickie Lee Jimenez, Administrator
1109 West Pope Street
Benson, NC 27504
Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN IV** a/k/a HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN, JR., deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, 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 the 18th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Pattie Stone Turner, Executrix
2978 Butterwood Drive
Jamestown, NC 27282
Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

CREDITORS NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **HAZEL PATTERSON STONE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Pattie Stone Turner, Executrix
2978 Butterwood Drive
Jamestown, NC 27282
Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **CLINTON PEARCE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Ronald Pearce, Executor
6205 Buckhorn Rd
Greensboro, NC 27410
Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **SANDOR ALAN BALOGH** [22-E-449] late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporation indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Melissa Young Allen, Executrix
210 Hillsborough Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO: 22-E-448 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY JOHN RESCH
A.K.A.
MARY L. RESCH
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED having qualified as co-Executors of the Estate of **MARY JOHN RESCH, a.k.a. Mary L. Resch**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said Decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before November 21, 2022, said date being at least three months from the date of the first publication or posting of this Notice as indicated below, or the same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 28A-14-1. This the 18th day of August, 2022.
Mary Resch Lloyd
Margaret Resch Morgan
ESTATE OF MARY JOHN RESCH
a.k.a. MARY L. RESCH
3853 Philip Ludwell
Williamsburg, NC 23188
Taylor Avioli
Narron Wenzel, PA
5400 Glenwood Ave., Suite 201
Raleigh, NC 27612
Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN IV** a/k/a HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN, JR., deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500, Asheville, NC 28801 on or before November 28, 2022, 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 15th day of August, 2022.
Maxine C. Forester, Executrix of the Estate of Stanley Dee Forester
Attorney for Estate:
Richard J. Kania
The Kania Law Firm, P.A.
82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500
Asheville, NC 28801
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 459
All persons having claims against **DONALD LEE BRAY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Sara Neal Bray, Administrator
295 Henry Bray Dr
Siler City, NC 27344
Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 442
All persons having claims against **JOHN ROSS DOWDY, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Lura D. Broadie, Administrator
4301 Holstein Dr.
High Point, N.C. 27265
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 466
All persons having claims against **JEAN H. RUSH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified

James Harold Hilkey, Personal Representative
c/o Larry H. Rocamora, Attorney for the Estate,
McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson & Hinkle, PLLC
3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400
Durham, NC 27707
Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 450
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MARY STROWD WARD RIGGSBEE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 18th day of August, 2022.
Lunday A. Riggsbee, Executor of the Estate of Mary Strowd Ward Riggsbee
3868 Mt. Gilead Church Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 460
All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH MCCOY MASON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Pattie Mason Sturdivant, Executrix
3867 Crawford Dairy Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 459
All persons having claims against **PETER SAMUEL LANDSTROM**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 1st day of December, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 1st day of September, 2022.
SUSAN BETTS LANDSTROM, EXECUTRIX
ESTATE OF PETER SAMUEL LANDSTROM
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 464
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **MARY ALANA BAKER ELLIS**, late of 300 Clynelish Close, Pittsboro, NC 27312, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 507 Brookview Drive, Elon, NC 27244, on or before the 6th day of December 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate

to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Ricky Rush, Executor
302 Rush Rd.
New Hill, NC 27562
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 464
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **MARY ALANA BAKER ELLIS**, late of 300 Clynelish Close, Pittsboro, NC 27312, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 507 Brookview Drive, Elon, NC 27244, on or before the 6th day of December 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 464
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **MARY ALANA BAKER ELLIS**, late of 300 Clynelish Close, Pittsboro, NC 27312, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 507 Brookview Drive, Elon, NC 27244, on or before the 6th day of December 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 464
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **MARY ALANA BAKER ELLIS**, late of 300 Clynelish Close, Pittsboro, NC 27312, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 507 Brookview Drive, Elon, NC 27244, on or before the 6th day of December 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **STANLEY JOHN GIROUX**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 25th day of August, 2022.
Cheryl Ann Giroux, Co-Administrator
593 Canal Town St.
Brunswick, MD 21716
c/o John M. Perna, Attorney at Law
202 Davis Grove Circle, Suite 105
Cary, N.C. 27519
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 363
All persons having claims against **JOHNNIE LONDON ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Bryan Keith Alston, Administrator CTA
2 Wildrose Ct.
Greensboro, NC 27410
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 363
All persons having claims against **JOHNNIE LONDON ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Bryan Keith Alston, Administrator CTA
2 Wildrose Ct.
Greensboro, NC 27410
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 363
All persons having claims against **JOHNNIE LONDON ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Bryan Keith Alston, Administrator CTA
2 Wildrose Ct.
Greensboro, NC 27410
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 363
All persons having claims against **JOHNNIE LONDON ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Bryan Keith Alston, Administrator CTA
2 Wildrose Ct.
Greensboro, NC 27410
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 363
All persons having claims against **JOHNNIE LONDON ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Bryan Keith Alston, Administrator CTA
2 Wildrose Ct.
Greensboro, NC 27410
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 363
All persons having claims against **JOHNNIE LONDON ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Bryan Keith Alston, Administrator CTA
2 Wildrose Ct.
Greensboro, NC 27410
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

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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.

will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Alana A. Germain, Executrix of Estate of
Mary Alana Baker Ellis, Deceased
David K. Holley, Attorney for the Estate
10 NW Court Square
Graham, North Carolina 27253
336-227-7411
S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY Administrative Hearing Notice
To: All Heirs, Known and Unknown of **RF Paschal, Iona Johnson, Iona Glover Johnson, Sandra J. Price, Arzelia Nettles, Carnelia Rodgers, and Brenda K. Johnson**.
Take notice that an administrative hearing will take place in the multipurpose room of **Wren Memorial Library at 500 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City, NC at 10:30 am on Sept. 13, 2022** regarding enforcing the Town's Minimum Housing Code against the dwelling located at **1420 Spring Ave.**, also identified as Chatham County Tax Parcel Number 16736. The dwelling located at the property described above has been deemed unsafe and unfit for human habitation due to abandonment, dilapidation, conditions creating a fire hazard or accident, attraction of insects or rodents, and conditions rendering the dwelling detrimental to health, safety, morals and welfare of the residents of the Town. A public necessity exists for the repair or demolition of the subject dwelling. Any person or party wishing to submit a plan for repair or demolition of the structure is invited to the hearing to provide the details of said plan, or to explain why the Town should not enforce its Code against the subject dwelling. If you have any questions, please contact the Town's Ordinance Enforcement Officer Eric Clem of State Code Enforcement Inc. at 336-553-9696 Ext. 404 or eric@statecodeenforcement.com. S1,1tc

PUBLIC NOTICE State of North Carolina County of Chatham
The annual meeting of the **North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department Inc.** will be held at North Chatham Volunteer Fire Station #1, U.S. 15-501 North, on **Monday, September 12, 2022, at 7:00 PM** for the purpose of electing (2) two Directors of the Corporation and of such business as may properly come before the meeting. All residents of the North Chatham Fire Protection District eighteen (18) years of age or older are entitled to attend and vote at said meeting. The directors to be elected at said meeting shall be residents of the North Chatham Fire Protection District of Chatham County and shall be fairly be representative of the geographic areas and populations served by the corporation. This 29th day of August 2022.
Charles Quinlan, President
North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. S1,S8,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the ESTATE OF **SUSAN ROBERTA POWELL** AKA **SUSAN HENDERSON POWELL** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on June 10, 2022, are hereby notified to present their claims to **WOODSON LEA POWELL IV**, Executor in care of the undersigned attorney at her address, on or before November, 30, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar

of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the deceased, please make immediate payment. This 1st day of September, 2022
WOODSON LEA POWELL IV, EXECUTOR
 c/o Janet H. McLamb, Attorney
 102 Presque Isle Lane
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
 The undersigned, having qualified on the 24th day of August 2022 as Executrix of the Estate of **DOROTHY J. LABBOK a/k/a Dorothy Joan Labbok**, 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 1st day of December 2022, 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 1st day of September 2022.
 Andrea F. Mitchel, Executrix of the Estate of
 Dorothy J. Labbok a/k/a Dorothy Joan Labbok

c/o Julia G. Henry, Esquire
 Kennon Craver, PLLC
 4011 University Drive, Suite 300
 Durham, North Carolina 27707
 S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
 The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **ROBERT J. OBRISKI AKA ROBERT JOHN OBRISKI, De-**

ceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 1st day of December, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.
 This 1st day of September, 2022.
ELIZABETH RINCON-OBRISKI, EXECUTRIX
ESTATE OF ROBERT J. OBRISKI AKA ROBERT JOHN OBRISKI
 Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC
 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CHATHAM COUNTY 22SP69
IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY ROBERT L. CARMINES DATED MAY 3, 2010 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 1510 AT PAGE 905 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 payment of the secured debt and failure to perform the agreements contained therein and, pursuant to demand of the holder of the secured debt, the undersigned will expose

for sale at public auction at the usual place of sale at the **Chatham County courthouse at 1:00PM on September 14, 2022**, the following described real estate and any improvements situated thereon, in Chatham County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described in that certain Deed of Trust executed Robert L. Carmines, dated May 3, 2010 to secure the original principal amount of \$119,897.00, and recorded in Book 1510 at Page 905 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: **10930 NC Highway 902, Bear Creek, NC 27207**
 Tax Parcel ID: 0012107
 Present Record Owners: The Estate of Robert L. Carmines
 The record owner(s) of the property, according to the records of the Register of Deeds, is/are The Estate of Robert L. Carmines.
 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 the 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 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 subject to all prior liens and encumbrances and unpaid taxes and assessments including 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 from the highest bidder and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. Cash will not be accepted. This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by law. After the expiration of the 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 residing at 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 10 days written notice to the landlord. You may be liable for rent due under the agreement prorated

to the effective date of the termination.
 The date of this Notice is August 25, 2022.
Attorney for the Substitute Trustee
 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400
 Charlotte, NC 28216
 (704) 333-8107
 22-113261
 S1,S8,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22-E-480 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
 The undersigned, James W. Newell, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **IRENE C. DICKSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the day of 29 November 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This 1st day of September, 2022.
 James W. Newell, Administrator
 c/o Marie H. Hopper
 Attorney for the Estate
 Hopper Cummings, PLLC
 Post Office Box 1455
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 S1,S8,S15,S22,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION 22 JT 52 NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CLEVELAND IN RE: J.J.L. D/O/B: 07/25/2017 NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION FOR PARENTAL RIGHTS TER-

MINATION PROCEEDINGS TO: Ashley Sullivan Cox, MOTHER OF J.J.L., Respondent.
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: **TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS YOU ARE REQUIRED** to answer the petition within (40) days after September 1, 2022, exclusive of that date, which is October 11, 2022. Upon your failure to answer the petition within the time prescribed, your parental rights to the child may be terminated. Also take notice that (1) you have been appointed an attorney in this matter; (2) said attorney is, Seth Lackey, 400 W. Warren Street, Shelby, NC 28150, 704-487-4511; (3) notice of the date, time and place of the hearing will be mailed to your aforementioned counsel, pursuant to dates as set forth above, if no Answer is filed; (4) the purpose of the hearing is to terminate the parental rights to the above-named child; (5) the parents have a right to attend the hearing. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than October 11, 2022. Said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice; upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This is the 1st of September, 2022.
 Richard J. Luptak, Attorney for Petitioners
 515 S. DeKalb Street
 Shelby, NC 28150
 S1,S8,S15,3tp

CHATHAM CHAT | GEORGE GREGER-HOLT

Upcoming Chatham Drug Free event celebrates recovery

September has been recognized as National Recovery Month since 1989

Pittsboro's George Greger-Holt has worked for decades in Chatham County serving and supporting youth and youth programs. As the community outreach coordinator for Chatham Drug Free — a position he's held since 2013 — Greger-Holt leads the organization's educational efforts and programming and coordinates with CDF partners on a wide array of initiatives.

This week, we spoke to Greger-Holt about the upcoming Chatham County Recovery Celebration on Sept. 10 in Siler City. Among other things, Greger-Holt highlighted the county's continued commitment to help those suffering from drug addiction.

A 1977 graduate of Elmira College, Greger-Holt earned a masters of education from UNC-Chapel Hill. He worked in a variety of positions for Chatham County Schools from 1991 until his retirement from CCS in 2013. He's been the recipient of numerous awards and recognition for his work, including the GlaxoSmithKline Lifetime Achievement Award for Student Health in 2010, the Margaret B. Pollard Outstanding Community Service Award in 2009, and the North Carolina Governor's Academy for Prevention Professionals Award of Appreciation in 2007.

What exactly is the Chatham County Recovery Celebration?

The Chatham County Recovery Celebration is a community-wide, family-friendly event to celebrate those



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

George Greger-Holt of Chatham Drug Free.

of us who are in recovery from addiction and mental illness. This will be the third annual Recovery Celebration in Chatham County and coincides with National Recovery Month.

The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 10, from noon – 3 p.m. along the block of the Arts Incubator in Siler City.

The celebration will acknowledge the bravery, hard work and persistence of people who are proudly living in recovery as well as send a message of hope and encouragement to those who have yet to begin their journey.

The Recovery Celebration is made possible by Vaya Health, Crest View Recovery Center, Central Electric Membership Corporation, Chatham Drug Free, Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Siler City Police Department, Chatham County Government, Chatham County Public Health Department and all the performers, speakers and vendors who have graciously agreed to support the event.

What can people expect if they attend?
 There will be free food from Will and

Pop's, On Da Roll and The Quiltmaker Café, activities for children, music by Chatham County natives Cecile Jordan and Jordan Pickett as well as guest speakers and testimonials. Local and regional agencies will be on hand to describe their programs and vendors will provide free materials and promotional items.

Is this an event only for people in recovery?

No, this is a family-friendly event for all. By coming out to the Recovery Celebration, you'll be signaling to those in recovery and those who have not yet taken that step that you support their life as a recovering person. If you are in recovery, come and share fellowship with other recovering individuals and spread the serenity and hope that you have found.

Why is it necessary to celebrate recovery?

Many people who struggle with addiction cannot see that there is another way to live. Addiction is a spiritually and emotionally debilitating disease that robs people of the ability to see himself, herself or themselves as someone free of drug use. Celebrating recovery and hearing and meeting people in recovery helps those people see that a different way of living is possible and hopefully encourages them to seek help to achieve it.

Does the stigma of addiction and mental illness and the shame that accompanies it affect whether people seek treatment?

Stigma and shame are huge problems and play a major role in prevent-

ing people from seeking treatment. Addiction is viewed by professionals as a chronic, progressive and, if left untreated, fatal disease. Unfortunately, many of the old myths about addiction and mental illness and those who suffer from them still persist. Events like the Recovery Celebration attempt to put a face on those diseases, break down stigma and dispel many of those myths. We want to do our best to remove the stigma by continuously talking about recovery and highlighting community resources.

What is harm reduction and how can that help?

While many people are not yet ready to begin their recovery journey, there are ways that they can minimize the risk of overdose and death. Harm reduction techniques like needle exchange programs, supervised use, substance testing for fentanyl and other additives, training in the use of Narcan and knowledge of the Good Samaritan 911 law can help people stay alive while they are preparing for their entry in to recovery.

Where can people get help?

Those seeking treatment can call the Vaya Health Access to Care Line at 800-849-6127 or visit the Chatham Health Alliance/Chatham County Public Health Department Substance Use Resource Page at www.chathamnc.org/recovery, Mental Health Resource Page at www.chathamnc.org/mentalhealth, Chatham Drug Free On-Line Resources and Programs page at www.chatham-drugfree.org/resources and SAMHSA Treatment Locator at <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/locator>.



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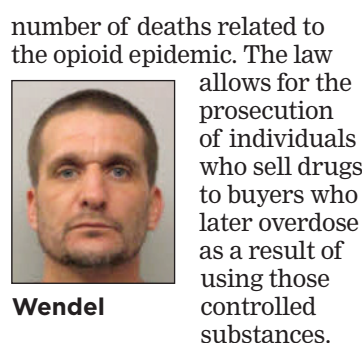
Sheriff's Office announces 2nd arrest related to 'Death by Distribution'

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Chatham County Sheriff's Office deputies have arrested and charged Allen David Wendel, 41, of 106 Goldwood Court, Cary, with felony death by distribution following the death of a 55-year-old Chapel Hill resident.

Wendel is accused of illegally selling controlled substances to the victim, contributing to the victim's fatal overdose on Aug. 31, 2021. A toxicology report found fentanyl, heroin and cocaine in the victim's system.

The crime falls under North Carolina's "Death by Distribution" Act, which first took effect on December 1, 2019. N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper signed the Act (NCGS §14-18.4) into law in response to the increasing



Wendel

number of deaths related to the opioid epidemic. The law allows for the prosecution of individuals who sell drugs to buyers who later overdose as a result of using those controlled substances.

Wendel was assigned a \$125,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Sept. 12. This is the second death by distribution arrest to be announced by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office in recent weeks. Samantha Carolina Biehl, 38, of 2527 Buffalo Church Rd., Apt. 7D, Sanford, was also arrested for felony

death by distribution following the death of a Siler City resident in March 2021.

Both arrests are the result of extensive, year-long investigations.

"Death by distribution cases can be incredibly difficult to prove or prosecute, making it even more essential for authorities to conduct thorough investigations and follow all leads," said Sheriff's Office Captain Ronnie Miller. "Acquiring autopsy and toxicology reports, conducting evidence testing, holding interviews, obtaining search warrants, reviewing phone and internet records and so on — each phase of the process takes time, manpower and resources from multiple agencies. Without teamwork and persistence, this outcome would not have been possible."

Sheriff Mike Roberson stressed that arrests are only a small piece of a greater plan developed and implemented by the Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances (SPPCS). The SPPCS is a coalition of local authorities and first responders, medical and mental health professionals, educators, stakeholders, survivors and other service providers who joined forces to combat the opioid epidemic and its impacts locally. The group has directly contributed to increased education, training, programming and life-saving efforts in Chatham County.

The Sheriff's Office says Biehl and Wendel's arrests are not the first nor are they expected to be the last; additional drug-related investigations

remain active and could lead to more death by distribution charges in coming months.

"Our staff members take public health and safety seriously, and we recognize that drug abuse and addiction impacts us all. Law enforcement must continue working together with the community to create lasting change," explains Roberson. "As we unite, we must be willing to share resources, ideas and experiences in order to make educated decisions on behalf of our families and shared community. We have to support one another."

Anyone with information about these cases or who suspects criminal activity in their area should call 911 to speak with a deputy as soon as possible.

CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS

Chatham's getting \$14 million in ARPA money. Where's it all going?

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County received \$14 million in federal funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, and so far \$5 million of that has been properly allocated.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided federal money to local governments to help relieve the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic and help reboot the economy. Chatham County has spent the funding on a variety of public services including parks, vaccine incentives and community conversation events.

The county's remaining \$9,390,642 of ARPA funding is on the clock. The deadline for the funds to be allocated is the end of 2024 and the deadline to spend the money at the end of 2026. At Wednesday night's Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting, members of the board heard an update about the plans for those funds. ARP was signed into law on March 11, 2021, so that is when funds were technically allocated to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal

Recovery Fund program, which is how local governments were allocated funds. Chatham County received its first half of the allocation on January 12 and the second half will become available for the county to access in January 2023.

The county's remaining \$9 million is set to address nine key themes: housing, homelessness, mental health, public health, education, recreation, broadband, water and sewer, and small business support. Those themes were identified through community engagement efforts from county's ARP taskforce, which received more than 900 responses.

The task force decided to prioritize potential projects based on feasibility and impact. The top projects for ARP funds are one-time expenditures, which would prevent future fiscal cliffs. This includes construction of Parker's Ridge Park, GREAT Grant Match and DSS Housing Assistance.

Parker's Ridge was already a recipient of part of the ARP money — the 147 acres of land on Pea Ridge Road in Moncure

was sold to the county at a reduced price in 2019. The park is expected to include multipurpose fields, picnic shelters, a small playground, dog park, fishing pier and canoe launch.

The county also completed a number of applications for the GREAT Grant (Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology). The money aims to improve broadband access and bring high-speed internet to rural counties in North Carolina, including Chatham. The county is eligible for up to \$8 million in funding through the GREAT funding. County Manager Dan LaMontagne said at Wednesday's meeting that Chatham applied for the second most grants in the state, and all of its applications were challenged.

Other counties have received funding through GREAT grants. LaMontagne said he expects to hear updates next week. In the meantime, Chatham has also signed up to be considered for the Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Grant program, which provides an opportunity for N.C.

counties to partner with N.C. Dept. of Information Technology to fund broadband deployment projects in unserved areas.

Courtney Cooper Lewter, head of the county's ARP task force and strategic initiatives analyst, told the board that a number of high priority items had to deal with housing. She and the taskforce recommended using the remaining funding to create a housing division to support the housing- and homelessness-related projects.

Next steps of the ARP process are approving and implementing final projects and providing regular progress updates to the board of commissioners.

Other business

- The board unanimously approved recognition of the United Way Day of Service on Sept. 17 in downtown Siler City. The day is the largest service effort in the county. Participants will aid in projects including facility beautification at Boys and Girls Club Wren Family Center, book sorting with the Chatham Education Foundation, community builds with

Habitat for Humanity, gardening at Love Chatham and more. For more information visit www.unitedwayofchatham-county.org/dayofservice.

- A portion of the VinFast site was approved for rezoning from residential and conditional industrial to heavy industrial. The 47 acres in Moncure will become part of the TIP (Triangle Innovation Point) megasite. The Chatham County Planning Board approved the rezoning last month with an 8-3 vote prior to bringing the proposal before commissioners. A portion of the property is owned by General Shale Brick; action on that portion has been postponed due to ongoing negotiations with VinFast.

- The Briar Chapel Homeowners Association will receive \$73,700 from the Newland Real Estate Group after the board approved a waiver to accept payment in-lieu of building a sidewalk. The original plan of Newland was to build a sidewalk from Catullo Run to Taylor Road. Newland said when the group discussed the project with N.C. Dept. of Transportation,

they determined it would be too difficult to undertake and put the existing roadway at risk of failure. Commissioners recommended Briar Chapel use the issued funding to improve pedestrian access in other areas of the community.

- Commissioners approved a first plat proposal for the Flatiron Forest. The plan consists of 29 lots on 42 acres, located off Hamlets Chapel Road near Pittsboro. The plat was originally approved 9-1 by the planning board. Approval of the first plat allows the applicant to complete the engineering necessary to receive all required permits and submit the Construction Plan to the Planning Department for approval.

The next regular meeting of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro. For more information visit www.chathamcountync.gov/government/board-of-commissioners.

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

'TO MAKE OUR CULTURE SHINE'

Hispanic Heritage Fiesta returns Sept. 17

BY ANA LUCIA CIRO
News + Record Correspondent

SILER CITY — The Hispanic Liaison is presenting the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta to celebrate Latin American cultures and traditions.

"What we truly want is to make our culture shine for ourselves, to promote pride in being Latino to our kids," said Ilana Dubester, executive director and founder of the Hispanic Liaison. "But also to show the richness of our cultures to the whole community who lives here."

The Fiesta is free to attend and will take place from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, in downtown Siler City.

"Everyone is invited to participate," Dubester said. "The more, the better."

Face masks will not be required, but they will be available for all visitors. The estimated number of visitors is between 1,000 and 2,000. COVID-19 vaccines and boosters will also be available at the Fiesta for anyone older than 6 months. Piedmont Health Services will be providing Moderna vaccines.

The Fiesta will have activities for all ages. These activities include: music, food, folkloric dances, a raffle, an art exposition and a parade of traditional dress and quinceañeras.

"I want to encourage the entire community to come participate with us and enjoy a fun afternoon and eat delicious food," Dubester said.

This year the Fiesta will have more activities for youth participants, including a video game area. Children will also be able to enjoy giant bubbles, a clown, hoola hoops and more.

The Hispanic Liaison will also have a raffle with various prizes for the winners. Tickets can be bought online at their webpage or in-person at the Fiesta. Everyone can participate in the raffle even if they do not attend the Fiesta. The cost of tickets is one for \$10 or three for \$20. "It's a way of promoting the event and livening up the Fiesta," Dubester said. Proceeds will support the Hispanic Liaison.

There will also be an art exhibit featuring the work of Leticia Alvarez. Alvarez is a Mexican artist who lives in Raleigh. Alvarez's art will be exhibited at the N.C. Arts Incubator. Alvarez will also be present at the Fiesta. Young artists will also have their own space, separate from the Incubator, to exhibit their art during the Fiesta.

The Fiesta will also have a parade which highlights traditional Latin American dress and quinceañeras. The quinceañeras have to register in advance, but

anyone who wants to participate in the traditional dress portion of the parade is encouraged to. Instructions for participants will be given during the Fiesta by the emcee.

"As far as I know, we're the only festival in (North) Carolina that does this," Dubester said. "You don't have to have the full traditional dress, but yes, even if you have a shirt or something like that."

Although the principal purpose of the Fiesta is the celebration of Latin American cultures, Dubester also says the Fiesta has benefits for the community.

"It is also an opportunity for agencies, businesses and government agencies . . . to do community outreach and establish closer relationships with the Hispanic community," Dubester said. "So, it is an opportunity for them to do this outreach, but also for our community to know what kind of services and agencies and who is behind the phone number."

Some of the organizations that will have a table are the Mexican Consulate and the Guatemalan Consulate. The democratic and republican party will be there alongside health groups and artisans. The Fiesta will have over 70 different organization tables.

This Fiesta will be the first

one celebrated since 2018. It is the result of efforts from employees of the Hispanic Liaison and numerous volunteers. There is a volunteer council who has helped plan the event since June and there will also be volunteers before, during and after the Fiesta.

"I enjoy [the Fiesta] a lot because I go to the tables, speak with the sponsors, with the agencies," Dubester said. "A lot of people I haven't seen for years who will come and that we will see, or new people who have never attended the Fiesta before and we will meet them there."

IF YOU'RE GOING

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 17; 12 to 6 p.m.

WHERE: 200 N. Chatham Ave., Siler City (encompassing four blocks of downtown Siler City)

QUESTIONS? Call 919-742-1448 or reply to this email

Attractions

- Live Latin music
- Delicious food
- Folkloric dance groups
- Games for all ages
- Over 70 booths from businesses, agencies and crafts
- Parade of quinceañeras and Latin-American outfits
- Art exhibit by Leticia Alvarez
- COVID-19 vaccines for 6 months and older by Piedmont

Health Services

- Seven great raffle prizes (you don't need to be present to win)

Fiesta performance schedule

- Emcee: Cesar Merlos
- 12 to 12:30 p.m. - Opening and announcements
- 12:30 to 1:15 - Music - Mariachi Mexico 2000 (<https://www.facebook.com/mariachimexico2000/>)
- 1:30 to 2:15 - Dance group: Takiri Folclor Latino (<https://www.facebook.com/people/Takiri-Folclor-Latino/100063718740177/>)
- 2:15 to 3:15 - Welcome and presentations by Franklin Gomez-Flores (County County Commissioner) and Hannia Benitez (ICAC)
- 3:00 to 3:45 - Dance group: Ballet Folklorico Mexican Tradition of Julio Ruiz (<https://www.facebook.com/BalletFolklorico-MexicanTraditionOfJulioRuiz/>)
- 3:45 to 4:45 - Music: Decendientes de Tierra Caliente (<https://www.facebook.com/DESCENDIENTESDTCOFICIAL/>)
- 4:45 to 5:30 - Parade of traditional and quinceañera outfits. Will parade down two blocks of N. Chatham Avenue from E. Third St. to E. Raleigh Street.
- 5:30 to 6 - Raffle and Fiesta closing

SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER 1 - 7, 2022 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

NORTHWOOD 52, JORDAN-MATTHEWS 0

Chargers lose Fortunes to injury in blowout win over Jets

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Carson Fortunes had eight carries for 96 yards and a touchdown before he was injured Friday against Jordan-Matthews.

Kenan said after the game. "He's our leader physically and emotionally ... It's going to be a next-man-up mentality. (From now on) it will be a running back by committee."

Fortunes carried the ball 19 times for 50 yards in Northwood's season-opening loss to Lee County in Week 1. He was expected to carry the load on the ground along with senior

quarterback Will Smith after the Chargers graduated its top three rushers over the off-season.

Filling in for the injured Fortunes on Friday were

senior Landon Roberson and freshman Robert Tripp, who combined for 153 yards and three touchdowns on just nine carries. Northwood ran for 304 yards as a team compared to just eight on 23 carries for Jordan-Matthews.

On Northwood's first drive of the second half, the Chargers took over possession at their 1-yard line following a nice Jordan-Matthews punt. On first down, Roberson broke a few tackles and rumbled 72 yards down to the Jets' 27-yard line. Tripp bounced the ball outside on the next play before turning upfield and scoring to extend the Chargers' lead to 52-0.

After the game, Tripp credited Fortunes for helping him with his development during this early part of the season.

"Carson has helped me a lot," Tripp said. "He's taught me a lot of things about being a running back. He's also helped me keep my head up in practices. If I get down on myself one blocking drill, he picks me right up and tells me to go do it again. He's a really

See **LOSS**, page B3

CROSS COUNTRY

Woods Charter ready for strong season

BY JEREMY VERNON

News + Record Sports Editor

PITTSBORO — Saturday's Ronald Horton XC Classic, held at Northwood High, offered spectators their first glimpse at a few of Chatham County's top long-distance athletes for the 2022 cross country season.

Along with Northwood, Woods Charter participated in the championship race as a team. The Chargers won the boys competition thanks in part to senior Christian Glick, who finished second overall in the race with a time of 18:14.27.

The Wolves placed second in the girls competition and third in the boys. Woods Charter is trying to follow up on a storybook season that saw the team finish first and second, respectively, at the boys and girls 1A mid-east regionals last October.

Woods Charter head coach Karen Hawkins is dealing with some unexpected losses, but she still feels like the Wolves are primed to improve on their performance last season.

"The kids are very excited about what we accomplished last year," Hawkins said. "The memories are definitely fresh, and they want to

See **WOODS**, page B2

BROUGHTON 53, SEAFORTH 0

Seaforth finding comfort in little victories after 0-2 start to season

BY EVAN ROGERS

News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — In its inaugural season, the Seaforth varsity football team is focused on celebrating the little things.

With an undermanned roster of fewer than 25 players, the Hawks' glaring deficiencies have been exposed early in the season. After losing its first home football game to Broughton, 53-0, on Friday night, the first-year varsity squad fell to 0-2.

Despite being shut out for the second straight game, the defeat didn't come without myriad program-building plays for the Hawks — a product of the team's consistent mentality.

"(We) always play 100% all the time — always," sophomore cornerback Walter Entrekin said.

On Seaforth's first possession, sophomore running Broden Jones established himself between the tackles. An eight-yard run showcased Jones' physical running style, something that would punish Broughton's front seven on numerous occasions.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

The Seaforth football team runs out onto the field before their game against Broughton High on Friday.

However, the Hawks failed to produce much on its initial drive, as the Capitals forced a quick three-and-out. After being forced to punt, Broughton made quick work of Seaforth's defense and scored the night's first touchdown.

To make matters worse, the pattern of a Seaforth three-and-out followed by a Broughton touchdown replayed itself for nearly the entire first half. Even so, head coach

See **SEAFORTH**, page B2

BOYS SOCCER

Ocampo, Soto lead Jordan-Matthews through tough nonconference stretch

BY EVAN ROGERS
News + Record Sports Correspondent

SILER CITY — About an hour before the Jordan-Matthews boys' soccer team battled Lee County last Tuesday, the Jets warmed up with a dynamic passing drill.

Almost the entire team participated, as the players tried to complete passes to their adjacent teammates in the fast-

paced exercise. Each member of the squad assembled to form four lines — everyone, that is, but No. 7 in Jet blue.

Senior forward Zander Ocampo stood 10 yards down the pitch doing stretches by himself. After he completed a series of static exercises, Ocampo worked on a few individual drills before eventually joining the rest of his team.

Even though he came in cold, every touch and pass made by

Ocampo — who led the Jets with 39 goals last season — was nearly perfect. As was the array of skills he displayed in Jordan-Matthews' 4-1 win over Lee County.

"(Ocampo's) quick, he's fast and great with the ball," said Jets' head coach Paul Cuadros. "He's got great vision to get his head up and put the ball where he wants it to go."

Despite starring on the Jets' front line in 2021, Oca-

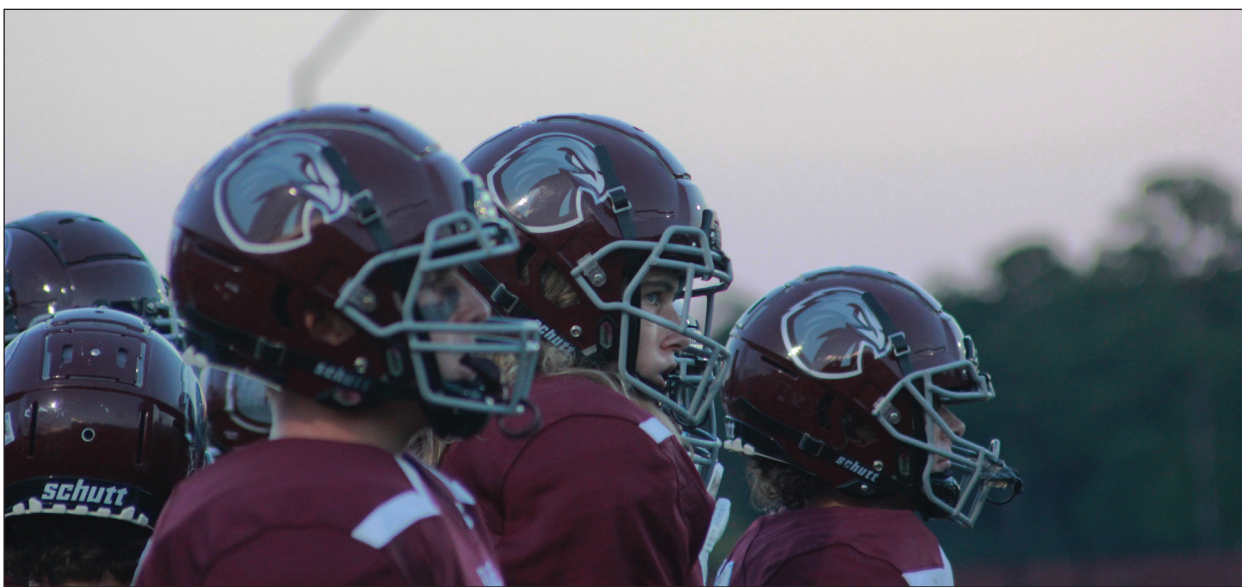
mpo didn't trot out when the Jets' starting 11 took the field. And with its team leader on the bench, Jordan-Matthews looked off its game.

In the fifth minute, a defensive lapse by Jordan-Matthews left Lee County primed to score on a breakaway opportunity. But luckily for the Jets, senior goalkeeper Richardo Rocha leaked outside the box to thwart the Yellow Jackets' first shot attempt.

With the early-game scare out of the way, the Jets executed a calculated counterattack. Senior forward Juan Hernandez Soto eventually found the ball at the end of the build up, and after splitting a pair of Yellow Jackets, he found the back of the net.

"I just kept my composure and had to do what I do, and finish (the goal)," Soto said.

See **SOCCER**, page B2



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Three Seaforth varsity football players watch from the sideline during the team's 53-0 loss to Broughton High on Friday.

SEAFORTH

Continued from page B1

Terrance Gary knew his team was fighting for every yard.

"We're just trying to focus on what we can control," he said. "We're young and people may be faster and bigger, but nobody will out-effort us."

The Hawks' effort eventually paid off. Midway through the second quarter, Jones broke free and carried multiple Capital defenders with him for a seven-yard gain. The bruising run earned Seaforth a first down, its first of the night, which was met with an uproar of cheers from the Hawks faithful — a celebration of the usually mundane accomplishment.

Despite Seaforth's drive

ending on the next set of downs, the Hawks returned to the sideline with a renewed life and energy.

"Getting the motivation and getting drives is what we need as a team," Jones said. "The little things are what we can use to get the momentum."

In the same quarter, the Hawks built upon its recent success. Trailing by 28 points, Seaforth looked on its way to surrendering its fifth touchdown of the game.

Entrekin had other plans, however, as he intercepted Broughton quarterback Warren Wade.

Seaforth's first forced turnover of the night didn't result in any points on the ensuing drive, but it was yet another moment celebrated by the Hawks. Slowly, the undermanned boys in

maroon began to string together a few more momentous plays.

To start the second half, Seaforth took a gamble and recovered an outside kick attempt. Moments later, Jones powered the Hawks inside Broughton's red zone for the first time. Ultimately the drive came up empty, as the Capitals blocked Seaforth's ensuing field goal attempt.

"It felt good to drive the ball down the field, but it didn't end the way we wanted it to," Jones said. "It would've been nice to put some points on the board."

The promising drive proved to be the final punch thrown by the Seaforth offense, and Broughton's run game continued to gash the Hawks on the other end.

By the final whistle, the Capitals had handed Seaforth a 53-point loss in its first home varsity football game in school history.

But as the Hawks shift gears to their third game against Willow Spring on Thursday night, the team understands what's at stake. The Storm are also in their first season as a varsity program and enter the game 0-1 after a 61-0 loss to New Bern in Week 2.

With the playing field seemingly even for the first time, the Hawks are confident they can rebound from their first two losses, and this time maybe celebrate their first win.

"We're definitely looking to bounce back against Willow Spring," Entrekin said. "We're all really excited for that game."

WOODS

Continued from page B1

return to that level this year and maybe go further."

Last year, the Woods Charter boys finished first at the 1A mid-east regional anchored by a strong race by current senior Wiley Sikes, who finished second in the race with a time of 17:07.58.

The Wolves are without Sikes this season, as he's decided to completely shift his focus to swimming. Sikes currently swims for the YMCA of the Triangle Area and is currently the No. 64 ranked recruit in the state of North Carolina in the Class of 2023, according to swimcloud.com.

"We're going to heavily miss (Sikes), but he wants to compete at the Division-I level for swimming," Hawkins said. "Last year, we worked through the two competing sports as best we could, and I think he did an amazing job balancing both. I do think this might be best

for him, ultimately."

Woods Charter was without a few of its other top runners at the Ronald Horton Classic, but the Wolves figure to be competitive again in the 1A classification. Hawkins highlighted seniors Collin Thompson and Ethan Galiger as two athletes to watch the rest of the season.

Thompson burst onto the scene last year with a 14th-place finish (19:22.93) at last year's 1A mid-east regional. Galiger finished 59th (22:06.99) at last year's regional, but Hawkins said the senior has been "putting in the most training of any boy I've seen this year."

On the girls side, Woods Charter is led by junior Ellie Poitras and senior Maddie Sparrow, who finished third (23:12.53) and fifth (23:29.01), respectively, at the Ronald Horton meet Saturday. Poitras and Sparrow finished 2-3 at the 1A mid-east regionals last season and both figure to be in the mix for the top spot in the race this season.

With their top talent back on the

girls side, the Wolves expect to better their eighth-place finish at last year's 1A state championship meet.

"I know the girls would love to take the regional title as well as improve on our state finish last season," Hawkins said. "They're very motivated and are pushing each other in an appropriate way this early in the season."

Woods Charter will have plenty of competition in its own conference, as Chatham Charter returns in 2022 fresh off a third-place finish at last year's boys mid-east regional race. The Knights did graduate several of their top runners, however, including Brandon McKoy — who finished fourth at the 2021 1A state meet in a time of 16:57.43 — and Caleb Kolb.

Chatham Charter's top returning boys runner from last year is senior Silas Christenbury, who finished 17th at the 1A mid-east regionals last season.

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

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

Shortly after the game's first goal, Ocampo entered the match.

From his first touch, he flashed his talent, dancing through Lee County's defense to the outer edge of the 18-yard box. There, Ocampo sent a dangerous cross to the opposite post, where it found the head of Soto for Jordan-Matthews' second goal.

The cross-pitch pass and subsequent header were flawless — a testament to the bond the two forwards have formed over the years.

"(Ocampo and I) have been playing since our freshman year and we've been connected ever since," Hernandez said.

Jordan-Matthews' second goal of the night opened up a comfortable lead over Lee County, the second straight 3A school faced by the Jets. Heading into the match, Cuadros knew it would be challenging, considering the Jets were fresh off their first loss of the year, a 2-1 loss to Asheboro on Aug. 18.

"To start off the season, we loaded up on some really good competition in the beginning to train us," Cuadros said. "The loss against Asheboro doesn't sting as much as losing to a 2A team."

After the win over Lee County, Jordan-Matthews



Staff photo by Nikkie Witt

Jordan-Matthews senior forward Zander Ocampo (No. 7) readies to shoot during the Jets' 4-1 win over Lee County last Tuesday.

fell to North Raleigh Christian Academy and Pine Lake Prep on Friday and Saturday, respectively, by a combined score of 8-2. The Jets entered Tuesday night's game at Providence Grove, which ended after press time, with a 2-3 overall record.

Though the ramp-up in competition didn't come back to bite the Jets on the scoreboard against the Yellow Jackets, Lee County's defense challenged Ocampo.

With 10 minutes remaining in the game, and Jordan-Matthews leading by two goals, Ocampo's lethal left boot had been held silent. But the Yellow Jackets' swarming back line would not deny

the star forward for much longer.

After finding himself at the cusp of the box, Ocampo shifted directions toward an opening. With one swift kick, he twisted the ball into the top-left corner of the goal.

"It felt great to score," Ocampo said. "In the first half I was frustrated, and in the second half too. When I got the goal I felt relieved."

But despite their strong play, the Jets' three-goal win over Lee County wasn't just about the skills of Ocampo or the emergence of Hernandez, who finished the night with a hat trick.

Rather, the younger pieces on this year's

team — like juniors Paul Lujan, Anthony Rodriguez, Giancarlo Aguila and Jonathan Campos — are starting to find their rhythm as Jordan-Matthews nears conference play. And despite lacking the experience of last season, when they made it all the way to the 2A state quarterfinals, Ocampo knows the Jets have what it takes to make another deep playoff run.

"I just want to do better than last year and take the team farther," he said. "This year we have a young bench, but I feel like they will fill in. Last year we had a lot of veterans who really wanted to win, but these young guys want it more."

It hurts to say, but this N.C. State football team is good

It's college football season, and this year's N.C. State football team finds itself in an almost entirely new situation.



JEREMY VERNON
Sports Editor

Entering the season, the Wolfpack are ranked No. 13 in the preseason AP Poll. The last time N.C. State was ranked that high coming into a season was 1975, when they opened the year also ranked No. 13. That year's Wolfpack ended up losing its rank two weeks later and finished the season 7-4-1 under former head coach Lou Holtz. But that was then. Surely N.C. State has shaken off any bad mojo it might have as a program? Or as a school?

Right?

Admittedly, as a UNC graduate, watching Wolfpack fans squirm is one of my favorite pastimes. That's why it pains me so much to say this year's N.C. State team looks like the real deal.

The Wolfpack are coming off one of their best seasons in recent memory, as they finished the year 9-3 (6-2 ACC) and closed out the season with a dramatic 34-30 win over rival North Carolina. N.C. State was supposed to play in the Holiday Bowl against UCLA, but a COVID outbreak caused the Bruins to pull out of the game. While not playing in a bowl game left a sour taste in fans' mouths at season's end, preseason hype has reached all-time levels. And it makes sense why.

Earlier this offseason, ESPN's Bill Connelly compiled data on how much returning production each Division-I team has entering the 2022 season. N.C. State ranked 12th overall, returning 81% of its overall production. The Wolfpack rank fifth in defensive production returning at 88%, according to the data.

Last season, N.C. State ranked 15th in the country in points allowed per game (19.7) and 19th in yards allowed per game (331.7). The Wolfpack's defense is a formidable unit, and it all starts with junior linebacker Drake Thomas, who had 99 total tackles, 13.5 tackles for loss, 6.0 sacks and three interceptions in 2021.

N.C. State also has several solid players in the secondary, including graduate senior Derek Pitts Jr. and redshirt sophomore Shyheim Battle. The pair combined for 12 passes defended, four interceptions and 71 total tackles for the Wolfpack last season.

Offensively, N.C. State has one of the top returning quarterbacks in the ACC in redshirt junior Devin Leary, who completed 65.7% of his passes for 3,433 yards and 35 touchdowns and only five interceptions last fall.

Before the 2021 season, Leary only had 16 touchdowns in 12 games playing for the Wolfpack. He is now considered to be a contender for ACC Player of the Year, and he was recently ranked by Pro Football Focus as the No. 67 overall prospect for the 2023 NFL Draft.

Leary has quite a few quality weapons at his disposal, including graduate senior receiver Thayer Thomas, who caught 51 passes for 596 yards and a team-high eight touchdowns last season. Also back is redshirt junior Devin Carter, who caught 31 passes for 556 yards and six touchdowns.

This year, N.C. State's main rival in the ACC Atlantic Division will be Clemson, who is the media's predictive favorite for division champion in 2022. The Tigers received 1,080 total votes, including 111 for first place, while the Wolfpack had 959 votes, including 44 for first place.

Clemson is trying to bounce back after a poor start to the 2021 season, but the Tigers did gain momentum with some strong play in the second half of the year, including a win over Iowa State in their bowl game.

Clemson is led offensively by junior quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei, who only had 2,246 passing yards, nine touchdowns and 10 interceptions last season. Defensively, the Tigers' top player is defensive tackle Bryan Bresee, who was considered the No. 1 overall player in the Class of 2020 by 247Sports.

N.C. State plays Clemson, which is ranked No. 4 in the preseason AP Poll, on Oct. 1. The Wolfpack defeated the Tigers, 27-21, on Sep. 25, 2021 thanks to an overtime touchdown from Leary to Carter.

If the Wolfpack can get by Clemson this year, they'll have a great shot at winning their first ACC Championship in football since 1979, and their first league title in any sport since 1992.

What could possibly go wrong?

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



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CLIPBOARD Q&A

Northwood basketball star Drake Powell talks recruitment, UNC visit

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

It has been a busy summer for Northwood junior boys basketball player Drake Powell.

Powell spent part of the summer playing as a member of Team CP3 in the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League (EYBL) along with some of the nation's other top prospects. He's also been racking up scholarship offers from several Division-I schools.

According to 247Sports, Powell has received offers from Appalachian State, Wake Forest, VCU, Texas A&M, Tennessee, N.C. State, Miami, LSU, Georgia, Florida State, Cincinnati and North Carolina.

Powell took his first official visit to UNC last Tuesday. The Tar Heels are still looking to sign their first player from the Class of 2024. The 6-foot-5 wing is considered the No. 58 overall player in the Class of 2024 by 247Sports' composite rankings. He is also ranked as the No. 5 player from North Carolina in the class.

Powell burst onto the scene as a freshman in 2021, helping lead Northwood to the 3A state final while averaging 11.4 points, 5.7 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 2.3 steals per game. Last year, Powell took over as the team's primary scorer and upped his averages to 16.1 points, 6.2 rebounds and 2.6

steals per game while leading the Chargers back to the fourth round of the state playoffs.

Powell spoke with the N+R on Monday about his ongoing recruitment, his expectations for the upcoming season and much more.

It has been a pretty busy summer for you. You're competing with your AAU team and you have started to get a lot of offers from Division-I schools. How crazy has it been to go through all this?

DRAKE POWELL: It's been a little crazy, or hectic. But I have my parents in my corner guiding me along the way. I'm really just trying to enjoy the process.

You took your first official visit to UNC last week. How did that go? Have they talked about what they want you to be, position-wise?

I thought it was pretty cool. The presentation they had for me was set up well. Nothing seemed scripted. I just felt like this was the everyday life being a player in the UNC basketball program. They have talked to me about my role, but they presented it to me as more positionless than anything else.

Being able to be positionless is becoming a more important part of modern basketball. How important is it to be multi-faceted on the

court?

I think it's very important to be good at a lot of things. That can separate you from the next guy. Defense is something I try to do my best at. I'm always telling myself that defense is really just pride. I've got to make my opponent make a really tough play. If he does, hats off to him.

You guys have gotten to at least the fourth round of the playoffs the past two years. What's it going to take for the team to get over the hump this season? What are some of the things you've tried to work on in your individual game?

I think really it'll be attention to detail. We also need to trust each other, ourselves and the coaches. I'm trying to really improve on everything, but the main things are really my 3-point shot, my ball-handling and my defense. I've also been working on getting stronger, as well.

Your former teammate, Jarin Stevenson, is now at Seaforth. Is there a friendly rivalry there? What do you like about his game?

Not really. I think Jarin and I are both quiet individuals, but we respect each other's game. I like that he's able to handle the ball at 6-foot-10. He can also shoot the ball really well and he can dominate in the paint as well.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Drake Powell slams one home early in the Chargers' blowout win over West Brunswick in the second round of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs on Feb. 24.

LOSS

Continued from page B1

good leader."

Friday's game wasn't all bad news for the Chargers. The Northwood defense held strong the entire night, only allowing Jordan-Matthews 48 yards of total offense. Kenan's team intercepted three Jets' passes, including one in the first half that was returned 80 yards for a touchdown by junior Mason Powell.

The performance was a nice change of pace after Northwood gave up 53 points to Lee County in Week 1. This time around, the Chargers held the Jets to just two first downs the entire game. Still, Powell thinks

there's plenty of room for improvement.

"Things were OK defensively, but I think we can do a better job of containing and maintaining the edge a little better," he said. "We also need to work on assignment work, what to do and where to do it, and we need to execute better on tackles."

Friday night also marked Kenan's first win as the head coach at Northwood. He was hired in January after previously serving as the head coach at Neal Magnet Middle School in Durham.

Kenan was visibly emotional after Northwood athletic director Cameron Vernon presented him with the game ball in the post-

game huddle. Speaking with the News + Record after the game, Kenan said his players have made coming to Northwood well worth it.

"A lot of days, I come in and I'm down, but the kids lift me up," Kenan said. "And if I'm too up, they make sure I'm level-headed. They keep me on my toes at all times. The kids are awesome. You won't find better kids."

Kenan will look for his second win in Week 3 this week as the Chargers hit the road to take on Chapel Hill. The Tigers enter the game with a 2-0 record after defeating Orange High, 35-7, on Friday.

Jordan-Matthews, meanwhile, will play its first home game of the season in Week 3 as it

Northwood 52, Jordan-Matthews 0

NW | 16 | 30 | 6 | 0 | — 52
J-M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — 0

Scoring summary

NW — Landon Roberson 5 run (Two-point run good)
NW — Mason Powell 80 interception return (Run good)
NW — Carson Fortunes 1 run (Run good)
NW — Robert Tripp 4 run (Run good)
NW — Jackson Shaner 11 pass from Will Smith (Run good)
NW — Cam Fowler 15 pass from Smith (Run no good)
NW — Tripp 27 run (Run no good)

Team Stats

Northwood | Jordan-Matthews
14 | First downs | 2
354 | Total yards | 48

20-304 | Rushing attempts-yards |

23-8
4-8-50 | Passing completions-attempts-yards | 4-11-40
2 | Interceptions | 3
0-0 | Fumbles-lost | 0-0
7-60 | Penalties-yards | 6-70

Individual stats

Rushing: NW — Carson Fortunes 8-96, Robert Tripp 5-49, Landon Roberson 4-104, Antoine Brewington 1-29, Will Smith 1-17, Drew Entrekin 1-9; J-M — Nick Glover 9-18, Jakari Blue 4-(-3), William Brewer 4-(-3), DeAntaye Smith 4-(-2), Kevin Causey 1-2, Henry Martinez 1-(-6)

Passing: NW — Smith 4-for-8, 50 yards; J-M — Glover 4-for-11, 40 yards
Receiving: NW — Gus Ritchey 2-24, Cam Fowler 1-15, Jackson Shaner 1-11; J-M — Brewer 2-22, Glover 1-10, Causey 1-8

hosts Providence Grove. The Patriots are also 2-0

and have outscored their opponents by an average

of 29.5 points per game so far this season.

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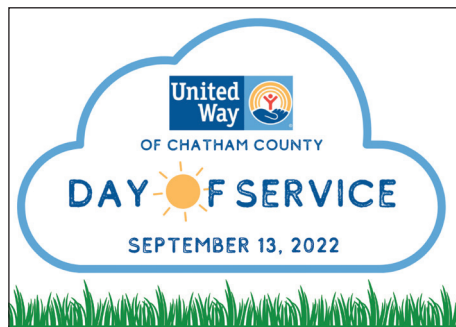
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From the United Way of Chatham County



Ten local organizations submitted 10 community service projects: Boys & Girls Club Wren Family Center — facility beautification; Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club — hosting kickball game for Pittsboro and Siler City club members; Chatham Education Foundation — book sort and distribution; Chatham Trades — staining fence around community garden; Chatham Habitat for Humanity — community build; Love Chatham — landscaping and garden-

ing; PTA Congress of N.C. North Chatham — installation and landscaping of community garden and trail at North Chatham Elementary; Salvation Army — bookbag supply packing at Carolina Meadows for Chatham students; Second Bloom of Chatham — door installation to ensure client privacy; United Way of Chatham County — campaign preparation at Carolina Meadows.

UWCC encourages small and large groups to volunteer together, and expresses thanks to the following teams which have signed up for projects this year: Duke Energy, Rotary Club of Pittsboro and the Briar Chapel Jewish Community Book Club.

A digital fundraiser has also been added, with a goal to raise \$1,500 by the end of the Day of Service which will go toward UWCC's annual impact fund. UWCC hopes those who cannot participate in person on Sept. 13 will consider making a donation.

To volunteer for a Day of Service project, to donate to the Day of Service fundraiser, or for more information, visit www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/DayofService/.

The Day of Service would not be possible without the generous support of our community. Thank you to our 2022 Day of Service Sponsors: Carolina Civilworks, Wellcare, Realty World Carolina Properties and Triangle Community Foundation. Many thanks to our media sponsor, Chatham News + Record.

The United Way of Chatham County addresses the most critical needs of Chatham residents. UWCC envisions a community in which all residents have access to the necessary resources to thrive. For more information on the agencies and programs funded by United Way, volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation, visit www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org.

CCS staff kicks off new school year at Convocation with a focus on #OneChatham

From Chatham County Schools

SANFORD — More than 1,000 Chatham County Schools staff members filled the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center last Wednesday to celebrate the upcoming start of the 2022-23 school year.

The themes for convocation were “the Power of One” — incorporating the idea that one person can bring about change — as well as “One Chatham,” the district’s new strategic plan that ensures all students have access to the same opportunities in academics, the arts and athletics in Chatham County Schools. The high-energy event, which kicked off with high school bands, cheerleaders and school mascots, left employees feeling excited and inspired for the coming year.

“To have our staff all present in the same location sharing the same experience has set the tone for a very innovative,

exciting and energized 2022-2023 school year,” Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said. “We are looking forward to seeing what our students achieve this year as we strive to provide each and every one of them with the educational pathways they both want and need to reach their full potential. We are One Chatham, building on the Power of One, where each of us can impact a life for the better.”

In addressing the staff at convocation, Jackson shared goals and expectations for the coming academic year, including regaining a greater sense of normalcy by building on routines, relationships and traditional school events, which will help the district achieve the desired results for students.

He also reviewed the district’s new One Chatham 2022-2027 Strategic Plan that the Chatham County Board of Education approved at its

Aug. 15 meeting and talked to the staff about the projected growth for Chatham County and the impact it will have on the school system.

“This is going to be a great school year,” Jackson said. “The table has been set for us to engage and serve our students and families in the best ways possible.”

Staff members said the event was a great way to get the new school year started.

“It was a fantastic convocation,” said Virginia Cross Elementary School teacher Tammy Trotter. “Thanks for getting the 2022-2023 school year started off in a big way!”

Keynote speaker Michael Bonner delivered a powerful message, focusing on being positively present and engaged with students and colleagues. Bonner is a 4th- and 6th-grade teacher at The Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta who is CEO of Bonnerville, which provides

self-care assistance for educators. He also has been featured on “The Ellen Show,” “NBC Nightly News” and “Time for Kids,” and has partnered with organizations such as Discovery Education, Lego Education and 3M.

“You can’t demand a withdrawal from someone you’ve never invested in,” he said in his keynote address. “... Whenever anybody says relationships matter, understand this: Depth in relationships matters.”

He encouraged CCS staff members to strengthen their relationships with their students and their families by considering their individual experiences.

“We are the only business that does not ask our clientele — students — how do they enjoy the experience within our schools,” he said. “I’m not asking my children in my class to control my classroom. I’m

simply asking them how can you experience Mr. Bonner better in this environment so you have self-efficacy.”

He also urged staff members to be careful around behaviors with each other that can create toxic environments resistant to change and offered advice on how to build collective synergy.

Staff members at Bonlee School said the event was “invigorating.” Virginia Cross Elementary Media Center Tweeted, “Michael Bonner is so inspiring. What a great keynote at Convocation ...”

The event ended on high notes: Pittsboro Elementary School, led by new principal Lemondrè Watson, won the coveted School Spirit Award. And Pittsboro Elementary School student Emma Ortiz delivered a moving rendition of “A Million Dreams,” leaving some in the audience in tears.

‘IF YOU NEED IT, ASK FOR HELP’

West Chatham Food Pantry seeks volunteers to meet increased demand

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Diane Smith calls West Chatham Food Pantry a “well-oiled machine.”

And on an average day, when the pantry handles the orders of around 20 families, it’s not hard to see that machine at work.

The pantry, established in 2007, is open three days a week for two hours at a time at 2535 Old U.S. Hwy. 421 North in Siler City. When clients enter through the doors of the pantry, they may be greeted by longtime volunteer Gladys Glover at the front desk, who records orders of food items, given free of charge. It might be John Hall who next grabs the order slip and brings it to the back of the pantry, where Don Gardner or Eneida Jaimes begins filling bags with items ranging from chicken from Mountaire to jars of peanut butter and jelly to canned fruit.

Madeline Moffit, 88, has been visiting the pantry since 2008. She also picks up packaged food for her son. The pantry has been a big help to her, she said.

“I enjoy it because a lot of times, you get things that you wouldn’t normally buy,” she said.

Smith, the executive director of the food pantry, started in the position about four years ago. Prior to that, she volunteered with the WCFP, joining in 2007 — the same year the pantry opened.

Since January of this year, the food pantry has distributed 10,862 pounds of food and served 5,537 individuals. But Smith said in the last few months, the pantry has seen an uptick in its clients, almost doubling its numbers since last year.

Volunteering with the pantry has been a rewarding and humbling experience, Smith said, adding that she doesn’t think people realize how food insufficient some in Chatham County are.

According to data collected by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, of Chatham County’s total population of 71,338, 13% are food inse-

cure — meaning they don’t know with certainty from where their next meal will come.

“It is a real eye-opener,” Smith said.

As client numbers have increased, so has the need for volunteers to meet that demand; Smith said she’s put out calls for volunteers, and that the pantry has a need for people with “muscle” to carry large loads.

The pantry has also faced difficulties when it comes to funding. The county previously paid the pantry’s rent, but was unable to continue doing so. Now, the pantry, which also gets grant funding and monetary donations from individuals, is paying rent.

The organization is entirely staffed by volunteers — around 30 people, many of whom have been with the pantry for years. Local churches, the Inter-faith Food Shuttle of Raleigh, companies like Mountaire and even individuals in the community donate food to the pantry.

In order to receive donations from the pantry, a person’s expenses must be at least 25% of their income. Clients are allowed to come every two weeks.


Smith said the pantry started out just servicing residents of Chatham County but many people would come over who actually lived in Randolph County, so exceptions were made for those clients. Additionally, if clients are unable to drive to the pantry to pick up food themselves, the pantry will occasionally drop off food.

“We love helping people,” Smith said. “That’s what we’re here for. We don’t want to see anybody go hungry and we won’t turn anyone away.”

Don Gardner, 65, has been volunteering with the food pantry for three years. He and his wife, retirees who have lived in Chatham County for two decades, started volunteering out of a desire to give back to the community.

Gardner said at the start of the pandemic, demand initially picked up at the food pantry but then leveled out — to the point where the pantry increased how much they were giving

See PANTRY, page B5



Council on Aging Activities Calendar

September 5th through September 9th

Monday, September 5th	
Council on Aging Closed - Labor Day Holiday	
Tuesday, September 6th	
Eastern Chatham Senior Center	
• 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks optional)	
• 9 a.m. - 3G's Men's Group	
• 9:30 a.m. - Tai Chi for Arthritis (Chatham Grove Community Center)	
• 9:45 a.m. - Farmers Market Trip (RSVP to Jackie Green)	
• 10 a.m. - Woodcarvers	
• 10:30 a.m. - Bingo w/Joe & Coffee	
• 1 p.m. - Rummikub	
Western Chatham Senior Center	
• 10:30 a.m. - Games w/Ryan Mankin, Humana	
• 1 p.m. - Rook	
Wednesday, September 7th	
Eastern Chatham Senior Center	
• 10 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom); Games and Coffee w/Chatham County Sheriff's Department	
Western Chatham Senior Center	
• 8 a.m. - Veterans Benefit Assistance	
• 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia	
• 10 a.m. - Bible Study	
• 1 p.m. - Cornhole	
• 2 p.m. - Crafting w/Kathryn (Beginner Cross-stitch)	
Thursday, September 8th	
Eastern Chatham Senior Center	
• 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks optional)	
• 9:30 a.m. - Tai Chi for Arthritis; Blood Pressure Screening	
• 10 a.m. - Crafts and Conversation; Let's Move With Jackie	
• 10:30 a.m. - Diabetes Discussion Group	
• 1 p.m. - Board Games & Cards	
• 1:30 p.m. - Line Dancing	
• 3 p.m. - Gentle Yoga w/Liz	
Western Chatham Senior Center	
• 10 a.m. - Bocce; Horseshoes; Music Jam Session	
• 1 p.m. - "Bring Your Project" Craft Club	
• 2 p.m. - Geri-Fit	
• 3 p.m. - Bingo Social	
Friday, September 9th	
Eastern Chatham Senior Center	
• 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks required)	
• 10 a.m. - Arthritis Foundation Exercise w/Jackie	
• 11:15 a.m. - Chair Volleyball	
• 1 p.m. - Card Games	
Western Chatham Senior Center	
• 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia	
• 10 a.m. - Muffins With The Manager	
• 10:30 a.m. - Stories w/Neriah	
• 7 p.m. - Friday Night Dance (fee required to attend)	

For more information on these and other programs, call our centers Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center
919-742-3975

Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org

How long will North Carolina remain an abortion 'safe haven'?

BY RACHEL CRUMPLER
N.C. Heath News

It's been seven weeks since the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* eliminated the constitutional right to abortion. Abortion regulation is now in the hands of states, and at least for now, no new restrictions on abortion have been imposed in North Carolina.

"Nothing changed in our laws when the *Dobbs* decision came down," Tara Romano, executive director of Pro-Choice North Carolina, said during a virtual reproductive rights issue forum hosted by People's Alliance earlier this month. "We didn't have a trigger ban in place. We did not have an old law on the books. And now, in North Carolina, that means we're currently a state where people come to access care."

It's a different situation than much of the South. Surrounded by states that have mostly taken action to either ban or severely restrict abortion, North Carolina still legally allows the procedure until fetal viability, which typically falls between 24 and 26 weeks of pregnancy.

This has made the state — and its 14 abortion clinics located in nine different counties — an important abortion access point in the Southeast.

In 2020, 31,850 abortions were obtained in North Carolina, according to Guttmacher Institute, a national organization that tracks reproductive rights issues and legislation. A majority of these abortions were for people living in North Carolina, amounting to a state rate of 15.3 abortions per 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44.

Meanwhile, people are already crossing state lines seeking abortions in North Carolina. Molly Rivera, Planned Parenthood South Atlantic's communications director, said in an email that in the first two weeks of July, more than a third of the organization's appointments for abortion care in North Carolina were for out-of-state patients — a rate that is expected to continue to skyrocket.

The state's other abortion providers are experiencing a similar influx of out-of-state patients.

While North Carolina is currently an abortion safe haven for many, it may not stay that way. Continued abortion access in North Carolina hinges on the outcomes of this year's fall elections.

"An abortion ban bill is coming if we do not hold the House and the state Senate to fight off a supermajority," state Sen. Natalie Murdock (D-Durham) said Thursday at the People's Alliance forum. "Abortion rights will come down to five seats: three seats in the House and two seats in the state Senate. That is our path to protecting abortion care here in North Carolina this fall."

Republicans eye greater restrictions

Republicans, which hold majorities in both chambers of the General Assembly, have expressed a desire to pass more abortion restrictions, but they have yet to do so because Democratic Governor Roy Cooper would use his veto power to block such restrictions.

What forms future abortion bills may take will likely depend on whether Re-

publicans gain a supermajority, which they lost in 2018, this November. A supermajority would allow Republicans to override vetoes from Cooper without any votes from Democrats, paving the way for further state restrictions on abortion.

North Carolinians can "expect pro-life protections to be a top priority" when legislators return to their normal session in January, said House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Kings Mountain) in a statement on June 24, the day of the Supreme Court ruling.

State Senate Leader Phil Berger (R-Eden) similarly told reporters on June 30 that there will be time in January for the General Assembly to make a decision about "what state law ought to be going forward or whether or not there should be some changes to it."

In July, Berger told WRAL his views fall "somewhere between the extremes" and that he supports exceptions for rape and incest.

"There should be a period post-conception where the mother should have some autonomy in terms of what takes place, but I also believe that, at some point, society and the law should have a role in protecting the life of the fetus," Berger said on WRAL's July 9 NC Capitol Wrap podcast.

"Now, where that point is, that's something we're going to have to have some conversation about," he said.

Berger and Moore have both said more discussions need to occur in the Republican caucuses and with constituents to determine what a bill may look like.

While new legislation won't be con-

sidered until next year, for now, Moore and Berger are working to get the state's 20-week abortion ban, originally written in 1973, reinstated. In late June, the two first called on Attorney General Josh Stein, a Democrat and abortion rights supporter, to take "all necessary legal action" to lift the injunction currently barring full enforcement of the state law.

In 2019, U.S. District Judge William Osteen Jr. blocked enforcement of North Carolina's 20-week abortion ban because he said it violated precedents set by *Roe v. Wade* and an associated 1992 ruling. Now, with those cases overturned by the Supreme Court, Osteen is reconsidering his ruling.

Stein released a statement on July 21 stating that his office would not ask the federal judge to reinstate the state's 20-week ban on abortion. Stein said he refused to "take action that would restrict women's ability to make their own reproductive health care decisions." Stein has also recused himself from the case.

Outside attorneys for Moore and Berger have asked Osteen to vacate his 2019 ruling, contending there is no legal basis for the injunction that halted enforcement of the law.

"North Carolina's abortion statutes are undeniably lawful under *Dobbs*, and there is no longer any basis for an injunction to shackle the state from pursuing its legitimate interests," Berger and Moore wrote in their brief filed July 27.

Osteen could reinstate the 20-week ban in North Carolina without law-

See **SAFE**, page B6

PANTRY

Continued from page B4

away because they had started to build up an inventory. Gardner attributes the slowdown to other organizations fulfilling the same need that West Chatham Food Pantry had been filling otherwise.

During the pandemic, the pantry also shifted protocols to limit outside exposure and to prioritize the safety of volunteers, so clients were no longer allowed to "shop" for products in the aisles of the pantry. At one point during the pandemic, the pantry ran a drive-through service out of the side of the building.

Gardner said he misses having direct contact with clients, recalling how he'd save dog treats to give to those who had pets. When he packages orders for clients, Gardner points out how he takes into account a client's age or family size. He'll look for meats that require less cooking for older clients or make sure clients with large families get the occasional Boston butt, a cut of meat from the pork shoulder, when it comes in.

"And at the end of the day you can walk around



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Food packages at the West Chatham Food Pantry in Siler City.

or walk out of here thinking, 'OK, I've enjoyed the last hour and a half, two hours of my time, plus I've done good for these folks that are coming at this point,'" he said.

One of his favorite things about volunteering with the food pantry is the sense of camaraderie that he has with other volunteers and clients.

"It's just amazing the amount of effort and work that goes into this, and the small, close-knit

group that makes it operate," Gardner said.

Jerry Guthrie, 67, is a retired trucker who has gotten food packages from the pantry. Last Friday was the first time in over a year that he visited the pantry. Guthrie is experiencing homelessness, circumstances he didn't imagine he would ever be in.

Guthrie said his favorite thing about the pantry is the staff. For people who want to

provide assistance to individuals with similar circumstances to himself, he said it's important to just offer help when it's asked for, something that he tries to do for others when he can.

"We ask for help, just give us help," Guthrie said, tearing up. "You'll never know (what comes). I've never dreamed of this. And I've always helped people."

Eneida Jaimes, 33, immigrated to Siler City from Guadalajara, Mexico, with her family a few months ago. Jaimes visited the pantry once as a client. The next time she came, she started volunteering.

"I saw in the front desk, it says, 'You can be a volunteer,'" she said. "And I said, 'That's how I can pay (back) what they're doing for me.'"

Jaimes, who packages food at the pantry, has also helped to translate for Spanish-speaking clients. In addition to Jaimes, Smith said the pantry has a couple of high school volunteers who translate for clients who speak Spanish.

She said people may feel hesitancy about seeking assistance, especially those who have employment. But the pantry has been helpful for Jaimes and her family.

"I have a job, my husband has a job," she said. "But anyways, it's hard to support our kids and everything and pay rent and, well, if people want to, they (should feel) able



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Volunteers work together to package food at West Chatham Food Pantry.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

West Chatham Food Pantry volunteers Don Gardner and John Hall look over client orders.

to come." Similarly, Glover, a volunteer, said there is a stigma around food assistance that sometimes prevents people who would benefit from the pantry's services from seeking them out.

"If you need it, ask for help," Glover said. "Don't suffer or sit in silence, if you need it. We all need something at some point."

For Smith, one of the best parts of working at the pantry has been getting to know her com-

munity. "I have met so many people, not just clients but volunteers, people that I didn't know that live right here," she said. "... We work to do what's best for our clients."

The food pantry is open on Mondays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at mdevarajan@chathamnc.com and on Twitter @ [maydhadevarajan](https://twitter.com/maydhadevarajan).

PITTSBORO
YOUTH THEATER .com

WHOA Boy

Kids Sign Up
Fall Theater
Plays, Classes
Music Lessons

POLICE REPORTS

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

On August 26, Edgar Emanuel Rodriguez Moreno, 26, of 206 Star Ranch Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Connor O. Lee for injury to personal property,

false imprisonment, assault on a female and assault with a deadly weapon. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 20.

On August 28, Dez-

monique Djoujmin Compton, 27, of 1015 Sherwood Drive, Apt. C, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for driving while impaired and possession of open container(s) of alcohol in passenger area. She was issued a written promise

to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 21.

On August 28, Cristina Lupita Castro-Manco, 21, of 1313 Newland Street, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for simple assault.

She was placed on a 48 hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 14.

On August 28, Alexander Moreno Aristeo, 20, of 1313 Newland Street,

Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for assault on a female. He was placed on a 48 hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 14.

NEWS BRIEFS

Ride NC By Train to Carolina Panthers games

RALEIGH – Skip the traffic and parking and board the train with other fans for this year's Carolina Panthers games.

NC By Train is hosting its football trains to carry fans to and from select home games in Charlotte.

On game day, arrive in Charlotte on Piedmont Train 73 at 9:40 a.m. with plenty of time to enjoy the area around Bank of America Stadium before the 1 p.m. kickoff. Passengers can take their time and enjoy post-game fun before making their way back to the Amtrak station for a 7 p.m. departure on Train 78.

2022 schedule of 1 p.m. home games are:

- Sept. 11, Cleveland Browns
- Sept. 25, New Orleans Saints
- Oct. 23, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Nov. 27, Denver Broncos
- Dec. 18, Pittsburgh Steelers
- Dec. 24, Detroit Lions

Tickets are available online.

JumpstART grants awarded to 10 Chatham artists

JumpstART grant was born out of the pandemic — a program with a two-fold benefit: getting Chatham County artists and arts-workers back to work and displaying that work for free to the public right here in Chatham County.

“JumpstART was originally a one-year-only kind of program — a bridge from deep pandemic to cautious re-opening,” said Artistic Director Cheryl Chamblee. “But engaging in JumpstART exposed needs that continue to exist. A springboard that pays artists to make new work for our community to experience — especially right now as we’re all working to find our equilibrium — is recovery for both artists and for Chatham residents.”

This year, grants range from \$250 to \$1,000 for individual projects and \$500 to \$1,500 for collaborative projects. We are thrilled to announce ten Chatham County

artists have been awarded grants: Alexander Percy, JR Butler, Brenda Linton, Caleb McLaurin, Julia Kennedy, Diali Cissokho, Tanja Lipinski Cole, Virginia Ralston, Taz Halloween and Stephan Meyers aka Breadfoot and Trail Guide Extraordinaire, Ellen Bland.

This year's JumpstART project theme is “Equilibrium.” All artists' projects will engage with the concept of equilibrium in some way.

Musician and first-time grant recipient Taz Halloween had been percolating on a recording project all through the pandemic and even had many of the songs already written, but when pondering the equilibrium theme, she got inspired in a new direction.

“Deciding to go fresh, with ‘Equilibrium’ being the key, the portal just opened wide. Subjects that weighed heavy on my heart, on the world's hearts, just gushed out of my scribbling pen, onto new pages, into my rusty voice, onto instruments. Being awarded the grant from the Chatham Arts Council folks gave me SO much more than money. Somehow,

they believe in me. This ‘granted’ a renewed belief in myself.”

Like the other JumpstART artists, Taz looks forward to sharing her work in a Chatham Arts Council public showing later this season.

All JumpstART artists will participate in a public sharing of their projects at a Chatham Arts Council event later this fall. Stay tuned for more details!

Pittsboro Business Association holds monthly First Sunday street fair

On Sunday, Sept. 4, the Pittsboro Business Association's monthly First Sunday street fair will be featuring arts and crafts vendors, other businesses and civic organizations, music, food and children's activities.

Many downtown businesses will also be open, along with the Historical Museum. Come enjoy this family-friendly event from noon - 4 p.m.!

More information about attending or becoming a vendor is available on our Pittsboro Business Association Facebook page, at www.shoppittsboro.com, and via email to the event coordinator at pittsborofirstsunday@gmail.com.

shoppittsboro.com, and via email to the event coordinator at pittsborofirstsunday@gmail.com.

Chatham Community Library encourages science exploration through ecoEXPLORE partnership

PITTSBORO — Chatham Community Library is pleased to announce a partnership with ecoEXPLORE, an incentive-based citizen science program for children in grades K-8. Developed by The North Carolina Arboretum, this innovative program combines science exploration with kid-friendly technology to foster a fun learning environment for children while encouraging them to explore the outdoors and participate in citizen science.

Chatham Community Library is now designated as an ecoEXPLORE LoanSpot, a location where ecoEXPLORE participants can use their library card to check out equipment to aid in their observation of the

natural world. Starting Sept. 1, 2022, any Chatham County Public Libraries cardholder will be able to check out a Discovery Pack from the Chatham Community Library. Discovery Packs have been provided by ecoEXPLORE and contain kid-friendly binoculars, bug net, a birdcall, a trail camera and more. Kid scientists are encouraged to record their natural discoveries and submit them via the ecoEXPLORE website.

In addition to lending Discovery Packs, Chatham Community Library will host programs presented by ecoEXPLORE science educators. Families with children in grades K-8 are invited to join the library for an Intro to ecoEXPLORE on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. in the Chatham Community Library Holmes Meeting Room. Program facilitators will give an overview of what it means to be a citizen scientist, how to participate in ecoEXPLORE and then head outside to practice making a scientific observation.

For more information, contact Youth Services at youth.services@chathamlibraries.org.

SAFE

Continued from page B5

maker involvement. However, few abortions in the state occur after 20 weeks. In 2020, there were 30 abortions at 21 weeks or later performed in the state, comprising 0.1% of total abortions in the state.

Democratic support for abortion rights

Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein, the state's leading Democrats, have repeatedly affirmed their commitment to protecting abortion rights in North Carolina.

Three days after the Dobbs decision, Stein along with a national coalition of 22 attorneys general asserted that abortion remains safe and legal in places across the country and that they will work to keep it that way.

“Abortion care is healthcare. Period. We stand together, as our states' chief law officers, to proudly say that we will not back down in the fight to protect the rights of pregnant people in our states and across the country,” read the coalition's joint statement.

Stein has continued to hold this position. “As Attorney General, I will do everything in my power to protect women's right to reproductive care because it's the right thing to do,” he said during a press conference last week on abortion access.

On July 6, Cooper signed an executive order to help protect women's access to reproductive health care in North Carolina. The order includes provisions shielding out-of-state abortion patients from extradition and prohibiting state agencies under his control from cooperating in other states' prosecutions of anyone who travels to obtain or

provide reproductive health care that is legal in North Carolina.

Democratic governors in other states such as Colorado, Maine and Rhode Island signed similar executive orders to protect abortion rights in their states.

Abortion is on the ballot this fall

With abortion rights now in the hands of states, legislators will determine access to care. This is playing out across the country.

Indiana recently became the first state post-Roe to pass a law banning most abortions. This will dramatically shift the state's current rules, which allow abortions up to 20 weeks after fertilization.

Sen. Murdock called abortion the “issue of our time” during the People's Alliance forum held last week and acknowledged it would be a key issue for voters this fall, as seen in

2020 N.C. RESIDENT ABORTION STATISTICS

- 25,058 abortions were provided to NC residents (98.5% obtained in-state).
- 56.6% of abortion seekers were 20 to 29 years old.
- 49.3% of abortion seekers were African American, 27.9% were white and 13.1% Hispanic.
- 58.7% of abortion seekers had 13+ years of education.
- Two-thirds of abortion seekers were already parents to one or more children.
- A total of 48 N.C. residents obtained abortions took place after 21 weeks. Thirty of those procedures were performed in-state and 18 took place out of state.

Information from the State Center for Health Statistics

- Abortion is legal but not easily accessible in North Carolina
- 14 abortion clinics serve a state population of 10.4 million plus out-of-state patients.
- 91 North Carolina counties do not have an abortion provider, making access more challenging for abortion seekers in rural parts of the state since the clinics are concentrated in nine urban counties.
- North Carolina is one of only a few states that require patients to wait 72 hours after state-mandated counseling (not required to be in-person) to obtain an abortion.
- Medication abortion must be provided in person, making it less accessible than in other states.
- State Medicaid coverage of abortion care is banned except in very limited circumstances, requiring greater reliance on financial aid from abortion funds like the Carolina Abortion Fund.

Information from Guttmacher Institute, a national organization that tracks reproductive rights issues and legislation.

Kansas.

Kansas voters just decisively rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would have said there was no right to an abortion in the state. The vote marked the first time Americans weighed in on abortion rights after the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

“We know that the right to abortion care in

North Carolina is on the ballot this November and every election to come thereafter,” Stein said

during a press conference recently.

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LEADERSHIP CHATHAM OPEN ENROLLMENT

LEADERSHIP CHATHAM, a signature program of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, is designed to develop informed, skilled, and involved leaders for Chatham County.

The Leadership Chatham class year begins with an Opening Reception and Orientation in September. Full-day sessions are held monthly from September through May. Graduation takes place in June. Lunch is provided on session dates.

Participants of the Leadership Chatham Program are taken on a journey through the social, cultural and economic makeup of Chatham County. The connections made and knowledge acquired throughout the class year are indispensable.

Will you take the journey with us?

Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more information or to enroll.

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<https://www.ccucc.net/sites/default/files/LeadershipChathamBrochureApp2022-2023.pdf>

Chatham School of Science & Engineering shows tremendous progress

From Central Carolina Community College

SILER CITY — The Chatham School of Science & Engineering has made tremendous progress since opening in the 2015-2016 school year.

The public school, which is operated by Chatham County Schools in partnership with Central Carolina Community College, is home to approximately 120 students. Students have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree at no cost to the student.

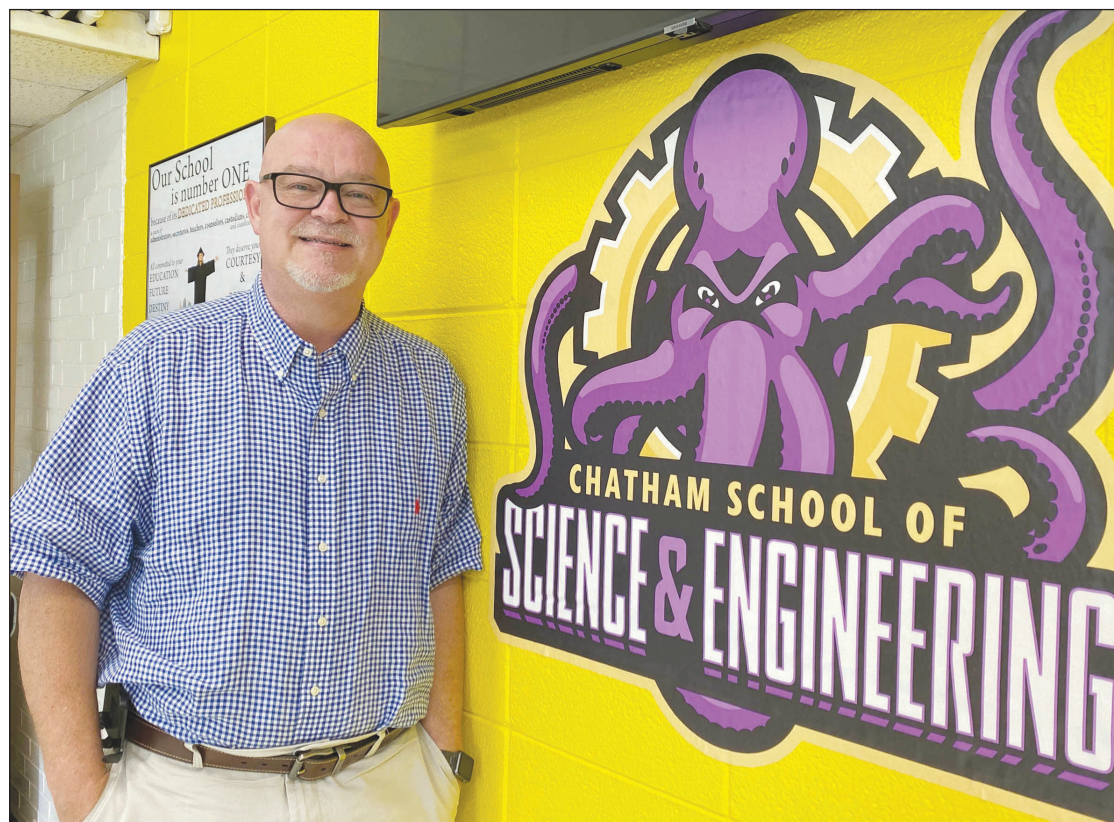
The school lists its mission “to provide an atmosphere that encourages and nurtures creativity and innovation through acceptance, collaboration, equity, integrity and personal responsibility in order to help students build a commitment to social, emotional and academic growth and excellence.”

CSSE Principal Bobby Dixon has been with the school since its beginnings.

“The early college program has its appeal to parents and students,” said Dixon. “The no-cost college really appeals to the parents, and I believe the rigor and higher expectations attracts those students who are dedicated to academics. It was certainly time for Chatham County Schools to enter the early college arena. I also believe our partnership with CCCC has played a large role in our success.”

That academic success was certainly evident during the 2021-2022 academic year. This year’s graduating class earned more than \$2.3 million in scholarships. One graduate — Dylan Hailey Philipps — received the prestigious Park Scholarship from N.C. State University.

Three students — Deontae Jordan Glover, Soren Kappelman and Annika Lowe — were



Courtesy of CCCC

Chatham School for Science and Engineering Principal Bobby Dixon has been with the school since its beginnings. Students attend their first two years at the Chatham Center for Innovation and their final years at the Central Carolina Community College Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro.

recipients of CCCC academic honors. CSSE students continue to dominate the district science fair and advance through regionals and state, and the Beta Club has had state and national winners.

“Our smaller environment enables our students and teachers to develop positive relationships,” Dixon said. “The amount of support we are able to provide makes us unique.”

Fae Goodman has had a close-up view of CSSE’s growth, as CCCC’s liaison to the school.

“We’ve got a unique setup,” Goodman said. “Students spend their first two years in Siler City, on the campus of the Chatham Center for Innova-

tion, where they focus largely on their high school requirements and learning how to successfully take a college class. For their third, fourth and fifth years, they’re here in Pittsboro on our [CCCC Chatham Main] Campus full-time.”

“Students who come here get to learn — in a supportive environment — how to balance increased freedom and responsibility, which always go hand-in-hand with one another.”

CCCC President Lisa Chapman says early colleges have been part of North Carolina’s Learn and Earn initiative for over 17 years.

“Our early colleges in Chatham, Harnett and Lee are some of the best examples

of CCCC’s great partnerships with our three counties’ school systems,” Chapman said. “They are intentionally designed to both serve a diverse population of students that reflects the demographics of our communities, and to provide these students with the personalized programming and support that allows them to excel in their learning and academic goals.”

“Many of our early college students serve as student leaders during their time at CCCC and continue that leadership and service mindset during their next stop after college,” Chapman said. “They are not just our leaders of tomorrow, they are our leaders of today.”



Courtesy of CCCC

This year’s graduating class earned more than \$2.3 million in scholarships. One graduate — Dylan Hailey Philipps — received the prestigious Park Scholarship from N.C. State.

“The relationship Chatham County Schools has with Central Carolina Community College is extremely strong, benefiting our students as well as the community,” said Chatham County Schools Superintendent Anthony Jackson. “The early college program we have created in partnership with CCCC showcases the work we can do together. With our students graduating from the Chatham School for Science and Engineering with both a degree from Chatham County Schools and an associate’s degree they’ve earned by taking classes at Central Carolina, we are able to give them a great advance on their college education.”

Learn more about CSSE by visiting the website, www.chatham.k12.nc.us/Domain/1813, or call the school at 919-663-5899. The school is located at 501 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Siler City.



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Have questions about how to vote in N.C.? Here's a guide.

BY SHELBY HARRIS
Carolina Public Press

Theoretically, voting is pretty easy.

You walk into a precinct, make some selections and you're done — a 10-minute workday interlude after which you can proudly say you participated in the democratic system.

The hard part, of course, is figuring out everything that's needed in order for you to approach that screen and select your leaders.

When I moved to North Carolina last year, I found myself enormously frustrated as I combed through all the information related to casting a ballot. In an effort to assuage the concerns of new and future residents, or those who haven't voted yet and want to, Carolina Public Press has put together this quick guide to voting in the Tar Heel State.

Can I vote?

Registration is open to anyone who is at least 18 years old (16- and 17-year-olds can pre-register), is a United States citizen and has lived in the county where they're registering to vote for 30 days.

People currently incarcerated who are not serving a felony sentence can also vote. Those who have served out felony sentences regain [their right to vote](#), per an [N.C. Superior Court decision](#) last summer.

Where do I register to vote?

Before you can claim your "I voted" sticker, you must register. This is a fairly easy process that can be done online, by mail or in person.

If you go the online route, look no further than [N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles website](#). You'll be directed to an app called [myNC DMV](#), where you can renew your car registration, order specialized license plates and more. After logging

in, this is where you'll virtually submit your voter registration application.

The [form for registering by mail](#) can also be found on the DMV's website. You can print it from there and then send it to your [county board of elections](#).

If you'd prefer to go in person to register, any DMV in the state works. There are also several other [state agencies](#) with offices throughout North Carolina where you can fill out your application, such as the divisions of public health and social services. The N.C. [Division of Services for the Blind](#) and the [Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) are available as registration spots for people with disabilities.

You may also be able to register at your local library — just visit and ask for a registration form.

What do I need to register? What's the deadline?

Whether online, in person or by mail, the registration form only requires you to provide your name, birthday, address and signature. You are not required to pick a political affiliation on your registration application, but you can if you want to.

All registration forms are available in Spanish.

A few weeks after you've submitted your form, a voter registration card with your voting location will arrive in the mail.

The deadline to register to vote in an [upcoming election](#) is 25 days before Election Day. For the quickly approaching general election on Nov. 8, the registration deadline is Oct. 14 unless you choose to vote early.

Early voting, which will be Oct. 20 through Nov. 5 for this election, allows you to register at the same place you cast your ballot.

Where do I vote?

The government uses many

buildings — libraries, schools, community centers — as voting precincts.

If you lose the postcard that provides your voting location, there's no need to worry or spend hours on the phone trying to figure out where to vote. There are several websites, such as [this one from the N.C. State Board of Elections](#) or [this one from a national nonprofit](#), that can tell you where your precinct is.

These websites can also tell you your registration status if you can't remember if or where you registered.

On Election Day, you must go to your precinct to fill out your ballot. But if you choose to vote early, you can vote at any [early voting location](#) in your county.

Early voting locations are not the same as Election Day precincts. Here's where you can find a list of [early voting locations](#).

What will be on my ballot? Can I see it before I vote?

The internet has provided the ability to easily see exactly whom and what you're voting for before you walk into the precinct.

If you go to the [State Board of Elections website](#) and type in your name and county, you'll be directed to a page with your voter information and a link to a sample ballot identical to the one you'll see when you vote.

Sample ballots through the state website aren't yet available for the November election, but the Board of Elections must have absentee ballots available by Sept. 9, so they'll likely be available around that time.

When you register to vote, you have the option of picking a political party. If you don't or if you choose unaffiliated, you'll be asked to pick a Democratic, Republican, Libertarian or Green Party ballot when you arrive at your polling place for

a primary election. Otherwise, precinct workers will give you the ballot of the party matching your registration.

If you want to change your affiliation for an upcoming election, you have to do so within 25 days of Election Day. Early voters can change affiliation at the same time and same location when they go to vote.

If you're unaffiliated and not sure which ballot you want or want to get ahead on your candidate research, there are other resources, like [Ballotpedia](#), that will show everyone who is running for every office. You just type in your address on this [site](#) and all candidates appear.

What happens when I go to vote? Will I have to wait in line? Do I need an ID?

You made it to Election Day! (Or two weeks before, if you're voting early.) Now what?

First of all, go to your assigned precinct. You can find out where it is by looking at the postcard you receive from the N.C. State Board of Elections, or you may look it up online or ask your local board of elections.

Precincts are almost always engulfed in campaign signs, so they're pretty easy to find. Every time I've voted, arrows and signs have directly routed me to where I needed to go.

If you're worried about being harangued as you walk in the door, campaigning is [restricted at voting locations](#) in North Carolina. Campaigners can be near polling places, but they have to be at least 25 feet away from the door.

Polls are open from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Anyone who is in line but who hasn't made it to a voting booth by 7:30 p.m. is still able to cast ballots.

North Carolina has election-related [accommodations](#) for people with disabilities, such as machines that make selections for the voter and letting a relative in the booth

to assist. [Curbside voting](#) is also available for people unable to enter the polling place due to age or physical and mental disabilities.

Voting during a lunch break or right before picking the kids up from school is probably your best bet at avoiding lines. According to the state Board of Elections website, the busiest voting times are early in the morning and just before polls close.

When you walk into a polling station, there will be several tables with different sections of the alphabet assigned to them. Pick the table with the section that includes the first letter of your last name.

The poll worker will ask for your name and address and then request your signature. North Carolina is one of 15 states that [does not require identification documents](#) when voting. That's been the case since last year when N.C. Superior Court judges ruled that [requiring voter identification was unconstitutional](#).

After signing a form to confirm your identity, poll workers will hand you a paper ballot — exactly the same as the sample ballot retrieved from the state's website — and direct you to a small booth to cast your vote.

I've filled out my ballot. What should I do next?

Once you're finished, look for a poll worker and a machine where you submit your ballot. You feed the ballot through the machine, and voilà! You've voted. Poll workers cannot feed the ballot through the machine — I unknowingly made the mistake of trying to hand my paper to a worker the first time I voted in North Carolina.

Throughout the whole process, no workers are allowed to look at your ballot or sway you in any way.

If you're interested in learning more about which voting equipment is used in your county, the state [maps that out here](#).

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Wanderlust
IS AHEAD

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Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

I THINK TODAY IS GOING TO BE OUR DAY FISHING!

THOSE NEW LURES WE BOUGHT ARE SO LIFELIKE WE'RE BOUND TO DO WELL.

OH HERE WE GO, THERE ARE A BUNCH OF THEM! GRAB THE FISHING POLES!

TRUST ME GUYS, THE SAYING "NO STRINGS ATTACHED" DOES NOT APPLY!

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

POTENTIAL SPIN DOCTORS

ACROSS

1 Pairs
5 Actress
8 "Well done!" for a diva
13 "Shame on you!"
19 Bows' shapes
20 Is able to
21 Fundamental
22 Not planted
23 Coach inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008
25 Make dim, as by tears
26 Meal with a pastry crust
27 Spanish for 70-Down
28 "Star Trek" lieutenant Yar
30 Fashion designer once known for his metal couture
32 Equal to the face value
34 Shul text
36 Cartel formed in '60
37 Dress up, with "out"
38 "The Human Stain" novelist
40 Hazy stuff
41 Heads, to Fifi

43 Slink, in brief
44 Foot cover
46 Fido's pests
48 —Magnon
49 Soccer's Chastain
52 Player of Clair Huxtable on "The Cosby Show"
55 Drink like Fido
56 Greek coin
58 Baseballer
59 Jurists' gp.
60 Speck in the ocean
63 High choir voice
65 Ivory tickler
69 Star of 2015's "Ant-Man"
71 Prior to
72 She played Lulu Hogg on "The Dukes of Hazzard"
73 Six-stanza poem
74 Siberian husky, e.g.
76 Skyrocket
77 Tolkien fiend
78 Moisturizer brand
79 Rim
81 Tiny peeve
82 Star of "Trapper John, M.D."

87 Apprise
90 Bullfight cry
91 Really unkind
92 German river
93 Golf champ
94 Gettysburg victor
96 Bucket
98 "Kindergarten Cop" co-star
103 Obsolete TV hookup
104 Mia of soccer
105 Chichi tie
106 Give birth, as a cow
107 1960-89 NFL commissioner
110 Ordeal
112 Kuwait export
113 Reply
114 Cacophony
116 What nine featured celebrities in this puzzle are?

118 Puerto Ricans, e.g.
119 Certain opening for a bolt
120 Bray syllable
121 Sensed
122 Bitcoins, e.g.
123 Ends
124 Census stat
125 Punky Brewster player

DOWN

1 Mic-testing sound
2 Ghost
3 Ink-squirting mollusks
4 Lithuania, once: Abbr.
5 West Coast sch. with the Bruins
6 Eminent conductor
7 Slangy "Well, then ..."
8 Fraud-finding org.
9 Polo designer
10 Sailing
11 It bought MTV in 1985
12 Old Athenian citadel
13 Rap's Shakur
14 Snooty sort
15 Univ. in the Midwest's Manhattan
16 First-rate
17 Heyday of Glenn Miller
18 Leg part
24 "That was my best shot"
29 Place to buy sketchpads
31 Aqua — (corrosive liquid)
33 Actor Ladd
35 Mates' cry

39 —dieu (prayer bench)
40 Scraped, as an 18-Down
41 Pouches for infusion
42 Turf for lawns
45 Having bright peepers
47 James Bond player Daniel
49 Radar signals
50 Tabulae — (blank slates)
52 Spur on
53 Dove sound
54 Panasonic bought it in 2009
57 Beef quality rater, in brief
61 "Candle in the Wind" singer John
62 Old Greek warship
64 Change the tag on
65 Actor Simon of "Mission: Impossible" films
66 Tehran native
67 Sans — (font style)
68 Delicious
70 Dad's brother
72 Peas' places
74 —mo

75 Take away (from)
78 Holiday tree danglers
80 Organic compound
82 Petite pooch, for short
83 An hour before noon
84 Laughs at, say
85 Bolivian capital
86 435 in Cong.
88 Seer's shrine
89 Fashionable Banks
93 One no longer working
95 Lured
97 Declaration when asking for directions
99 Transforms (into)
100 One fleeing to get hitched
101 In a devilish way
102 Cross out
104 Tot's equine rocker
105 Fable author
107 Pasty-looking
108 Philosopher
109 — & Stitch
111 Pinnacle
115 UFO crew
117 On's opposite

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

BY MY COUNT THERE ARE 658! ...

MAKE IT AN EVEN THOUSAND!

PECOS AND CARL DOWN AT THE BIG ROUND-UP

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

THIS YEAR I'VE GONE WITH AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE TRADITIONAL SCARECROW.

NOT SURE WHO FINDS IT MORE ANNOYIN', THE CROWS OR ME.

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

WOW, AM I TIRED.

WHAT'S WRONG?

ALL LAST NIGHT I DREAMT I WAS A CAR MUFFLER.

...AND THIS MORNING I WOKE UP EXHAUSTED.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

IRONIC, ALL YOUR GARAGE SALES AND NOW THE ONE THING WE REALLY NEED IS ANOTHER GARAGE.

CRIM BEAR IT

"Nice job of stealing third base, Otis. ... Now put it back."

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19																	
23				24													
27																	
32																	
38																	
49	50	51															
55																	
60																	
69																	
73																	
82	83	84															
90																	
94																	
107																	
113																	
118																	
122																	

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

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Pictured: Cathy Baker



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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: A WORD OF LIKE MEANING

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Acronym | Eponym | Hypernym | Paronym |
| Anonym | Heteronym | Hyponym | Pseudonym |
| Antonym | Holonym | Meronym | Retronym |
| Cryptonym | Homonym | Metonym | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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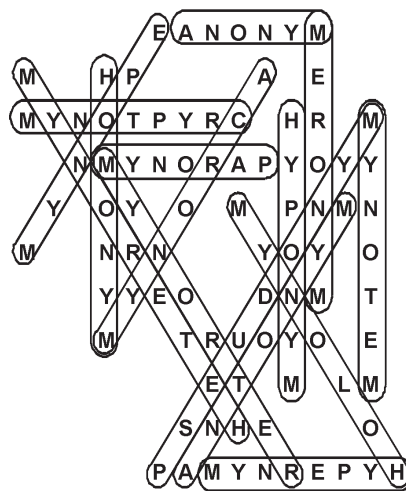
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NYMS



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Copycat cafeteria

In Jersey, they have diners. Out west, they have coffee shops.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

I've eaten at both, and they both have wonderful things to offer.

Diners have gargantuan menus... the kind of menu that makes Cheesecake Factory's food novellas look puny in comparison. Nobody does cutlets like a diner. They are tender, slightly crispy and actually taste like veal. If you've never seen the dessert carousel in a diner off the New Jersey Turnpike, you have missed confectionary Nirvana. Pies of every conceivable flavor and cakes decorated to look like the birthday cakes of your dreams.

A coffee shop in San Diego is where I had my first patty melt (woo-hoo!), and my first taste of liver (boo-hoo!).

A California coffee shop is like a northeastern diner, but with more vegetables.

Durham used to have a place called Honey's that was kind of a combination of them both. And they had the best patty melt I've ever put in my mouth.

Honey's, though, was an unusual place for North Carolina.

Here in the South, we have our own unique eateries.

We have the cafeteria.

They are everywhere where people use the word "y'all" and know what the phrase, "Bless his heart" really means. Usually, the name of the cafeteria is a couple of letters; K&W, S&B, Q&X...

The food is simple, Southern and tastes like your grandmother fixed it for you, if your

nana is Southern and a good cook, unlike my own Pittsburgh Granny.

I could write pages about all of their dishes that I love.

But their country-style steak has been a fave of mine since I was a little kid. It's unctuous, fall-apart tender and comes swathed in a delicious brown gravy. It's not light. It's the kind of dish that you should eat regularly only if you regularly burn 15,000 calories before lunch, like an Olympic swimmer or a 19th-century farmer.

A few years ago, Alton Brown

made it on his show, "Good Eats." It was close, but a little on the fancified side. I wanted to make it cafeteria-style.

So, I tinkered.

Last Wednesday, I had my mom, dad, The Kid, and my friend Darby over for dinner. I think I made my best batch yet.

I served it with hot buttered rice and glazed carrots.

When you make it, don't serve dessert. You won't be hungry for days.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Country style steak with mushroom gravy.

Country Style Steak

Mushroom Gravy

Roux:

2 sticks butter

1 ½ cups flour

Melt butter in small skillet and stir in flour until there are no clumps. Turn on very low and cook until it turns the color of peanut butter. Take off heat and set aside.

Gravy:

1 ½ pounds mushrooms, cleaned and sliced

1 large yellow onion, sliced into half moons

Heat a very large Dutch oven to medium. Add butter or oil, mushrooms, onions, thyme and rosemary. Season and stir to coat vegetables in fat. Cover and cook for about 10 minutes or until the vegetables are swimming in the liquid they have released.

Uncover and cook on medium-high until the liquid has cooked off and the veg are lightly browned.

Add tomato paste and stir to distribute. When the stuff on the bottom (called fond) has turned dark red, deglaze pan with sherry. When almost all of the sherry has cooked off, add stock and bring to a boil.

Add roux one large spoonful at a time and stir in before adding the next spoonful. Keep adding and stirring until the gravy is thick enough for your taste.

Check for seasoning and reseason if needed. Take off burner, but leave on stove.

Steak

3 pounds cube steak

4 cups flour

6 eggs

Preheat oven to 285°.

Make a two-part dredge; place highly seasoned flour in a large shallow pan. Beat eggs and pour them into another shallow pan.

Heat a large heavy skillet to medium high, add a couple of tablespoons of oil (you will have to keep adding oil as you cook the steaks, as the flour will suck it up).

One at a time, coat steak in flour, egg, then flour again. Place in frying pan and cook on each side until just browned — they will finish cooking in the oven.

As they finish browning, add to the large pot of gravy until they are all cooked and in the gravy.

Cover Dutch oven and place in preheated oven.

Cook for 1 ½ hours until they are so tender you don't need a knife to cut them.

Serve with some type of starch (rice, mashed potatoes, egg noodles or even grits). Serves 5-6.



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



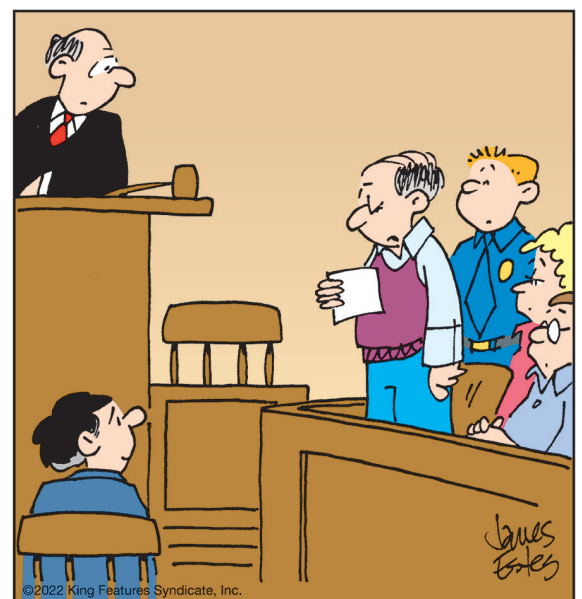
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